



**NOAA Teacher at Sea**  
**Cary Atwood**  
**Onboard NOAA Ship ALBATROSS IV**  
**July 25 - August 5, 2005**

**Log 1**

Date: July 25, 2005 Monday  
Time: 7:55 GMT 3:55 a.m. EDT  
Latitude: 41° 02' N  
Longitude: 69° 15' W  
Visibility: 0  
Wind direction: NNW (230)  
Wind speed: 15 knots  
Sea wave height: unknown  
Swell wave height: unknown  
Seawater temperature: 11.4° C  
Sea level pressure: 1012 millibars  
Cloud cover: Dense Fog

**Question of the Day**

What is the scientific name of the Atlantic sea scallop, and what does the Latin name mean?

This question will be answered in tomorrow's log.

**Science and Technology Log**

Day one: the adventure begins! I arrived last night from Boston into Wood's Hole-what a cool respite from the heat of western Colorado! A short walk later, I was in front of the ALBATROSS IV, the ship that would be my home for the next 11 days. Tony, the lead fisherman, welcomed me aboard and showed me to my stateroom. Soon after, Kris, the watch chief for our other work shift, and Noelle, who is working on her master's thesis showed up. I took the remaining top bunk and moved my gear in. Our room has two portholes. The most exciting porthole is the one in the shower stall; my eyes are almost dead even with the water line outside....it almost feels like I live in an aquarium!

The mission of the ship on this cruise is the sampling of Atlantic sea scallops. Why are scallops being sampled? The scientific work revolves around the close monitoring of scallop populations up and down the New England coastline from Cape Hatteras in the south, to the outer extremes of Georges Bank to the north.

Over the past 30 years, unregulated commercial fishing of scallops has had a huge negative impact on scallop populations. Because this area holds the largest wild scallop fishery in the world, it has great economic importance not only to the fishermen who

dredge to make their living, but also to the economies up and down the coastline. Historically, commercial fishing could be done by anyone who had a seaworthy vessel and the ability to dredge. Prior to the early 1970's not much data had been gathered about numbers and locations of scallops, hence the need for surveys to acquire data and impose limits to prevent total decimation of this species. In my next entry I will explain more about the nitty gritty work that must be accomplished each day by watch crews.

### **Personal Log**

Old ship sits in port  
hiding new technology beneath its decks  
Salt spray and seagull call  
Grey clapboard houses rest close to water's edge  
As whitecaps signal a change in weather  
We are on our way!

Until next time,  
Ms. Atwood