



**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: Friday, June 19th, 2009

**Weather Data from the Bridge**

**In port at Woods Hole, Mass.**

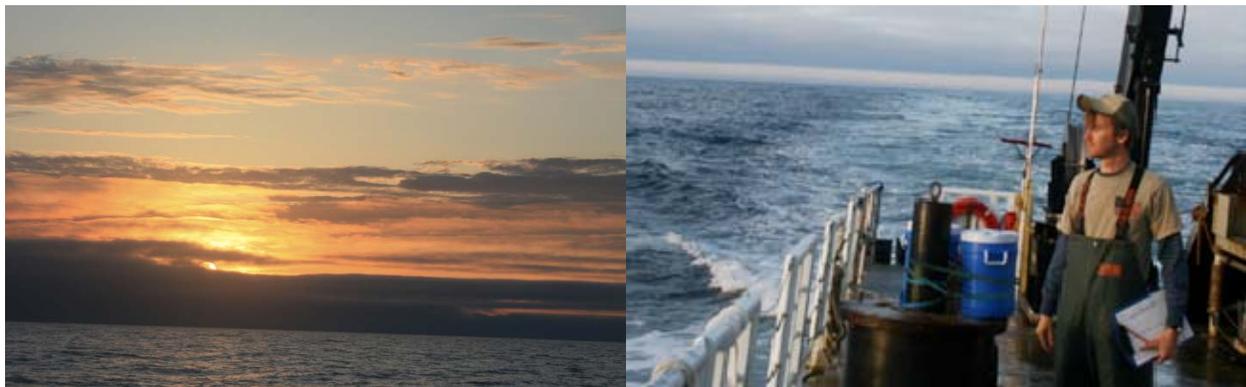
W winds 5-10 KTs, cloudy overcast skies

Light rain, 2-3 foot waves

Air Temp. 66°F

**Science and Technology Log**

The Research Vessel *Hugh R. Sharp* finally made it into port this morning at the National Marine Fisheries Service in Woods Hole on the Cape Cod coast of Massachusetts. Although this cruise was not terribly long it is great to be back on land. Scallop surveying is tedious work that is ongoing on a research vessel 24/7. The people onboard were great to work with and it is always a pleasure to get to know other people, especially those who share a passion for ocean research and science. Few people realize the great effort and sacrifices that people in the oceanography field have to give up to go out to sea to complete research that will help give a better



**Jakub Kircun watches as a beautiful sunset unfolds.**

understanding to three-fourths of the planet's surface. They must leave home and loved ones for many days to get the science needed for a more complete understanding of the Earth's oceans.

The noon to midnight shift includes myself, the Chief Scientist onboard, Stacy Rowe, watch chief Jakub Kircun, Shad Mahlum, Francine Stroman, and Joe Gatuzzi. We are responsible for sorting each station on our watch, measuring and weighing the samples into the computer. These

people are very good at what they do and quite dedicated to performing the task with professionalism, courtesy, and a great deal of enthusiasm. It is clear to see that each person has a passion for ocean sciences especially the fisheries division. The NOAA fisheries division carefully surveys and provides data to those that make regulations



**The Goosefish, also called Monkfish, is a ferocious predator below the surface and above!**

about which places will be left open for commercial fishing and those which will be closed until the population is adequate to handle the pressures of the commercial fishing industry. I have observed many different species of marine

animals, some of which I did not even know ever existed. Below is a photo of me and the other TAS Duane Sanders putting on our survival at sea suits in case of emergency. These suits are designed to keep someone afloat and alive in cold water and are required on all boats where colder waters exist.

### **Personal Log**

The fish with a bad attitude award has to go to the goosefish. This ferocious predator lies in wait at the bottom of the ocean floor for prey. On the topside of its mouth is an antenna that dangles an alluring catch for small fish and other ocean critters. When the prey gets close enough the goosefish emerges from its muddy camouflage and devours its prey. I made the error of mistaking it for a skate that was in a bucket. I was not paying close enough attention as I grabbed what I thought was the skate from a bucket, the



**Spiny Dogfish caught in the dredge**

goosefish quickly bit down. Blood oozed out of my thumb as the teeth penetrated clean through a pair of rubber gloves. I pay closer attention when sticking my hand in buckets now. There are many creatures in the sea that are harmless, but one should take heed to all the creatures that can inflict bodily damage to humans.

**Question of the Day**

Name four species you may find at the bottom on the Atlantic:

What is another common name for the goosefish?

What is the species name (Scientific name) for the goosefish?

What are the scientific names for starfish and scallops?