



**NOAA** NATIONAL OCEANIC AND  
ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION  
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE



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### **Mount Vernon teacher returns from walleye pollock survey**

Anne Mortimer, a science teacher at Mount Vernon High School, returned Saturday after assisting researchers for 19 days as they surveyed walleye pollock in the Gulf of Alaska.

"I'm very excited to have the opportunity to participate in the NOAA Teacher at Sea, allowing me to experience real-world scientific research and life at sea," said Mortimer. "I will be able to gain new knowledge about research projects at sea and share them with my students through my own hands-on experiences. My experiences will help make their learning more relevant and exciting."

Mortimer boarded the NOAA ship *Oscar Dyson*, on July 4<sup>th</sup> in Kodiak, Alaska. During her 12-hour shifts, she assisted the scientists as they searched, fished, and measured the walleye pollock they caught. Walleye pollock is a \$1 billion fishery annually, and the largest fishery by volume in the United States. Mortimer kept a blog of her experience, accessible at <http://teacheratsea.wordpress.com/category/teachers-at-sea/anne-mortimer/>. Photos from her blog are free and available for use by media with proper credit.

"NOAA's Teacher at Sea program immerses teachers in hands-on research experiences that give them clearer insight into our ocean planet, a greater understanding of maritime work and studies, and increased knowledge of environmental literacy," said Jennifer Hammond, the program's director. "Participating in real-world research allows teachers to gain experience actually doing science, which makes a significant impact when they bring back their knowledge to their classrooms, teaching students how the oceans affect their lives."

Now in its 21<sup>st</sup> year, the program has provided over 600 teachers the opportunity to gain first-hand experience participating in science at sea. This year, NOAA received applications from more than 250 teachers, and chose 33 to participate in research cruises. The educators chosen are able to enrich their curricula with the depth of understanding they gain by living and working side-by-side, day and night, with scientists studying the marine environment.

NOAA's mission is to understand and predict changes in the Earth's environment, from the depths of the ocean to the surface of the sun, and to conserve and manage our coastal and marine resources. Join us on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and our other [social media channels](#).