NOAA Teacher at Sea
Elizabeth Eubanks
Onboard NOAA Ship DAVID STARR JORDAN
July 22 – August 3, 2007

NOAA Teacher at Sea: Elizabeth Eubanks
NOAA ship DAVID STARR JORDAN
Mission: Catch rates of pelagic sharks comparing J hooks to Circular hooks in support of The Relative Abundance of Sharks Survey
Date: Day 4, July 25, 2007, Wednesday
Pacific Ocean - South of Catalina Island – a Channel Island

Weather Data from the Bridge taken at 1500 (3pm) - Deep Sea Temp at (2000) 8pm
Visibility: 10 miles
Air temperature: 20.4 degrees C
Sea Temperature at 500m: 6.3 degrees C
Sea Temperature at surface: 21.3 degrees C
Wind Direction: 280 W
Wind Speed: 18 kts
Cloud cover: clear – high cumulus
Sea Level Pressure: 1012.5 mb
Sea Wave Height : 2 ft
Swell Wave Height : 2 ft

Science and Technology Log

NOAA Teacher at Sea Elizabeth Eubanks (right) on the platform taking a DNA sample from a Mako shark.

Today was so exciting. Dr. Suzi Kohin asked me to the join crew down on the platform of the stern of the boat. At the end of the platform is a specially designed cradle in which the shark is placed to record data and issue tags. It was so very, very cool to be that close to sharks. I also got to put two of the tags in the shark. I first used a scalpel blade to make a small incision just below the dorsal fin. Then I place the tag in with a quick jab. The tag is called a spaghetti tag because it is a thin piece of wire with numbers and contact information on it. You can get a reward for calling it in. The other tag is

called a Roto tag and it goes on the dorsal fin. This tag states that we have injected oxytetracycline into the shark. When someone turns this tag in with a couple of vertebrate they get $100.00. Next I am handed a pair of forceps and a scalpel blade, I cut a little junk of the dorsal fin and then hand it over to go into a solution for DNA testing. Then the Suzy calls out the estimated weight and we get the Oxytetracycline and I got to inject it into the shark on the belly or **ventral** side. Oxytetracycline is pretty cool, it is what teens use for acne. But the really great thing about it is that it also stains your bones when you use it. It shows up similar to how you would see the rings on a stump of a tree. So it is a great way for scientist to do bone growth investigation.

Personal Log
Wildlife-
Forever I have been tracking all of the birds that I have seen. I don't particularly keep a count, but I do check them off and write little notes about them in my National Geographic bird book.

Risso Dolphin – Pacific Ocean near Catalina Island

When I was in wild life biology classes at Penn State Dubois I use to keep track of everything I saw in various books and lists. One huge surprise of this entire summer has been how many new species of birds I have logged. It is amazing. My guess it that I have logged at least 20 new species, which is a lot for me, for one summer. But I really wish I had kept up with my wildlife list as a whole. If I had, I could add a couple species more today. The Common Dolphin (which I actually saw days ago as well), two Blue Whales and a pod of Risso Dolphins – they are beautiful as I am sure you can see from the photo above.

Of course now I have an extra challenge with my species list. I like to make sure I get a photo as well – just so that there is no mistake to what I am seeing!

If you are into wildlife like I am, I highly recommend you start a list now, it is fun to list where, when and what it was doing when you saw it.

Oh happy day,
Elizabeth Eubanks

Common Dolphin – Pacific Ocean off of Catalina Island

Please direct your emails (questions for me and answers to my questions) to the email address listed below. I will **NOT** be checking my yahoo email account until I return to land!

elizabeth.eubanks.atsea@jonems.jordan.omao.noaa.gov

Question of the Day
If I tell you to lie on your ventral side, which side of your body would you lay on?
Suppose I told to lie on your dorsal side, what side would you lay on?

Question of the trip
Which hook, the J or Circle will catch more sharks?
Please make a hypothesis. Utilize resources to justify your hypothesis.
---------Yes, you get extra credit for this.