



NEWS FROM NOAA

NATIONAL OCEANIC & ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION • US DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

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Federal Agency Donates Computers to Schools

The Northwest Region of NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service got into the Thanksgiving spirit this week by providing excess computer equipment to the Sultan School District. The region gave 70 desktop computers to the school district on Nov. 19.

"Ideally we'd find a new life for all our excess computer equipment," said Gloria Myers, the Northwest Region Operations, Management and Information Officer. "We've passed on computers to schools before, but this is the most we've ever done at once."

The donation was made under the federal Computers for Learning program. That program's goal is to transfer computers to schools and educational nonprofits to extend the useful life of computers, help schools in need, and contribute to a cleaner, greener environment. Schools register on the Web at <http://computersforlearning.gov/>, and then federal agencies match their excess equipment with school needs.

"I didn't imagine that anyone would want our excess computers after we upgraded," said Nicolle Hill, regional Agreements and Grants Coordinator, who had heard of the school district's need. "It turns out that our old equipment may be two or three generations newer than what some schools have."

The Sultan School District needs to replace about 500 outdated personal computers, so this donation is a start. Those from NOAA Fisheries will go to Sultan and Gold Bar elementary schools. At Sultan they'll be put in a computer lab, and Gold Bar will use them to provide more computer learning spaces for classrooms.

"Contributions to our schools like the one from NOAA directly impact every student in our district," said David Moon, Network Administrator. "The donation assists our student learning by providing computers to upgrade computer labs so our students have current technology skills when they leave our district for the world beyond."

Myers and Hill give credit to the regional information technology staff, who had to prepare all the equipment for donation.

"I think the perception is that it's hard to do this," said Hill. "But people would be surprised, since it's not much more work than what's required to dispose of them. Schools and federal agencies should really make the effort to participate in this program. It benefits everyone."

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, an agency of the U.S. Commerce Department, is celebrating 200 years of science and service to the nation. From the establishment of the Survey of the Coast in 1807 by Thomas Jefferson to the formation of the

Weather Bureau and the Commission of Fish and Fisheries in the 1870s, much of America's scientific heritage is rooted in NOAA.

NOAA is dedicated to enhancing economic security and national safety through the prediction and research of weather and climate-related events and information service delivery for transportation, and by providing environmental stewardship of our nation's coastal and marine resources. Through the emerging Global Earth Observation System of Systems (GEOSS), NOAA is working with its federal partners, more than 60 countries and the European Commission to develop a global monitoring network that is as integrated as the planet it observes, predicts and protects.

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