



**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 9, July 30, 2007, Monday

**Pacific Ocean** – West of Santa Catalina Island, California

**Weather Data from the Bridge taken at 1500 (3pm) - Deep Sea Temp at (2000) 8pm**

Visibility: 10 miles

Air temperature: 20.0 degrees C

Sea Temperature at 1,000m: -No CTD test tonight

Sea Temperature at surface: 19.8 degrees C

Wind Direction: 270 W

Wind Speed: 11 kts

Cloud cover: clear –very cloudy, stratus, cumulus

Sea Level Pressure: 1011.9 MB

Sea Wave Height: 2 ft

Swell Wave Height: <1 ft

**Science and Technology Log**

Today as my early shift which means I was up and on deck by 5:45 am. The morning was beautiful. I got to clip the gangion with line, hook and bait onto the long line. This has the potential to be a very stressful job, if it is really windy or there are large waves. I have avoided this job, for fear I would get tangled and go over board or miss the long line and drop the baited line, miss the space to clip my gangion or get the alternating Circles and J's messed up.

– Lots to remember. But when Dr. Kohin asked me to do it, of course I said “sure”. And guess what nothing bad really happened. I didn't wreck the whole survey or anything! The long line has little bolt like things on it with a space between where you are supposed to clip the gangion. It can be tricky to clip them on, because the long line is moving out past you to the sea. I did miss two, but it wasn't a huge disaster. The circles got a little knotted in the basket so there was nothing that could be done about keeping those in order, it was more important to get bait on the hooks, but later we added a few extra circles to keep the data on target and even.

Funny, I actually found it to be my favorite job. It was exciting and challenging and keeps your attention. Of course it was a calm day so it wasn't as stressful as it could've been. The hardest thing about clipping this morning was to resist running to get my camera. The sun magnificently peaked through the clouds as a bright pinkish red ball at

6:30 am . The ocean was alive with visible life as sea gulls circled, and dolphins and seals splashed in the water.

I worked on de-meating shark jaws for a while, which is tedious but fun. Their teeth are so plentiful and sharp. Fours hours later we hauled the line and had four Mako Sharks. Not the best set, but not the worst either!



**Gangion clip attached to 20 foot line with hook (Circle or J) and Pacific Mackerel bait.**

### **Personal Log**

We arrived near Avalon, which is on Santa Catalina Island, California at 3:30pm. As soon as we got close to it people started to pull out their cell phones.

I have to admit that as wonderful and adorable that Avalon was the best part was talking to Rob, my mom, Jim, Bob and Sue.

Telephones are not a luxury that we have on this ship. I am sure I wasn't the only one that felt this way, because every time I turned around either on the ship or on Avalon, people were on their phones. In fact even down to the last minute while the ship was pulling away from civilization, people were still making one last call to their loved ones.



**Heather Marshall, grad student from U Mass. of Dartmouth on the phone with her mother. Too bad she couldn't talk to her boyfriend, but he had just boarded a research vessel studying northern shrimp out of Maine for Massachusetts.**

*“26 miles across the sea, Santa Catalina is a waiting for me”  
– old tune from the 50’s – Who is the artist?*

Santa Catalina Island is about 25 miles long and 26 miles off of the west coast of California. To get there from the mainland you take a Ferry from Long Beach, which is south west of Los Angeles. You need special permission to bring a car. We were in a town called Avalon, it is located in the south eastern part of the island. The Wrigley’s, as in Wrigley’s gum family use to own a lot of the Island, but some years ago donated most of it to the state, the Nature Conservancy and to the University of Southern California. Many organizations such as the Boy Scouts use some of the areas and are allowed to continue providing they take care of it.



**Harbor at Avalon, Santa Catalina Island, California. The former Wrigley house is the one that sits highest on the mountain in the photo.**

Avalon was very popular back in the day. During the big band swing era in the 50’s musicians like Glenn Miller, Benny Goodman and Tommy Dorsey would come place at the Casino which is really a Ballroom. It is a quaint little town with electric cars, buses and golf carts driving all about. Rarely do you see a typical car. There are lots of shops and cute places to eat.

We were brought over to the island on Zodiacs, a small rubber watercraft and stayed for 2 or so hours. A group of us wandered around, while some swam and others ate. It was such an unexpected bonus and so nice to be in a town.

About an hour or so after we arrived I was interviewing Charlie with my camcorder and as I looked at the screen I noticed I was rocking – okay so I **felt** like I was rocking! I didn’t expect this. When I told Ann Coleman who was an experienced scientist at sea, she said it was common and said the strangest would be when I get home and take a shower, especially when I close my eyes and when I go to bed. I will see how that goes.

Oh happy day,  
Elizabeth Eubanks

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.oma.noaa.gov

**Question of the Day**

Why do you think it is important to throw the fish and the line overboard before you clip the gangion onto the long line?

**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.*