

## Enhanced Mussel Watch Phase 1: Eastern Great Lakes



We can't stay for this event; we got our samples and have to move on to the next site in Massena, NY.

Tuesday, September 22, 2009

-Kristina Lauenstein

It is only when we have time to pause and reflect that we realize just how fast time is passing, even if this is a long cruise. Today's work marks the end of our time with Mike who has proven very helpful, especially when establishing new sites (and making room reservations).

This morning the team sampled at Lake Ontario - Cape Vincent, another dredge site. We are very pleased that with one to we have more than ten times the mussels we need. With the mussels bagged and in a cooler, we turn to the sediment collection, which proves difficult. With a thick layer of mussels covering the bottom, it is hard to get to the sediment underneath.

Having lost track of time, we are surprised that it is already afternoon when we get back on the road. We drive two hours to Messina, NY and arrive hungry and tired. Not finding a boat ramp, we decide to reenergize with a late lunch but wanting to avoid fast food we give up in favor of checking into a hotel before doing more sampling.

The new sampling site is yet another AoC and a very extensive one. We choose to dredge for mussels in the shipping channel, a good choice. This deep water is not however very good for finding sediment. We move just a few feet toward shore and are rewarded with slower currents and shallower water making our sediment collection easier.

Once again, time gets away from us and it is after six when we head back to shore. Since this is our last day sampling with Mike, there is plenty more work to be done this evening. We transfer gear off the boat and package the many samples that will be sent back to the Great Lakes Environmental Research Laboratory (GLERL) (link to: <http://www.glerl.noaa.gov/>) with Mike. We are still unsure when we will be able ship our most recent samples, and not certain how our gear will all fit in the van, but that is a problem for tomorrow.