

Web Update

Day 8: 03/03/2008

Describe your role in the project?

My primary role in this project is to help acquire, process and analyze the bathymetric and backscatter data collected using the multibeam echosounder. The bathymetric data provides information about water depth. The backscatter contains information about the seafloor structure. Integrating these two pieces of information along with the georeferenced underwater imagery, allows us to create habitat maps.

How did you start working with NOAA or other background info?

I started working with NOAA's Biogeography Branch in 2005. Before that I lived and worked in China for a little while as a teacher.

How/why did you get involved in marine science?

Ever since I was a kid, I enjoyed seeing new places, being outside and getting dirty. Environmental science (and marine science in particular) allowed me to make a career out of it.

What do you like most about being out at sea?

The thing I like most about being at sea is the silence. Not much of that in downtown Washington, D.C.

If you were a reef-associated animal, what would you be and why? I would be a barracuda.....but a friendly looking one, perhaps with glasses and braces.

What do you like most about your job?

I enjoy that I get to be involved in a variety of projects, see unique, natural landscapes and then work to conserve them for future generations.

What would you like readers to know about you?

Probably that I can make a mean lemon pound cake.



Bryan Costa is a Geospatial Scientist for the Biogeography Branch.