



**NOAA Teacher at Sea
Susie Hill
Onboard NOAA Ship ALBATROSS IV
July 23 – August 3, 2007**

NOAA Teacher at Sea: Susie Hill

NOAA ship ALBATROSS IV

Mission: Sea Scallop Survey

Date: July 25, 2007

Time: 8:23 a.m.

North Atlantic Ocean

Weather Data from the Bridge

Air Temperature: 20.8 ° C

Sea Temperature: 21.8 ° C

Relative Humidity: 93%

Barometric Pressure: 1022.4 millibars

Wind Speed: 5 knots

Water Depth: 58 meters

Conductivity: 44.91 mmhos

Salinity: 31 ppt

Science and Technology Log

It's the morning after my first shift, and surprisingly, I still have energy! It was so much fun! It took us about 8 hours to get to our first tow station, and then we went right to work. At each tow station, the dredge is emptied out onto the deck for us to sort. In addition to the standard sampling to assess the stock, scientists request certain species samples for additional research before each cruise. The samples that are being pulled this trip are scallops, skates, hake fish, starfish (some of us call them sea stars), and monkfish (or goosefish). So, we pull these out of the catch and the rest is thrown back out to sea. It's a race from there to get all of the research done before the next tow. The scientists everywhere (including me!) are weighing, dissecting, and recording the data into the FSCS (Fisheries Scientific Computer System). It's awesome!

One of my stations was to help take the data on the sea scallops. We measured the gonad, meat, and viscera (pretty much everything else in the shell) weights of 5 randomly chosen sea scallops to determine the sex and shell height/meat weight relationships. The shells will be measured back at Woods Hole to determine the age. Do you know how scientists determine the age of a scallop? They count the rings on the outer shell just like you would to determine the age of a tree. We also collected these samples to help with a study being done by Scientist Stacey Etheridge and Melissa Ellwanger from FDA (Food and Drug Administration) to determine PSP (paralytic shellfish poisoning) levels. They are also testing for *Alexandrium sp.*, a dinoflagellate phytoplankton, in the water sample that can also cause PSP in humans.

It is pretty cool that the scientists let us help out at the different stations so we could get a hand in everything that is going on. When I came on, I thought that we were only going to be doing one study- studying just scallops. It turns out that we get to experience so much more!