



**NOAA Teacher at Sea**  
**Susan Just**  
**Onboard NOAA Ship OREGON II**  
**June 14 – June 30, 2006**

**Interview**

Alonzo Hamilton, Watch Leader for the Midnight to Noon scientific watch on the OREGON II summer fisheries survey of the Gulf of Mexico.

*What is the title of your position?*

Research Fishery Biologist

*Were you a good student in school?*

Average

*In what school year did you make up your mind to become serious?*

Community College

*Did you go to College?*

Yes.

*What kind?*

Two years at Community College then a BS in Biology at Jackson State University, Jackson Mississippi

*Do you have any scientific degrees?*

Masters Degree in Marine Environmental Science

*Why do you enjoy about this work?*

I like everything about it. I like the freedom of being out in the field and then I like the finished product that comes from what we do, in terms of data analysis.

*What percentage of your work year is spent at sea?*

125 days per year

*When you are ashore, what kind of work do you do?*

"I'm analyzing data, editing data and being the Safety Officer at the laboratory."  
"It's a desk job"

*Is your family comfortable with this lifestyle?*

"They're more comfortable with it than I thought they would be. Do they like when I'm away, no. But they also don't like the disruption that I cause when I'm at home. So it's a trade-off. I think they've adjusted to the lifestyle itself. They know that when I'm home I'm there and they know that when I'm away, I'm at work and they accept that."

*If you could be anything you want, what would you be?*

A fishery biologist.

*What advice would you give to young people who are interested in this career path?*

“Do it because you enjoy it. Don’t do it for any other reason. Regardless of what you are doing, do it because you enjoy it.”