



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

NOAA Teacher at Sea: Duane Sanders

Ship: R/V *Hugh R. Sharp*

Mission: Sea Scallop Survey, Leg Two

Geographical Area: New England Coast

Date: Friday, June 12, 2009

Weather Data from the Bridge

Wind: Speed 15.4 KTS, Direction 171.8 degrees

Barometer: 1008 millibars

Air temperature: 16.56 °C

Seas: 3-5 ft.

Science and Technology Log

The routine of dredging for scallops 24 hours a day continues. Since the goal of this survey is to get a good understanding of the entire ecosystem where scallops might live, we take samples from areas closed to commercial scalloping as well as from open areas.

Every catch is a little different in the numbers and types of organisms we find. There is a huge difference in scallop counts between areas that have been open for a time and those areas that have been closed. I can understand clearly the importance of checking this ecosystem on a regular basis. Open areas can become overfished and need time to recoup their losses and should be closed for a period of time.

In terms of dollar value the scallop industry is the most valuable fishery in New England. It would be decimated from overfishing without proper management based on sound, scientifically obtained data.

Personal Log

I have adapted to standing watch at night and sleeping during the day. This experience has helped me to more fully appreciate the finer things in life: sunrise, good food and sleep. Also, I am proud to report that, thanks to some of my fellow 'watchmates' I am now 'BlueTooth competent.' They showed me how to use Bluetooth on my computer while we were winding down after our watch.



It is the end of my watch and I am ready for a break.