



**NOAA Teacher at Sea  
Miriam Sutton  
Onboard NOAA Ship NANCY FOSTER  
June 17 - 22, 2005**

**Log 5**

Day 5: Tuesday, June 21, 2005

Latitude:

Longitude:

Visibility: 10 nautical miles (nm)

Wind direction: 235°

Wind speed: 17kts

Sea wave height: 1'

Swell wave height: 2'

Sea water temperature: 13.9°C

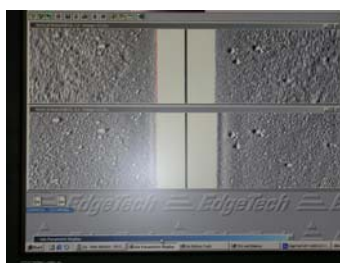
Sea level pressure: 1017.5mb

Cloud cover: Partly cloudy

Today was our last day of remote sensing along Stellwagen Bank and everyone was hoping that our towfish would find something along the seafloor. By our second run of the day, our towfish successfully located “something” along the seafloor but it wasn’t quite what we had in mind. As Chief Scientist, Matt Lawrence watched the cable length read out begin to climb shallower and shallower, he realized our towfish had captured some fishing gear. The towing operations were stopped, the ship reversed course and we retrieved the towfish so we could remove the line of fishing gear that had wrapped around the towing shaft. Once removed, the sensor was re-deployed and maritime archeology research continued. (See Photos F and G)



(Photo F –  
Removing Fishing  
Gear)



(Photo G – Side scan display)

The fishing gear must have been synonymous to a lucky horseshoe because we began locating several possible wrecks shortly after freeing the sensor from the gear. In actuality, it is the fishing gear used by local fishermen that gives the scientists a starting point for their searches. Local fishermen keep logs of “Hang” areas they try to avoid so as not to get their fishing gear caught up in the debris. Fishermen share their “Hang” logs with the scientists who can then use the fishermen’s data to set up remote sensing search

areas and transect lines. Fishermen have years of experience from fishing local waters and have become a valuable resource of information for the scientists to use in their quest to preserve the maritime heritage of the Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary.