



**NOAA Teacher at Sea
Lisha Lander Hylton
Onboard NOAA Ship DELAWARE II
June 29 – July 11, 2008**

NOAA Teacher at Sea: Lisha Lander Hylton

NOAA Ship DELAWARE II

Mission: Surfclam and quahog survey

Geographical area of cruise: Off the coast of the northeastern United States, 25 miles out from Long Island

Date: Wednesday, July 2, 2008; Stations 18-29

Weather Data from the Bridge

Coastal Waters From Sandy Hook To Manasquan Inlet Nj Out 20 Nm-

Coastal Waters From Manasquan Inlet To Little Egg Inlet Nj Out 20 Nm-

* 930 Pm Edt Wed Jul 2 2008*

* Overnight*

Sw Winds 10 To 15 Kt With Gusts Up To 20 Kt. Seas 2 To 4 Ft.

Science and Technology Log

*This information is general on working stations. My objective is to follow up on following daily logs into more specifics on how each station is operated and maintained.

The crew is now learning more technicalities on entering data into the computer system as we continue to pull out quahogs and surfclams. The two species look a lot alike; a surfclam is more elongated in width where a quahog is rounder with a definite hooked shape at the top that connects the two shells. A quahog is also heavier in weight than a surfclam.

After hauling in loads at frequent stops, heading north at pre-determined stations, the crew sorts through miscellaneous sediments to separate the clams. Surfclams are put in one basket, quahogs in another. If they are broken but the 2 valves are still intact,

these go into 2 more baskets. Any living marine life goes into a bucket. We have documented the various sediments at each haul since this may prove to be a factor in the quantity and size of the



The Clam Dredge

clams. So far, the various sediments include rocks, pebbles, sand and shells, a dark oozy mud and grey clay.



Kira Lopez in the lab

Once separated, we break up into teams and work at different stations entering the data into station computers that input the information into one database. Stations we have worked include: measuring the length, weighing the clams in the shell, shucking the clams and then weighing the meat only, determining the age, identifying other live marine organisms.

Entering data for weight involves turning on the weight machine with a prod. Once this is done, Vic records the station # we are working at into all computerized machines. Input into the weight machine involves the following

steps:

- Key in the names of crew members working the station
- Identify the clam
- Specify living or broken
- Measure the clam
- Weigh the clam in the shell
- Shuck the clam and enter the meat weight
- Add any specific notes
- Go to next clam until all clams are recorded

*All data goes into a central data-base.

Questions of the Day:

1. How long does a surfclam usually live? A surfclam can live up to 15 years.
2. How long does a quahog live? A quahog can live up to 100 years.



A shot of the lab with the ocean in the background

New Term/Word/Phrase

Bivalve (A Mollusk)

Something to Think About

1. Why are there more surfclams and quahogs at different stations or locations?
2. Why do some stations or locations have older surfclams and quahogs?

Challenge Yourself

I would like to learn to operate a station and be able to teach someone else to do it.



Lisha on Delaware II

Did You Know?

A surfclam has 2 abductor muscles.

Animals Seen Today

Starfish
Sea Squirts
Rock Crab
Sea Biscuit
Sea Worm