

# Creep into the Deep: Discovering Deep-Sea Coral

**SEAMAIL™**

TO: Virtual Deep-Sea Science Team  
FROM: Siobhan Kassem  
SUBJECT: Waiting for CTDs to surface and a typical day on the ship

Hello Virtual Science Team,

I'm actually on the ship! I love being at sea. It's like I'm on vacation but doing work that brings me joy at the same time.

I work from midnight until noon. That means I sleep during the day. It took about two days for my body to get into this routine.

It is such an amazing experience. I controlled the CTD for my first time. CTD stands for Conductivity (the salinity), Temperature, and Depth. It's the device we lower into the sea to collect water samples at different depths. I study water chemistry, so the CTD is one of the tools I use to do my research.

When nothing needs to be done on my watch, I can go to the ship's deck and stargaze for hours. I don't see many stars at home because all the lights on buildings and streets makes it hard to see them. Out at sea it is a different world.

I feel so at peace out here. I love looking at the horizon across the bright blue water. We have also seen whales, sharks, stingrays, and flying fish! So overall, I am having a great time!

Oh, the CTD is coming back up. Gotta run.

Siobhan

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Illustration by Paul Lopez