

## Day 102: October 26, 2010

I woke up quite enthusiastic about the new plan. The weather cooperated. Good water and wind not great, but workable.

We searched and searched and searched and still no whale sightings. I did a rough calculation and realized with a population of 20 whales, we are looking at something like 1 whale every 60 square miles. Factor in that these whales do not aggregate into large groups and are usually found in ones and twos and you have a very spread out population. Add to that the fact that there is a third vector of depth and you can see they are hard to find. For the icing on the cake- the whale only surface for about 5 minutes every 15 minutes so hard to see and they do not breach, they do not tail fluke - none of the above water behaviors that make other whales visible. They simply show a bit of dorsal fin and take a couple of breaths and dive again. Add to that the fact that all of the previous surveys were spring surveys and there are no published fall data and well, its fall. The whales could be somewhere else. But, we keep at it. Tomorrow, should be our last attempt at the Bryde's. I am hopeful we will find another.

The long watches of seeing no whales are taking their toll and requiring adjustments. Tomorrow, we will reduce the shifts to 1 person on the mast for 1 hour. 1 hour up and then 2 hours down. We have been 2 hours on and 2 hours off, but I think that second hour is too grinding. I man the pilot house on and off throughout the day, its grinding on me too. The day ended with Rick up the mast and me on the pilothouse singing the 59th Street Bridge song and 'Feelin Groovy'. Rick says I am turning into a sailor and he thinks I am never coming back! I have attached a photo of Rick and Johnny on watch that I took from my perch on the pilothouse.

The highlight of the day was a huge krill haul from the Sargasso weed. Johnny and Shouping hauled in a ton of Sargasso weed. Rick, Johnny, Sandy and I worked the pile for quite a while. Then Johnny and Shouping began bottling up the krill. Its 8:30 pm and they are still at it they caught so much. I have attached a picture of Johnny and Rick sifting the weed for krill. It will be interesting to see what the pollutant analysis shows in the krill.

Sandy was reading that Sargasso weed accumulates a lot of metals... seems we are going to have to collect some of that now too for thoroughness. It funny timing as I was just thinking about that as we sorted the krill out of the Sargasso weed and tossed it back into the sea (the weed that is). I was wondering what we might find in it. Been talking about looking at metals in plants for years.

Okay, the highlight of the day was just eclipsed by the highlight of the night. Johnny, Sandy and Shouping have caught squid just what whales love to eat. These are smaller ones, but they will be informative. I have attached a picture of the squid and of Johnny and Shouping tossing the net from the pilothouse.

Again a beautiful sunset in yet a different way. The sun was a red globe beneath the clouds. Photo attached.

John









