

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Boston Harbor Island Alliance Celebrates Season Opening**

*Everyone is Invited to Send Off Volvo Ocean Race from the Islands*

(Boston, MA) –Boston Harbor Island Alliance celebrates the season opening of the Boston Harbor Islands national park area by inviting everyone to Georges Island to watch the Volvo Ocean Race depart Boston for Galway, Ireland on Saturday, May 16. A short twenty-minute ferry ride to Georges Island and visitors will have a spectacular view of the fleet of magnificent sailing vessels as they resume the race.

Saturday's Volvo Ocean Race is just one of many opportunities to enjoy on the Harbor Islands this summer. Boston Harbor Island Alliance provides an entire summer season of free programs for people of all ages to experience this treasured national park area. Families can enjoy a clam bake on Spectacle Island, nature hikes, fishing, concerts on Georges Island as well as many other activities. The ferry departs daily from Long Wharf at the Long Wharf Marriott Hotel, adjacent to the Christopher Columbus Park. To view a full list of programming for 2009, visit [www.bostonharborislands.org](http://www.bostonharborislands.org).

“The City of Boston is fortunate to have this terrific natural resource in our backyard,” said Mayor Thomas M. Menino. “Year after year, Boston Harbor Island Alliance has offered activities for Boston’s residents and visitors to explore these beautiful islands just minutes from downtown. As we mark the opening of the 2009 season, I hope every Boston resident and visitor takes advantage of this amazing natural resource and visits the islands.”

“Whether to enjoy a hike with a park ranger, a day at the beach, or one of our many programs, the Boston Harbor Islands national park area provides a perfect opportunity to be outdoors close to home,” said Tom Powers, President of the Boston Harbor Island Alliance. “But don’t take my word for it. The next time you’re looking for a quick get-away, come to the islands and experience their beauty, cultural richness, and history for yourself.”

The Boston Harbor Islands national park area features 34 islands encompassing 1,600 acres and 35 miles of coastline just a short ferry ride away. Boston Harbor Island Alliance promotes public awareness and use of the Boston Harbor Islands national park area by creating vibrant public spaces, facilities, and programming while raising and managing public and private resources necessary to do so.

To see the 2009 Park brochure as well as a ferry schedule visit [www.bostonharborislands.org](http://www.bostonharborislands.org).