



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

NOAA Teacher at Sea: Elise Olivieri
Research Vessel *Hugh R. Sharp*
Mission: Sea Scallop Survey
Geographical area of Cruise: Mid-Atlantic
Date: Friday, May 15, 2009

Weather Data from the Bridge
Air Temperature: 14.50 Degrees Celsius
Barometric Pressure: 1026 mb
Humidity: 94%

Science and Technology Log

What a morning we had today. It was sand dollar heaven aboard the *Hugh R. Sharp*. At least 3 of our tows were filled with hundreds of thousands of sand dollars. My work on this Sea Scallop Survey is pretty regular now that I have the hang of it. The dredge goes down and scallops, cancer crabs, starfish, hermit crabs, sea sponges, sand dollars, and sea slugs come up. We manually sort through the catch and weigh and measure the fish, and sea scallops. Every third station



A big pile of sand dollars!

we count all the cancer crabs and starfish. Depending on the strata, various stations require five sea scallops to be measured for age and growth and their shells are preserved for later lab work. This work is very important for maintaining a long term study. With FSCS all the data can be organized and used to draw conclusions about the overall health of areas along the Mid-Atlantic.

Today I got a chance to talk with Kevin McIntosh. He is on the day watch so I do not get a chance to work closely with him, but he is a great scientist. He is a Biological Science Technician and also plays several roles along different cruises. He is often a Chief Scientist, FSCS Administrator, and he specializes in combing over data, and auditing data. Sometimes he serves as Watch Chief. At the moment he is working on a Scallop Imaging Machine where scallops can be photographed which would reduce the manual work load of the scientists with



A beautiful sunset on the Atlantic

even better data collection resources. There would be a record of every scallop collected which means sub-sampling would be obsolete. Kevin is also working on a team which is collaborating to create FSCS 2.0 capabilities. Some highlights of FSCS 2.0 include a GPS location where data can be automatically retrieved and stations can be programmed to display directions and sampling requests.

This would also cut the sampling time in half. You would be able to have all the stations' information at your fingertips. These new improvements would also make data cleaner and easier to audit and help double check your work. Kevin works very hard. Every time I see him he is working on something new.

Personal Log

I really enjoy sitting and talking with the crew here on the *Hugh R. Sharp*. Everyone has so many great projects going on and new goals for fisheries research. I found out today many of the crew have served time in the military. I now have even more respect for them. Fisheries research is hard work and there is so much that goes into this research that is often ignored. Especially the long hours of manual labor and the time needed to plan out each stations sampling routine. Today the seas were rough again. When the boat is rolling all over the place it is very hard to walk from one place to another. I learned a new trick today. Always keep your knees bent in rough seas; it makes walking a lot easier. Looking at the horizon also helps one from becoming sick, at least for a little while.