



**NOAA** NATIONAL OCEANIC AND  
ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION  
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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### **MEDIA ADVISORY**

**NOAA sponsors seventh annual Right Whale Festival**  
*FREE Public Event Marks the Start of Right Whale Migration Season*

NOAA Fisheries, Sea to Shore Alliance and other dedicated partners are hosting the seventh annual Right Whale Festival at the Sea Walk Pavilion on Jacksonville Beach, Fla., Saturday, **November 21**. The FREE family event celebrates the endangered North Atlantic right whale's annual return to northeast Florida. These southern waters are the only known calving area for the species.

The day begins at 9am with a 5K beach run and 2.5K beach walk, as well as a beach clean-up. Live music starts at 10am featuring the Crazy Daysies, Kalani Rose, the Saltwater Cowgirls and De Lion of Jah. Meet right whale biologists, visit dozens of educational booths, play games, win prizes and enjoy good food. For more information visit [www.rightwhalefestival.com](http://www.rightwhalefestival.com).

Each winter right whales migrate south, more than 1,000 miles away from their feeding grounds off Canada and New England to the warm coastal waters of South Carolina, Georgia and northeast Florida. Festival attendees will be able to learn more about this migration pattern and the on-going efforts to protect the species. Marine mammal researchers and conservation group representatives will be available during the event to answer questions.

NOAA's mission is to understand and predict changes in the Earth's environment, from the depths of the ocean to the surface of the sun, and to conserve and manage our coastal and marine resources.

**On the web:**

More information on the North Atlantic right whale:

<http://sero.nmfs.noaa.gov/pr/mm/rightwhales/rwconservation.htm>

NOAA Fisheries Service, Southeast Regional Office: <http://sero.nmfs.noaa.gov/>

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