

BOY SCOUT OCEANOGRAPHY MERIT BADGE PROGRAM

MAY 20, 2006

Troop 159 (Herndon, VA), Troop 191 (King George, VA),
and Troop 901 (Chesapeake, VA)

Photos were taken by Julie R. Morgan, CCPO Program Specialist.

A special thank you goes to Dr. Michael Reeve (Troop 159) for his help
with identifying the contents of the plankton net tow sample.



A group photo was taken before boarding the R/V *Fay Slover*.



The *Slover* headed out into the Elizabeth River.



Slover Mate, Laura Gibson, gave a safety overview.



Laura introduced the Scouts to the CTD/Rosette.



Scouts were given the opportunity to use the equipment themselves.



The CTD/Rosette was readied for deployment.





Scouts guided the CTD/Rosette off the stern.



These Scouts kept it steady as it was lowered into the Elizabeth River.



Laura showed a Scout how to retrieve a water sample from the Niskin bottle.



A cable, which sends data to the onboard computer, was disconnected once the CTD/Rosette was back on board.



Laura and the Scouts prepared for the next sampling exercise, which was a plankton net tow.





This canister, which attaches to the net, holds the various specimens collected during the tow.





A Scout threw the canister out into the water behind the *Slover*.



After being towed for five minutes, the net was brought back onboard and hosed down to dislodge any organisms trapped in the net.



The Scouts carefully guided the net back to prevent the weight from swinging.



The canister was removed from the net and the sample inside was taken below deck.



Scouts used a microscope to look at the contents of the plankton net tow sample, which included ctenophores, fish larvae, and calanoid copepods of the genus *Acartia*. These are common components of East Coast estuarine water column environments.





While some Scouts continued using the microscope, others helped Laura set up for sediment sampling.





A bottom mud grab was done to collect a sample of sediment from the Elizabeth River.





Like with the CTD/Rosette and the plankton net, this equipment was carefully guided back on board. The sediment sample was deposited into the plastic tray on the deck.





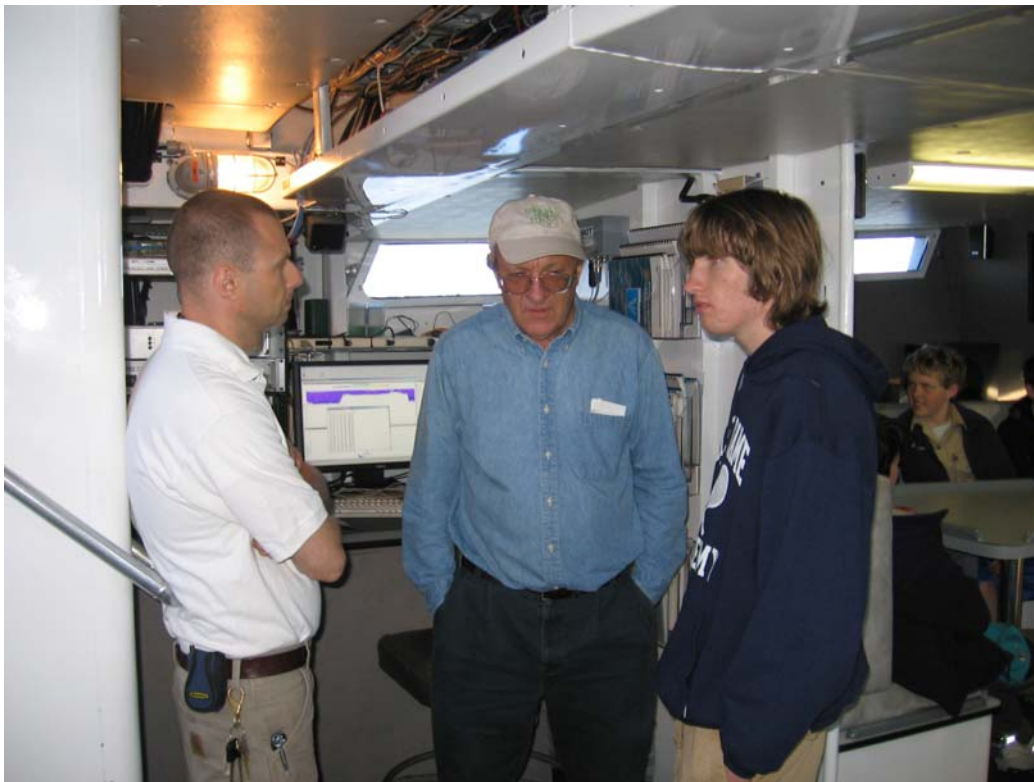
Scouts were encouraged to dig through the sediment. This Scout found a clam.



Dr. Hofmann found some worm tubes in the sediment, one of which contained a live polychaete worm. Further digging in the sample produced various shells.



Dr. Hofmann shared the findings with her son, who also participated in the program.



Chris Powell, marine technician supervisor for the *Slover*, conferred with Dr. Reeve and a Scout below deck.



A curious Scout examined the worm tubes more closely with Dr. Hofmann.



Laura shared pictures of a leatherback turtle seen during a cruise near Tangier Island, VA.



Captain Cox welcomed participants onto the *Slover's* bridge. Chris answered questions about the various equipment and instruments.





Captain Cox treated the group to a wonderful viewing opportunity of the USS *Wisconsin*.





Chris checked the equipment as the *Slover* prepared to dock.