

# Sea Grant Postcard from the Field



Sea Grant Postcard from the Field

While Congress was in recess, Legislative Knauss Fellow Valerie Cleland embarked on an adventure



Valerie got out of the office and spent a week aboard a NOAA research vessel learning about NOAA research.



When she wasn't talking to scientists, Valerie watched dolphins, sunrises and sunsets. She even drove the boat!

Photos: Washington Sea Grant



## While Congress was in recess, Legislative Knauss Fellow Valerie Cleland embarked on an adventure

While Congress was in recess, Valerie Cleland, a Washington Sea Grant-sponsored Legislative Knauss Fellow, traded in her office for the deck of a NOAA research vessel. Valerie joined the crew of NOAA's research vessel Ron Brown serving as a representative for the Senate Commerce Committee for the Democrats.

From the day she and the rest of the congressional delegation embarked from Woods Hole, Massachusetts until the ship came to port in Charleston, South Carolina, Valerie learned about NOAA research and life on the ship. Along with observing research taking place as the ship sailed, she spoke to scientists on board to learn about how time on NOAA ships was essential to their research. She also spent hours discussing the with NOAA Corps' Admiral Hann.

When Valerie wasn't having discussions, watching presentations or observing, she watched dolphins, admired sunrises and sunsets, and even got to drive the ship. Though she enjoys her day-to-day work on hearings and legislation that deals with the ocean, fisheries or weather, her time aboard the Ron Brown was a welcome breath of fresh ocean air.

Photo Descriptions: Valerie looks out at the ocean through binoculars (left). The Ron Brown research vessel (right). Credit: Washington Sea Grant

***Have an idea for a postcard?*** Share your program's work with Sea Grant!  
**[Submit your ideas for a Postcard from the Field.](#)**

Connect with us

