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FREE FERRY RIDES ON MAY 7 TO GEORGES AND SPECTACLE ISLANDS AS BOSTON HARBOR ISLANDS STARTS 2016 SEASON

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Boston Harbor Islands National and State Park invites you to "Find Your Park" on Saturday, May 7 with free ferry tickets to Georges and Spectacle Islands.

On Saturday, May 7, the National Park Service, Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) and Boston Harbor Now will offer free ferry tickets for visitors to Boston Harbor Islands National and State Park.

Visitors are invited to enjoy a fun, outdoor excursion to Georges and Spectacle Islands with time to explore and enjoy two of the harbor's most popular islands. Have a picnic, take a tour or hike, explore beaches, play games in the parade ground of Fort Warren or simply enjoy a refreshing ferry ride through scenic Boston Harbor.

This special, free ferry program marks the start of the 2016 season at Boston Harbor Islands and is part of the National Park Service's 2016 Find Your Park and Centennial Summer campaign. Find Your Park launches the centennial anniversary of the National Park Service and invites the public to discover that a park is not just a place – it can be a feeling, a state of mind, or a sense of American pride. This year also marks the 20th anniversary of the Boston Harbor Island National and State Park.

To mark these special anniversaries, Massachusetts Energy and Environmental Affairs (EEA) Secretary Matthew A. Beaton last week on Earth Day announced a \$197,040 grant from the Massachusetts Environmental Trust (MET) for increased access to the park and educational programming. The grant was awarded to Boston Harbor Now who will work in partnership with the National Park Service, the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and

Recreation (DCR) and Save the Harbor/Save the Bay to enhance educational programming and provide additional slots for participants.

WHO: All are welcome! Each adult can collect up to 4 tickets.

WHAT: Free Ferry Ticket to the Boston Harbor Islands valid on Saturday May 7th only. Due to high demand, all tickets are available on a first-come, first-served basis. A return time will be assigned when tickets are allocated.

WHEN: Saturday, May 7, 2016. Tickets are available starting at 8:30 am on May 7 at the Boston Harbor Cruises Ferry Center at Long Wharf North. Ferries depart Long Wharf starting at 10:00 am, 10:30, noon, 1:00 and 2:00 pm
Return ferries arrive into Long Wharf between 1:00 pm – 6:00 pm.

WHERE: Boston Harbor Cruises Ferry Center at Long Wharf North

Boats depart from the Boston's Long Wharf North, next to the Long Wharf Marriott Hotel, adjacent to Christopher Columbus Park and short walk from the MBTA Blue Line Aquarium stop in downtown Boston.

For more information about Free Ferry Day and to Find Your Park, visit bostonharborislands.org

For a complete schedule of summer activities, including the June 17 opening of camping islands and the start of Boston Light tours, visit bostonharborislands.org and follow Boston Harbor Islands National and State Park on Facebook, or on Twitter @yourislandpark.