



**NOAA Teacher at Sea
Cary Atwood
Onboard NOAA Ship ALBATROSS IV
July 25 - August 5, 2005**

Log 6

Date: July 30, 2005
Time: 12:06 GMT 8:06 a.m. EDT
Saturday
Latitude: 41° 26' N
Longitude: 66° 34' W
Visibility: <1 mile
Wind direction: NW (306 degrees)
Wind speed: 7 knots
Sea wave height: 1'
Swell wave height: 1'
Sea water temperature: 15 °C
Sea level pressure: 1023.3 millibars
Cloud cover: 90% fog, haze, dust

QUESTION OF THE DAY- What kind of crab makes its home in an abandoned snail shell?

Answer to yesterday's question:

Lines- a word used on a ship meaning ropes
Bosun- a very old word derived from "Boat Swain"- meaning the lead fisherman
Steam- the distance to be traveled on a ship from one destination to the next
Swell- wave action –when the action is greater, the difference between the tip of the wave and the trough represents the swell

Science and Technology Log

In the past few days, pods of humpback whales have been sighted near our ship. I grab my binoculars and watch their show. They are very acrobatic whales, breaching (jumping above the water), slapping their flippers and lobtailing—meaning they dive below the surface leaving only their large tail fluke showing-as they wave it in the air. If you are lucky enough to get close to a humpback whale, you might be able to see the distinctive markings on the underside of their flukes. These markings are used to identify individual whales. It is hard to imagine the immense size of this mammal as they reach from 36 to 52 feet in length and weigh up to 40 tons

Humpbacks can be found worldwide and in the winter they migrate south to the Caribbean. Their summer feeding grounds are the Gulf of Maine to Iceland. Humpbacks

were commercially fished almost to the brink of extinction in the 1800's as whaling ships plied their trade all along the Atlantic coastline, making many fisherman and coastal communities very wealthy. Once they were listed on the endangered species list in 1966 it protected them from commercial harvest. Their numbers have recovered and it is estimated that 8000-10,000 live and feed in the waters of the North Atlantic. Seeing these whales is a truly special experience

Personal Log- a poem for humpbacks

Humpbacks

On dark waters

You rise

And reach for the sky

Your fluke

Like a signature

Tells all who are near

This is my playground

Too

I have returned from the

Brink of extinction.

Atlantic waters

Give me life

Help them remember

I could have been

A ghostly memory

Of times past.

Now, I inspire awe

and hope

For the future.