



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



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### **Knoxville teacher returns from Alaskan pollock survey**

Jason Moeller, a science educator at the Knoxville Zoo, recently returned after 18 days of assisting scientists surveying walleye pollock in the Gulf of Alaska.

"It was very exciting to have the opportunity to be a part of the scientific research being done on board the *Oscar Dyson*. The research cruise I worked on focused on surveying populations of the walleye pollock to determine the amount of pollock that can be safely harvested by commercial fisheries while keeping the population healthy and sustainable," said Moeller. "I'm looking forward to using my experience to help students here in East Tennessee gain a better understanding of how the ocean works."

Moeller boarded the *Oscar Dyson*, a NOAA ship, on June 13<sup>th</sup> in Kodiak, Alaska. During his 12-hour shifts, he assisted the scientists as they fished and measured the walleye pollock they caught. Walleye pollock is the largest fishery, by volume, in the United States. It represents 40% of global whitefish production. Moeller kept a blog, accessible at <http://teacheratsea.wordpress.com/category/teachers/jason-moeller/>. Photos from his blog are free and available for use by media. Proper crediting is requested.

"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. Find us on [Facebook](#).