

Day 103: October 27, 2010

Well, we have come to the end of our Bryde's search and found no further whales. Makes us appreciate that first one and the gift from the whale all the more. We looked hard but found no more. We leave this part with a successful biopsy that will inform us some and a clear strategy for Bryde's whales next summer.

The day was spent hard at work looking. It was a beautiful sunny day with reasonable though wavy water. I spent three straight hours up on the pilothouse looking. It really was a peaceful fantastic sight. The absence of whales did not frustrate me today as I simply valued the time to enjoy the ocean view. The guys worked hard up the mast. Matt and Rick joined me for stretches on the pilothouse. Rick joined me in song a few times. Nice day.

The team is now in excellent spirits. We have discussed how we only have a week or so left and how we wish to cherish each day as there is no guarantee when will be back. It all hinges on fundraising. Iain and I have already started those efforts as for he and I, next summer will be here as soon as we finishing blinking so there is urgency to start raising the funds now. But for the next several days, we are at sea and loving our time here.

Our excitement of the day is happening now. Johnny, Matt and Shouping are catching squid and jellyfish and having a blast doing so. They are quite funny to listen to. Long periods of silence and then short bursts of shouts and crashing about. It's good to see all of the smiles. Never thought three adult men for two very different countries could all squeal so much like little children. It's just great! I attached a picture of a flying fish that they found. 15 squid caught so far. Next, they will process and log all of the samples so it will be a late night for them. But, they love this work and just keep going. Each day more samples for more data. I have attached a picture of Matt working in the pilothouse lab tonight. The box with lights in the photo is part of our array.

Was pleased to learn today that Cathy has submitted our undergraduate team's application to fly in zero gravity with NASA next year. We will keep our fingers crossed. In case you have wondered about Cathy, she is now the leading goal scorer on the USM Women' soccer team. She scored as promised. She and the voyage are also featured in USM's new marketing campaign, which is actually a very exciting campaign. If you look closely you can see Odyssey with Captain Bob and the fore rail. You can see the 30 second commercial here:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ya48ykTJXE0&feature=related> . I am told there are also billboard sized pictures of her on campus - yikes! Not too bad for a 1st semester sophomore.

A rather active storm is headed our way, so we will duck into Pensacola for tomorrow and Friday and then resume our sperm whale search on Saturday. So those watching the weather for us- we see it and we are going to run and hide!

Attached is today's sunset.

John





