

Day 107: October 31, 2010

Halloween. Happy Halloween to everyone!

Today was a beautiful, warm, sunny day, but sadly no whales. We did hear one once but only very briefly and never saw one. We are in an area where the data report sporadic sightings of sperm whales, pygmy sperm whales, dwarf sperm whales and pilot whales. But as of yet we have seen none. The squid fishermen are at it tonight so maybe we will collect some of those.

One of our lab Halloween traditions is to get together and carve pumpkins. Sadly, we could not do that with all of our normal lab crew, BUT, happily we were able to do it here on the Odyssey with our voyage team. Everyone carved a pumpkin, except Captain Bob (though he did participate in all of our other Halloween festivities). Shouping and Johnny carved the best ones, I think as they were done free-hand. Coincidentally, Johnny carved a squid and Shouping a whale spouting. We had candy and treats and danced on the aft deck. Ian, Bailey and Bob all donned costumes. A good time was had by all.

The big news of the day came during my helm watch. James has successfully managed to submit our Pepsi refresh project. Something we have been trying to do since June 30th. Proposals can be submitted on the last day of the month and it seems are generally all loaded at midnight. Last month James tried to load it at midnight and 15 seconds after midnight the competition was full! Somehow this time, James got it in! So what is it? A competition being held by Pepsi to allow the public to pick what it should fund. We are competing for \$250,000 for our Gulf work against whatever else is submitted that month on any topic. We had hoped to win for this voyage. Now, we hope to win for analysis costs and part of next voyage. Pepsi is now evaluating our proposal and if put forward, we will be relying on everyone we know to vote and to get more people to vote as the one with the most votes wins! So we hope to make it to the voting stage next and should know soon.

We are still in excellent, happy spirits. The frustration and homesickness felt by many have subsided as we realize this leg is it, then end of this particular journey and so we seek to appreciate and enjoy each day. Sunset attached.

John





