

# **HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO NOAA**

## **200 Years and Counting . . .**

From ASFPM.

President Thomas Jefferson founded the U.S. Coast and Geodetic Survey (as the Survey of the Coast) in 1807 to provide nautical charts to the maritime community for safe passage into American ports and along the extensive coastline. The Weather Bureau was founded 1870 and, one year later, the U.S. Commission of Fish and Fisheries. These organizations were, respectively, America's first physical science agency, its first agency dedicated specifically to the atmospheric sciences, and its first conservation agency.

The cultures of these three early agencies—scientific accuracy and precision, service to protect life and property, and stewardship of resources—were brought together in 1970 with the establishment of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), an agency within the Department of Commerce.

Today, NOAA's Office of Coast Survey holds more than 20,000 historical nautical charts and continually updates its collection of 1,000 current charts. NOAA also operates a system of 16 satellites, the National Weather Service, and oversees coastal zone management. NOAA's researchers and employees work to enhance weather forecasts; provide longer warning lead times for natural disasters; and enhance understanding and management of our climate, oceans, and atmosphere.

All year NOAA will be sponsoring activities to celebrate its two-century legacy and its vision for future public service. There will be photo contests, events at Monticello (Jefferson's historic home), commissioning and launching of new NOAA ships, receptions at various sites around the country of significance to the agency's mission, burial of a time capsule, and presentations of awards, among numerous others. A new website is devoted to the celebration, featuring a wealth of historical information, new feature stories every month, and kid-friendly activities and educational materials.

> > > Visit at <http://celebrating200years.noaa.gov/welcome.html>.