



For Release:

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Boston Harbor Island Alliance - News Release

*4th Annual Boston Harbor Islands Sailing Regatta to be hosted
by the Boston Harbor Island Alliance*

BOSTON, August 22, 2008 - The Boston Harbor Island Alliance announced today that the 4th Annual Boston Harbor Islands Regatta, the largest sailboat race in Boston Harbor, will be held on Saturday, September 27th, 2008. An expected 1,500 spectators will witness more than 125 boats of various classes and lengths as they traverse the harbor circuit. The 4th Annual Boston Harbor Islands Sailing Regatta is the finale of the Massachusetts Bay Pursuit Championship Series. Senator Edward Kennedy is the Honorary Chairperson of the regatta.

"Senator Kennedy's passion for the Boston Harbor Islands national park area is an inspiration to us all. We are truly honored to have him serve once again this year as the honorary chair of the Boston Harbor Island Regatta", said Tom Powers, President of the Boston Harbor Island Alliance.

In the "green" spirit of the Boston Harbor Islands, the wind-powered event will echo the eco-friendly sensibilities of the Harbor Islands, as well as those of all state and national parks. "This exciting sailing competition will be wonderful spectator event," said Department of Conservation and Recreation Commissioner Richard L. Sullivan, Jr., "And there can be no better place to watch an ocean sport than from one of the Boston Harbor Islands. We urge all those interested to come and cheer on the boats from Georges Island, and enjoy the many family activities planned on the island that day."

The Private Banking and Investment Group at Merrill Lynch is the Platinum Presenting Sponsor of the 2008 Boston Harbor Islands Regatta." 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."

The regatta provides a unique opportunity for the general public to see a large number of sailboats under full sail in the harbor from the unique vantage point of Fort Warren on George's Island. This event truly captures the essence of Mayor Menino's description of the Harbor Islands as 'a gem of Boston'. Proceeds from the event will support programs to bring inner-city youths and school groups out to the islands.

Spectators are invited to participate in a variety of free activities throughout the day, including fishing clinics, nautical flag making, and Civil War era lawn games such as hoops, graces and sticks. Spectacle Island's house band, David Ehle and Friends, will be making the jump to George's Island for the day, performing from 12:00 PM to 4:00 PM with a mixture of Dixie, Swing and Jazz. For the historian, young and old alike, ranger-guided tours of Fort Warren will run at various times all day, and a special meet and greet with Chris Klein, author of *Discovering the Boston Harbor Islands - A Guide to the City's Shores*, will be available to sign books at 2:00 PM.

The regatta begins at 11:00 AM in the waters just off of George's Island, and will finish in the same location, allowing spectators to witness, up close, the most critical moments in the race. First place finishers are expected to cross the finish line as early as 12:30 PM, but the Regatta Festival on George's Island will be bustling all day with activities for the entire family. The festival will run from 11:00 AM until 4:00 PM, concluding with a trophy and award ceremony at 3:30 PM.

Getting there is easy: beginning at 9:00 AM, Harbor Islands Express ferries will depart Long Wharf hourly, direct to George's Island, and return visitors to the mainland as late as 5:00 PM. The Harbor Islands Express terminal is easy to find, next to the Boston Harbor Marriott and Christopher Columbus Park along Atlantic Ave., a few minutes' walk from the Aquarium T-Stop. See www.bostonharborislandsregatta.org for more information.

The Boston Harbor Islands National Park, established by Congress in 1996, features 1,600 acres and 35 miles of undeveloped shoreline across 34 islands, all within 10 miles of downtown Boston. The National Park Service, Department of Conservation and Recreation, City of Boston, and Island Alliance are members of the Boston Harbor Islands Partnership, which coordinates management of the island park. More information is available at bostonharborislands.org or by calling (617) 223-8666.

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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