

## Day 1, Voyage 2, June 8, 2011

Hi everybody!

Well, we are back on the boat and ready to go for another voyage into the Gulf of Mexico. It's a symbolic day as we launch the voyage as today has been declared "World Oceans Day" by the United Nations. Nice day to start our second foray into the Gulf of Mexico. Alas, the wind and the weather are not cooperating so our launch was short and symbolic as we wait out mother nature. The full departure will likely be Saturday as Sunday, Monday and Tuesday look fabulous.

We also enjoyed meeting with Albemarle, our new corporate sponsor, today. Albemarle is a chemical company based in Baton Rouge, Louisiana and as such is concerned about the health of the Gulf. They have no stake in the oil crisis and have put no conditions on any of our data or plans. They are simply concerned that the health of the Gulf be understood better. We are pleased because their support allows us to remain independent of both BP and NOAA and able to talk freely about what we are doing and what we are finding. We also continue to enjoy generous support from our university, USM and some other donors who prefer to remain anonymous.

To set the stage a bit, many of last year's team have returned. Captain Bob is again at the helm. Ian Glass is back as first mate. Johnny is our primary biopsier and student team leader. Cathy is running the cell culture lab and Sandy is the cook/whale photo identification person. Rick is our other biopsier, though he is only on for this first leg.

For new people we have Shanelle Dugan an undergraduate nursing major from USM, Cynthia Browning, a Ph.D. student from USM and Nora Daley, a Maine kid who is an undergraduate at Middlebury college. We also have Alyssa Catalano as our new deckhand and a second deckhand will be joining us on the next leg. 11 of us in all making a full boat. There is much to fill you in on about what we are doing and what we learned from last year and I will indeed fill you in over the next couple of days as we prepare to launch. But for tonight, know that we are here again ready to enter the Gulf. The boat looks great and the team is excited. Now, we just wait on the weather.

John