



NOAA Teacher at Sea
Lollie Garay
Onboard Research Vessel *Hugh R. Sharp*
May 9 – 20, 2009

NOAA Teacher at Sea: Lollie Garay

Ship: Research Vessel *Hugh R. Sharp*

Mission: Sea Scallop Survey

Geographical Area: North Atlantic

Date: Monday, May 11, 2009

Weather Data from the Bridge

Stationary front persists

Temperature: 53°F

Winds 10-20 KT

Seas 4-6 Ft.

Science and Technology Log

The new day brings overcast skies and a very aggressive science agenda. When I walked out on deck at the beginning of my shift I noticed everyone was bundled up, and it didn't take long to figure out why. I also noticed many baskets of scallops-- everywhere! Yesterday we were working in an Open area where commercial fishing is allowed, and the number of scallops we brought up in the dredge was very small. We even had one catch with no scallops! Why is this?



Look at the scallops!

Is it overfishing, predation, larval transport lack of success, or just not a good area for scallops?

Today we were working in a Closed area and the number of scallops I saw was amazing. As the day progressed we continued to get large numbers in the catch and a variety of sizes. This area is very productive, the result of being allowed time to reproduce and grow. As we move northward now, I was told that the number of scallops will grow even more. As promised, the work today was intense. We moved quickly between stations which meant that we had to process the catch and cleanup before the other station. (Sampling is done at pre-determined sites called stations.) The science team has a limited number of days for this survey, so the pace will most likely stay the same. We are at station 55/560 this evening!

Personal Log



Gear is always ready to "jump into"!

I think I have settled into the routine of doing a scallop survey. The timing between dredges varies, but I can anticipate when I have to put on my gear and be ready to go. The gear I speak of includes rubber coveralls, life jacket, rubber boots and gloves. They are always "at the ready" next to the lab door, along with cameras! After my first station at the sorting table I fully understood why we have to wear these cumbersome outfits. When we are finished sorting we have sand, mud, and stuff all over us! When the work for each station is complete, we hose off everything including ourselves! The evenings get really cool out here, so I have a light jacket to wear under my gear. This morning when I retrieved it from the lab I couldn't decide whether to wash it or burn it!

Sometimes when the stations are very close to each other I stay in my gear and sit on deck to work on my journals or, just sit. Gazing out to the sea, I can understand the sense of responsibility these researchers have for insuring the sustainability of the seas. The ability to hold some of these marine specimens right out of the ocean brings meaning to this work.

Animals Seen Today

Horseshoe Crabs
Sand dollars
Sand cucumbers
Sea Mouse
Sea Urchin

Question of the Day

What color are Sand Dollars when they are alive?



What is this unusual fish? A smiling Skate!