

SCIENCE SUMMARY: 20-22 November 2000

Robert Pitman

A short week here - 2.5 days - as we plunge back into the core (read chore) area. Wind and rain seem to be the only weather options here as the mighty DSJ continues to slog through the rain belt. ITCZ and helicopters don't mix and the photogrammetrists continue to log more movies than dolphin schools (they get film exposure either way). But Wayne manages to be the very face of optimism being the first person in the history of ETP surveys to put the cameras on the helicopter in a Beaufort 5 ("just in case"). It is getting late in the cruise and after almost 4 months the ship is starting to seem like a very small planet. But we all know it is the last leg, and although no one has started to talk about Home yet, spirits are cautiously easing upward.

The folks back home, although never very far from our hearts, are slowly starting to take over everyone's thoughts. Lots of people, at sea and at home, counting the days now. NOAAs Ark: With Isabel Beasley's constant mothering we manage to maintain quite the aquatic bestiary in our four onboard aquaria. The roster includes: 1 roosterfish, 1 tripletail, 1 spotted boxfish, 1 seahorse, 1 scrawled filefish, 1 bullseye puffer, 1 lined remora, 1 pilotfish, 2 Panamic fanged blennies, 2 squirrelfish, 1 pelagic porcupinefish, several "also rans," and 2 spectacular threadfin jacks. One of the latter is a 5 inch specimen with 20 inch streamers on its dorsal and anal fins. These are all by-catch from our nightly flyingfish sampling and if they can survive the cold water off Baja on the way back to San Diego, we will deposit them all with the Birch Aquarium in La Jolla. We have had our setbacks however: last week for example two of our seahorses died of unknown causes - a brief memorial was held, followed by a burial at sea. Izzy had a tizzy.

SUMMARY OF MARINE MAMMAL EFFORT AND SIGHTINGS

Date Time Latitude Longitude Effort Beaufort

112000 1206 N19:02.96 W104:31.51 41.3 nmi 2.1
1743 N18:18.39 W104:38.17

112100 0709 N16:46.70 W104:54.59 88.5 nmi 3.8
1811 N16:07.66 W106:28.53

112200 0623 N15:27.61 W107:55.45 45.9 nmi 4.5
1736 N14:53.83 W109:27.63

Code	Species	Total
002	Stenella attenuata (offshore)	4
010	Stenella longirostris orientalis	2
013	Stenella coeruleoalba	3
021	Grampus griseus	1

037	Orcinus orca	1
049	ziphiid whale	2
070	Balaenoptera sp.	1
077	unid. dolphin	6
TOTAL		20

AERIAL PHOTOGRAMMETRY:

3.9 hrs of flight time this week; no calibration; no photos.

BIOPSY:

Species	This Week	Cruise Total
Balaenoptera musculus	0	17
Balaenoptera edeni	0	3
Megaptera novaeangliae	0	2
Berardius bairdii	0	2
Orcinus orca	0	12
Pseudorca crassidens	0	18
Globicephala macrorhynchus	0	37
Feresa attenuata	0	6
Delphinus capensis	0	3
Delphinus delphis	0	8
Lagenorhynchus obliquidens	0	4
Stenella attenuata	9	105
Stenella attenuata graffmani	0	70
Stenella attenuata subsp.	0	64
Stenella coeruleoalba	0	6
S. longirostris orientalis	0	79
Steno bredanensis	0	11
Tursiops truncatus	0	85
Rhincodon typus (whale shark)	0	(1)
Totals	9	532

35 mm PHOTO-ID:

O. orca 1 school

TURTLE CAPTURES:

Species	This Week	Cruise Total
Loggerhead	0	9
Olive Ridley	3	204
Green	0	6
Totals	3	219