

## Day 104-106: October 28-30, 2010

James has brought the website up to date and tells me today is day 106. We are headed back out to sea where we will follow the canyon along the 1000 meter depth line and look for sperm whales off of Florida. We have yet to look for sperm whales there as when we first entered the Gulf with Cathy, Ryan and Greer, the array was not working so we focused on the Bryde's whales then as well. We will finish this final leg of this year's voyage looking for our main target- sperm whales. The array is in the water now. We expect to arrive at 1000 meters at about 2 am.

Pensacola was an interesting place. It is surprising how different Florida feels relative to some of the other Gulf States. Florida is more developed and feels like California on the east coast. Alabama, Mississippi and Louisiana, each have distinctly different feel to them, but all three feel like variations on an old southern culture. We were quite busy with errands like shipping, which requires finding FedEx and dry ice (sold at Wal-Mart in Mississippi!!), and appropriate boxes. All of the samples so far, including the samples of the Bryde's whale are safely back in our land lab in Portland, where Carolynne will take tender care of them. Then we do practical errands like grocery shopping, laundry, propane for the stove and so on.

We sailed today about 1 p.m. I kept busy tightening up the cell culture laboratory, which had become a bit discombobulated. Sandy cleaned the incubator to ensure the mold that showed up in 1 flask of sperm whale cells and two flasks of Bryde's whale cells were from the animals and not the incubator. She also prepared fresh solutions to make sure we are ready should we encounter whales at 7 am! I cleaned the hood, organized the laboratory tools and installed a set of small plastic drawers I found at Wal-Mart to ensure we are indeed ready should we be fortunate to find whales soon. Johnny cleaned and stowed all of the fishing gear and cleaned and prepared the pilothouse laboratory. Matt collected a sediment sample from Pensacola Bay as is now our custom for each bay. Captain Bob took us out to sea and got the air conditioning working, organized a number of manuals and documents, and fixed the sediment sampler so Matt could sample. Ian worked on the radar and continued helm watches. Shouping assisted me in putting the array in the water. Bailey drove and helped out in a variety of ways. Rick helped me think through some details for next year. Sandy cooked dinner- minimeatloafs, a family favorite. I also organized the plan for the week adding a rotating data watch to ensure better data entry. Lots of detailed work and we are ready for whales!

The sunset tonight was particular beautiful and we saw the "green flash" again. My iPhone cannot catch that flash, but I have attached some photos showing the different stages of this remarkable sunset.

Good night,

John



