NOAA Teacher at Sea
Scott Donnelly
Onboard NOAA Ship McARTHUR II
April 20 – 27, 2008

NOAA Teacher At Sea: Scott Donnelly
NOAA Ship McARTHUR II
Mission: Biological and Chemical Characterization of Nearshore and Deep Ocean Waters along the Coquille Estuary Line
Date: Saturday, April 26, 2008

Weather Data from the Bridge
Sunrise: 0619 Sunset: 2014

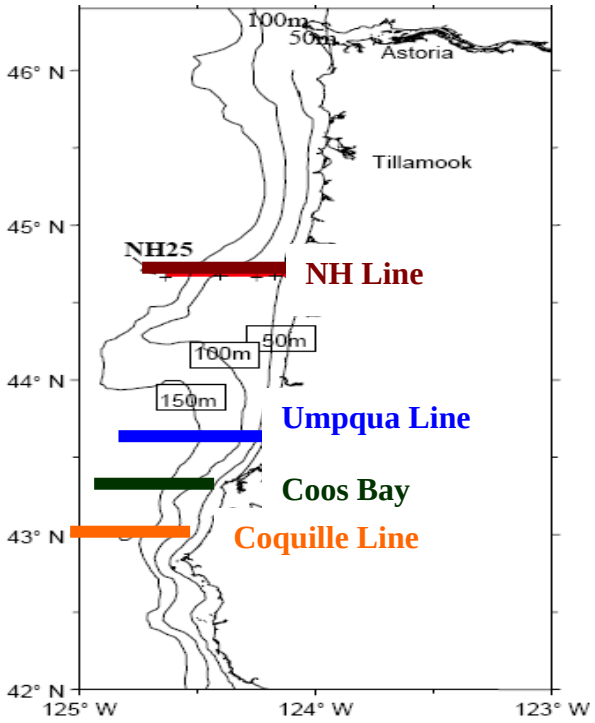
	WIND	SEAS	PRECIPITATION
AM	SW 10 kts, becoming 10-15 kts	Waves 2ft, W Swell 4-5ft @ 12 seconds	Rain likely, reduced visibility
PM	S 5-15 kts,	Waves 2ft, W Swell 6ft @ 11 seconds	Chance of rain

Legend: kts = knots

Science and Technology Log
Both the morning and afternoon shifts went off without any problems. Coordinates of the seven sites for the longitudinal sampling along the Coquille Estuary Line are $43^{O}07'$N, $124^{O}29'$W to $125^{O}15'$W extending 2 to 40 miles from shore and from depths of 44m (145ft) to 2,300m (7,550ft).

My tenth 4-hour shift was spent traveling north to the first sampling site along the Umpqua Estuary Line. Coordinates for the longitudinal measurements are $43^{O}40'$N, $124^{O}16'$W to $125^{O}02'$W extending 3 to 40 miles from shore and from depths of 80m (265ft) to 1,300m (4,265ft). See map below.

NOAA TAS Scott Donnelly ready to deploy a bongo net



Coordinates for the longitudinal measurements of the first sampling site of my shift

Personal Log

In preparing for Saturday's early morning shift, I noticed when I walked onto the ship's fantail that the night sky was clear and stars dotted the dark night heavens. I made my way to the flying bridge to observe the cloudless night sky lit up with millions of stars. All the major constellations visible in the northern hemisphere at this time of year just after midnight were easily seen in all their brilliance and mystery. The cool, crisp salty air added to the beauty of the moment. It made for a peaceful, philosophical moment. But as I have found in my brief stay in Oregon such celestial opportunities do not present themselves often and when they do it's not for long. Clouds soon appeared, blocking the view and ending any chance to identify and name all the major constellations.

After finishing the early morning shift I stayed up until after sunrise to take advantage again of photographing the sun rising above the eastern horizon through a thin layer of clouds. Such meteorological conditions created a sky painted with various shades and hues of red, orange, and yellow. It was if a giant painter had a brush and painted the sky- his canvas- a riot of colors pleasing to the eye and emotions. The science of immaterial light from the sun interacting with the material gaseous atmosphere and clouds and the timing made for a time of quiet reflection and contemplation of the vastness of the universe and the relative insignificance of the Milky Way galaxy and our blue ocean planet.

Sunrise off the southern Oregon coast as seen from NOAA ship McARTHUR II

Tomorrow is the last day of the cruise. I have one more early morning shift. We are scheduled to dock in Coos Bay sometime in the early afternoon.