



NOAA NATIONAL OCEANIC AND
ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION
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Parkland teacher returns from Alaskan pollock survey

Tammy Orilio, a high school teacher from Parkland science teacher, recently returned after 18 days of assisting scientists surveying walleye pollock in the Gulf of Alaska.

"I was ecstatic when I found out I was chosen to participate in NOAA's Teacher at Sea Program and would be spending time on the NOAA Ship Oscar Dyson, participating in walleye pollock research," said Orilio. "Through NOAA's Teacher at Sea program, my students and colleagues will have a first-hand perspective of life on board a fisheries research vessel. Providing this first-hand experience will hopefully get my students excited about learning marine science and may potentially interest them in an ocean-related career."

Orilio boarded the *Oscar Dyson*, a NOAA ship, on June 13th in Kodiak, Alaska. During her 12-hour shifts, she 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. Orilio also kept a blog of her experience, accessible at <http://www.orilioisateacheratsea.blogspot.com>. 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 21st 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](#).