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Private Banking and Investment Group at Merrill Lynch Sponsors 2008 Boston Harbor Islands Regatta

BOSTON, July 17, 2008 - Boston Harbor Island Alliance is proud to announce that the Private Banking and Investment Group at Merrill Lynch is this year's Platinum Presenting Sponsor of the 2008 Boston Harbor Islands Regatta, the largest sailing race in Boston Harbor.

The 4th Annual event is slated for Saturday, September 27, 2008, is expected to see more than 125 boats participate. Spectators can watch the entire spectacular race from the top of Fort Warren on Georges Island.

"We are thrilled to continue our support of the largest sailing race in Boston Harbor, furthering efforts to develop a new National Park," said Cory Little, Regional Director, Boston Private Banking and Investment Group. At Merrill Lynch, we have a longstanding commitment to our local community, and are dedicated to protecting our parks and the programs they offer for future generations.

Tom Powers, President of Island Alliance, "Merrill Lynch has been an early and long time supporter of the Island Alliance and our efforts to help build a new national park. This sponsorship has taken their commitment to a new level."

The sailing race starts at 10:00am and depending on the winds, first place finishers can start arriving as early as 12:30pm. This is the finale in the 2008 Mass. Bay Pursuit Championship Series. Trophy ceremony is at 3:30pm.

The Regatta Festival kicks off on Georges at 11:00am and runs until 4:00pm. Spectators can have a front row seat for the entire race, while touring Georges Island. A visit from Spectacle Island's house band, David Ehle's Dixie Swing and Jazz, will keep the mood

festive playing tunes from the American songbook. There will be a Fishing Clinic with John Hoffman of the Fishing Academy off the North Pier and Civil War Lawn games such as hoops, graces and sticks, in historic Fort Warren. Children (ages 7 to 12) can also earn their Junior Ranger badge if they complete a series of activities around the island.

How to get there: Harbor Islands Express ferries will operate from 9:00am to 5:00pm, departing hourly from Boston's Long Wharf (next to the Marriott Hotel/adjacent to Christopher Columbus Park). Long Wharf is easily accessible from the New England Aquarium T-Stop. Ferry fares: Adult-\$14.00, Senior-\$10.00, Children (3 to 11) \$8.00. Children under 3 free. Family 4-Pack is \$42 (valid for 2 adult and 2 children, on-line only).

The Boston Harbor Islands national park area was established in 1996 and features 34 islands encompassing 1,600 acres and 35 miles of undeveloped ocean shoreline, all within 10 miles of downtown Boston. The islands feature hiking trails, beaches, ranger-led tours camping, boat cruises, nature walks and historic sites. For more information, call 617-223-8666 or visit Bostonharborislands.org.

Boston Harbor Island Alliance is a non-profit organization whose purpose is to raise public awareness and use of the Boston Harbor Islands national park area.

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