



**NOAA Teacher at Sea
Noah Doughty
Onboard NOAA Ship WESTERN FLYER
September 18 – 22, 2006**

NOAA Teacher at Sea: Noah Doughty
NOAA Ship: WESTERN FLYER
Mission: USS MACON Archeological Expedition
Day 1: Monday, September 18, 2006

Greetings from the sunny coast of California!

Today aboard ship we began to survey the wreck site of the USS MACON, a US Navy Dirigible and it's Sparrowhawk airplanes. The MACON sunk off the coast near Big Sur, just south of Monterey, on February 12th, 1935. The goal of the survey is to create a photo-mosaic image of the wreckage. To accomplish this we are using a remotely operated vehicle (ROV) called the *Tiburon*. Much of today's operations centered on getting the ROV into the water early with the camera at a 45-degree angle to capture as many images of the wreck area as possible. Plus it enabled the scientists and historians on boat to get a feeling for the condition of the wreckage. Altogether we found all four of the airplanes, each in a different state of decomposition, but some parts remarkably well preserved (we could make out part of a star painted on one wing). One of the things the scientists did was to make a GIS map of the wreck site.



The science crew in the Control Room of the WESTERN FLYER as we watch video from the *Tiburon*.

The real work begins tomorrow when researchers from Stanford University begin a two-day project to create the photo-mosaic of the area.

For a GIS map of the MACON wreckage, see the next page. Outlines indicate approximate location of various objects.

