NOAA Teacher at Sea
Ruth S. Meadows
Onboard NOAA Ship *Henry B. Bigelow*
June 11 – July 18, 2009

NOAA Teacher at Sea: Ruth S. Meadows
NOAA Ship *Henry B. Bigelow*
Mission: Census of Marine Life (MAR- ECO)
Geographical Area: Mid- Atlantic Ridge, Charlie- Gibbs Fracture Zone
Date: Monday, July 5,2009

Weather Data from the Bridge
Temperature: 10.3° C
Humidity: 93%
Wind: 8.9 kts

Science and Technology Log
Dr. Mike Vecchione holds a very large dumbo octopus from one of the deep sea trawls. This octopus got its name from the large fins that look like the ears of "Dumbo" the elephant. It is a benthic cephalopod (an ancient group in the phylum Mollusca) that lives above the floor of the ocean. It probably feed on copepods and other small crustaceans, but we don't know much about its biology. This particular species (*Cirrothauma magna*) has only been caught a few times before.

John Galbraith and Tom Letessier hold a very large example of a slickhead. These fish are dark in color and their exterior is smooth and slippery. These soft-bodied soggy fish are common in waters greater than 1000 m deep. They get their common name from the slimy look of their head. They lack a swim bladder and make themselves as light as possible by having weak bones and watery flesh.

This is a chimaera that weighed in at 12 kilograms. It is distantly related to sharks and rays and can be found at depths up to 2500 meters. These fish have cartilage instead of bones. We caught several of these in the benthic trawls, but this one was the largest. Most of these fish have a venomous spine at the back of its dorsal fin.

Basti (from Germany) is holding another chimaera, Venda (from Portugal) has a slickhead and Meridith (from Boston) has a lizardfish. These came from the last benthic trawl of the cruise.

Do You Know?
What would happen between a shark and an octopus? Go to the following web site to see them in action.

http://video.nationalgeographic.com/video/player/animals/invertebrates-animals/octopus-and-squid/octopus_giant_kills_shark.html