



**NOAA Teacher at Sea**  
**Jeff Lawrence**  
**Onboard Research Vessel *Hugh R. Sharp***  
**June 8 – 19, 2009**

**NOAA Teacher at Sea: Jeff Lawrence**

Ship: Research Vessel *Hugh R. Sharp*

Mission: Sea Scallop Survey

Geographical Area: North Atlantic

Date: Tuesday, June 9th, 2009

**Weather Data from the Bridge**

S winds 5-10KT

Seas 1-2ft,

Barometric pressure 1029mb

Air Temperature 78°F

Visibility clear, Cold front moving offshore towards us later today, rain expected.

**Science and Technology Log**

The sorting table is full of activity as soon as the dredge is pulled aboard the ship. After the crew secure all lines and dump the load the volunteers and scientist begin to sort through the biological that has been brought up from the bottom of the Atlantic Ocean. Each dredge can bring a varied amount of sea life on the ship. We are always looking for scallop, yet every third dredge we also sort for crabs. All fish are also sorted and counted.

After all the sorting is done the fish, scallops, and crabs are weighed and measured for length. They are then logged

into the onboard computer for analysis of results for each catch. We are trawling along closed areas for scallops. These areas have been closed for commercial fishing to ensure that the population has time to recover in that area. Scallop surveys are carried out by the *R/V Hugh R. Sharp*, in three phases during the summer. Duane and I are on the second leg, which encompasses the area to the east of Delaware, areas around Long Island, and the area around Martha's Vineyard south of Cape Cod, Massachusetts.



**The contents of the dredge are emptied onto the sorting table.**



**You may find some interesting creatures during sorting.**

### **Personal Log**

The work aboard the ship can be very long and laborious. The days are long, as each member of the cruise will do a 12-hour shift. My shift is from noon to midnight. The conditions can vary greatly during a shift. During the day the sun may be out with light winds and it gets very warm with all the wet weather gear that is worn during sorting. It is necessary to leave the gear on between dredges, since they occur so often. As soon as the sun goes down

the temperatures can drop very rapidly. It is important to keep a hooded sweatshirt and other warm weather gear nearby for the changing conditions. All gear must be taken with you when you leave your cabin so that the other shift can sleep uninterrupted. The days are long, with the goal of all who are onboard to get the science completed in a timely fashion. Keeping a ship stored with goods and running is very expensive so the goal is to get as much science completed in the allotted time as possible.

### **Question of the Day**

What other bottom dwelling species in the Atlantic are under protection from over-fishing?

### **Animals Seen Today**

Scallops, eels, crabs, starfish, clams, silver dollars, urchins, goose fish, many varieties of bottom dwelling fish.