



**NOAA Teacher at Sea
Joel Jaroch
Onboard NOAA Ship ALBATROSS IV
July 13 – 28, 2006**

NOAA Teacher as Sea: Joel G. Jaroch
NOAA Ship: ALBATROSS IV
Mission: North Atlantic Sea Scallop Survey
Tuesday, July 25, 2006

Weather Data from Bridge for July 24, 2006 at 1200hrs

Present Weather: Partly Cloudy
Visibility: 16 nautical miles
Wind Direction: 220°
Wind Speed: 7 kts
Sea Wave Height: 1 -2 ft
Swell Wave Height: 3 ft
Sea Water Temperature: 23.3° C
Air Temperature: 22.7° C

An Overview

Life is filled with challenges and obstacles that lay before us. It becomes a matter of what one does when faced with such matters that show the true character of the individual or collective group.

My name is Joel G. Jaroch and I am truly fortunate to be able to participate in the NOAA Teacher at Sea Program. I am a 6th grade teacher in the wonderful city of Philadelphia for the past nine years.

My commitment to the program runs from July 9 to July 29, 2006. Based on the date above, you may be wondering why I haven't completed logs on a regular basis. The challenges and obstacles mentioned above—some within our control and others not within our control has lead to this being the first log of many to come for your reading pleasure and hopefully, some new gained knowledge.

As a means of '*wetting your appetite*', let me just share a few aspects about the entire experience, although a novel could be written.

The North Atlantic Sea Scallop Survey is an incredible scientific undertaking. "*NOAA's mission is to understand and predict changes in the Earth's environment and conserve and manage coastal and marine resources to meet our nation's economic, social, and environmental needs,*" as stated in my acceptance letter from NOAA. The work that the entire NOAA family puts into this particular survey, over the many years, truly seems to be meeting its mission as a working relationship exists between NOAA and the sea

scallop fishermen and because you and I get to enjoy the tasty wild stock scallops from the local super market.

So, on the ALBATROSS IV, scientific research is conducted **around the clock**, for 31 days each summer weather permitting, to continue to understand and better predict changes in the sea scallop population in the North Atlantic. I happen to work on the midnight to noon shift. Clearly, adjustments had to be made in my land routine so as to function on this schedule AT SEA. The experience has been an authentic education, in which I could not totally appreciate by reading about it alone.

During the 12-hour shift, the scientific work conducted looks and feels similar from shift to shift. What changes is the content of the dredge that is hauled aboard the vessel after a 15-minute trawl period. The sorting and tabulating of the catch is critical, as the data will, in large part, form the basis for NOAA's sea scallop status report. The Fisheries Management Council uses this information to decide upon fishing regulations.

I will explain in detail where and how the sampling is done at a later log date. Know that the NOAA crew aboard the ALBATROSS IV strives to uphold a truly scientific approach in their endeavors to better understand the changes within the North Atlantic Sea Scallop population. As a volunteer, I am proud to say that I have taken part in this study of a unique marine resource.

Please continue to check in, as most of my logs, with an array of photos will be posted here at a later date.

Thank you kindly,
Joel