



**NOAA Teacher at Sea  
Susan Just  
Onboard NOAA Ship OREGON II  
June 14 – June 30, 2006**

**NOAA Teacher at Sea:** Susan Just  
NOAA Ship Oregon II  
Mission: Summer Groundfish Survey  
Day 2, Friday, June 16, 2006

**Weather Data from Bridge**

Visibility: nautical miles 8-10 (nm)  
Wind direction: 205.5 °  
Wind speed: 11.3  
Sea wave height: 0-1  
Sea swell height: 1-2  
Seawater temperature: 28.7  
Sea level pressure: 1016.6  
Cloud cover: 5/8 Altostratus and cirus

**Science and Technology Log**

Tonight we began with a Neuston. Now I know that a Neuston is a rectangular frame to which has been attached a “sock” style net with a round portion at the bottom known as the “cod end.” The Neuston drags at the surface and catches sargassum (sea weed) and also plankton. Why? I’ll need to find out.

Next we pulled in the Bongos. These are round shaped “sock” nets with cod ends. In the cod ends plankton and other sea life are collected from either the bottom or a maximum depth of 200 feet.

The “catch” from both the Neustons and the Bongos are placed into jars with formaldehyde as a preservative. Forty-eight (48) hours later they are transferred to alcohol. They are then shipped out for processing.

The CTD was performed to capture water samples and hydrological data. All of the information is assembled and accompanies the samples to the lab for processing.

Finally, we weighed and sorted the catch. Each species is identified by its scientific nomenclature which means we hear a great deal of latin in the wet lab.

**Personal Log**

OK, I’m not quite as confused now. I had a great night’s sleep. I am beginning to learn some of the scientific names and I have gotten my fingers onto the computers that record the data regarding the organisms we classify.

I've started having intelligent conversations with people and I am beginning to make sense of the activities aboard the ship.

**Question of the Day**

What is the purpose of collecting the organisms in the Neuston and the Bongos?

Answer: Plankton data is part of a long-term study regarding trends in fish populations.