

Web Update

Day 2: 02/26/2008

How long have you been in the NOAA Corps and why did you enter?

I joined the NOAA Corps in 1988. This is my 20th year. I was looking for a technical career. I've always loved science and seagoing. I grew up around the ocean.

Describe the daily activities of a captain?

The commanding officer is responsible for everything, including: deck operations safety, safely navigating the ship, always looking ahead and planning for future cruises and overseeing the management of personnel and budget issues.

Basically, I keep my thumb on everything that's happening now and any potential future operations both on and off the ship. My job is to make sure everything goes smoothly.

What are some of the most interesting features of the R/V Nancy Foster?

The Nancy Foster is a multi-mission vessel with the capacity to do both deep sea and coastal research. It offers sophisticated electronics and winches for over-the-side operations. There are four small boats to support diving and work done in areas close to shore where the ship itself can't go. We can support up to 15 divers with advanced diving techniques such as Nitrox.

The vessel also has a dynamic positioning system that allows the ship to sit at one spot for an extended period of time. This precise control is great for remotely operated vehicle and drop camera use. It lets us get right on top of a location.

What do you like most about your job?

I like the diverse people, science and nature of the projects. I also like that we see results of what we do immediately; we get to see results on a daily basis.

Share an interesting story based on your experiences with NOAA?

I see so many different types of projects, but my favorite projects are the ones where we get to go into remote areas and use the small boats to enter pristine locations where we can see the different habitats, coral reefs and fish. These are my lasting memories.



Ralph Rogers is the Commanding Officer of the R/V Nancy Foster