



**NOAA Teacher at Sea  
Jeff Lawrence  
Onboard NOAA Ship RAINIER  
May 22 – June 2, 2006**

**Mission: Hydrography**

**Day 10: Wednesday, May 31, 2006**

**Weather data from bridge as of 0730 hours:**

Visibility: 10.0 miles

Wind direction: 340 deg. (NNW)

Wind Speed: 1 knot, light winds

Sea level pressure: 1014

Present weather: mostly cloudy, cool outside, calm seas

Temperature: 49 deg. wet/dry 50.0 deg.



**One of the RAINIER's boat launches going off to Work on a beautiful day in SE Alaska. 5/29/06 taken from the RAINIER at Hot Springs Bay.**

**Science and Technology Log**

Today I was invited to ride along to Sitka to pick up four crew members and the mail. The day was beautiful and the boat ride was terrific. Sitka has been a part of Alaskan history for a long time. The Russians were the 1<sup>st</sup> Europeans to settle at Sitka. It was also where Russia turned over Alaska to the U.S. after the purchase by Secretary of State Seward. It was an early capital of Alaska before moving to Juneau. The harbor and city were spectacular, off in the distant background was Mt. Edgecumbe.

Three of the crew we picked up will be returning to the RAINIER after leave. The other passenger has just finished NOAA Corps officer basic training and will be boarding the RAINIER for the first time. ENS Tim Smith will begin his career with NOAA aboard the RAINIER. Tim is a native of Rhode Island.

## Photos from brief stop at Sitka to pick up crew and mail



**Russian Orthodox Church in Sitka**



**Ceremonial Tlingit Canoe**

### Personal Log

Today was a spectacular day in SE Alaska full of warm sunshine, calm winds, and calm water. Later in the day it began to cloud up but the winds remained calm. On the way to Sitka I was able to observe dozens of sea otter, a sea lion, and a porpoise. Sitka looks like a picturesque town and popular tourist location for large cruise ships. There was a large cruise ship in the bay when we arrived. The surrounding mountains and the backdrop of Mt. Edgecumbe makes for beautiful landscape photos.

### Questions of the Day

How many ships are in the NOAA fleet?

What is the name of the 2 ships that do hydrography in Alaska?

Approximately how many glaciers does Alaska have?

What is the capital of Alaska?

What is the capital's latitude and longitude?

When did Alaska become a state?



**After a dip at the Hot Springs, back to the RAINIER paddling a kayak in calm waters.**

Jeff Lawrence