



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: Thursday, May 14, 2009

Weather Data from the Bridge

Temperature: 14.89C

True Wind: 18KTs

Seas: 4-6ft

Science and Technology Log

We are at station 90 as I write, or try to write. A front has moved in and brought wind and wave action that has us rolling. As I sit in the wet lab, the wind data on the computer jumps from 20-24 KT's.

I had to write this journal entry by hand first because it was too difficult to work on the computer! However work proceeds, we just need to secure anything that can fall or roll. So how do we get on "station"? Stations are a pre-determined number of sampling stratum identified by beginning and ending Latitudes and Longitudes. Stratum is defined by depth intervals. Sampling is done in the same stratum every year, but the actual stations may not be the same.

Last night I was out on deck and saw lights dancing in the middle of the darkness. I was told they were the lights from other vessels. I asked why there were fishermen here if this was a closed area. Turns out that some commercial fishermen have special access permits that allow them to fish in pass-by zones.

They can only use these permits a certain number of times for a certain number of years. I also learned that they are monitored by a satellite system that can see who is there.

I have mentioned some members of my shift crew in my logs. I would like to talk a little more about who they are, what they do and why they are here, in my remaining logs. Chief Scientist Kevin has been with the Fisheries



Vic Nordahl and Shad Mahlum in the wet lab

Service since 2002. He is responsible for the overall operations on the science side. He oversees the Watch Chiefs; is responsible for data auditing and cruise track planning; and maintains communication with Woods Hole Oceanographic Institute about the progress of the survey.

Vic Nordahl is a Fishery Biologist at NOAA's Northeast Fisheries Science Center in Woods Hole and is part of the senior staff of the group. He mentors and supervises the fisheries survey team and is out at sea two times a year with the scallop survey. He also does a triennial Surf Clam and Quahog survey. He is currently working on calibrating a time series between the NOAA Ship *Albatross* and the Research Vessel *Hugh R. Sharp*. The *Albatross* has been retired after 36 years of service.

Shad Mahlum, our Watch Chief, is a Sea Tech with NOAA Fisheries Service. Before joining



A front brings fog and high seas, again!

NOAA a year ago, he served 7 years in the Coast Guard. After the Coast Guard, Shad attended school in Bozeman Montana where he studied Zoology and Fresh Water fisheries.

Personal Log

Before I had even opened my eyes, I felt the ship rolling. Winds from a front that moved in are churning up the seas which make simple things like showering a real challenge. I know that while we are towing the dredge the ship moves slower so I waited in bed until I felt us slow down. Then I

jumped up and raced into the shower hoping I could make it through getting dressed before we picked up speed. I *almost* made it! During one of our last stations a HUGE wave crashed all the way across the stern. I was in the wet lab processing scallops when I heard and saw the action. Wish I had had my camera ready! I think we work harder during these wave events because it's just so hard to do anything without straining those sea legs and arms to maintain your balance! Hope we have a calmer day tomorrow.



This exotic looking creature is a Chain Dogfish.

New Animals Seen Today

Chain Dogfish