STAR 2006: NOAA Ship *McArthur II*
Weekly Science Report

Susan Chivers, Cruise Leader
09 November 2006

Science Summary: 03 - 09 November, 2006

Today is the first day of Leg 4. Needless to say this science summary will be short. We are just beginning...

All scientists returned refreshed and relaxed to begin the last leg of STAR 2006. The ship's personnel enjoyed some down time in Manzanillo, but also worked hard to get the ship ready for the final leg of STAR 2006, ensuring plenty of fuel and food to get us to San Diego.

We departed Manzanillo, Mexico about noon today and began survey effort heading south along the coast of Mexico towards Acapulco. Several new crew members and scientists have joined us this leg, including returning XO Herb Hancock and a new medical officer, Jane Kelly, from the CDC in Atlanta. Changes to the scientific complement in addition to myself taking over the role of cruise leader, include two visiting scientists: Dave Bratten from the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission in La Jolla, CA is our foreign observer and Sofie Van Parjis, who works for the Northeast Fisheries Science Center in Woods Hole, MA, is our visiting acoustician. Welcome! We look forward to sailing with you.

You will see in the short summary table presented that our survey effort was only 25.6 nm today. This is technically the first day of next week and so the detailed science report for today's activities will appear in next week's weekly report.

We sailed one day later than the planned start day for this leg, because we waited for critical equipment to be cleared through customs. We were expecting a motor for the engine room and parts to put together another CTD (Conductivity, Temperature, Depth sensor). We now have both. The motor has been installed and has brought the temperature of the engine room down to something slightly more tolerable... about 100 degrees. The CTD is missing a critical part, and we are working to see if we can get it onboard before leaving the coastal area. Everyone on board, as well as many on land, worked hard to get us the equipment we need, and continue to work to get us the necessary CTD part. Thank you all! We continue the oceanographic operations using the SEACAT that our oceanographers Mindy Kelly and Lacey O'Neal got up and running last leg, to collect temperature and salinity data during the beginning of this new leg. We are optimistic that we will have a working CTD when we start our standard line transect survey effort after the calibration experiment.

Stay tuned for a full science report next week.

Sightings and Effort Summary for Marine Mammals

DATE	Start Stop Time	Position	Total Distance	Average Beaufort
110906	1408	N18:59.20 W104:24.61	25.6 nmi	2.5
	1809	N18:40.13 W103:58.92		

CODE	SPECIES	TOT#
002	Stenella attenuata (offshore)	2
006	Stenella attenuata graffmani	1
015	Steno bredanensis	1
048	Kogia sima	1
090	Stenella attenuata (unid. subsp.)	2
	TOTAL	7

The following specially edited sections will reappear next week.

Biopsies (Suzanne Yin and Erin LaBrecque)

Photo-id Report (Isabel Beasley and Jim Cotton)

Seabird and Marine Debris (Michael Force and Sophie Webb)

Oceanographic Operations (Melinda Kelley)

Squeakly Report (Shannon Rankin and Liz Zele)

Dippers' Doldrums (Jim Cotton)

Fish Sampled for Diet and Isotope Analysis