

Day 34, Voyage 2, July 11, 2011

Another quiet day, we saw whales in the distance, but never really got close. I worked a lot with the folks at home in the lab on a variety of needs and did a lot of writing. At one point, Cathy, who had been in the salon and up and watch a couple of times, noted that I had not left my seat a computer all day. Yeah, that can be a typical day for me as I do a lot of writing and corresponding. I also have a grant I am working on to submit this month.

The hot topic at the moment is a review paper James has written on the toxicology of chemical dispersants. Remarkable job, reading all of the primary literature on chemical dispersants and then condensing into a review paper. It is as expected- not a lot of studies outside reports of concentrations it takes to kill 50% of a group of exposed animals. We expect to submit the paper for publication very soon.

In reflecting on this remarkable leg of the voyage, I decided our holds were quite full of samples. Cathy, for example, has 84 flasks of pieces of whale tissue in cell culture that need to get back to the more sophisticated and stable land laboratory. I spoke with both Bob and Ian and we began to head back into port.

Biloxi, Mississippi is our target. We will be there in a few days. The frequent question on the boat is - when do we arrive? My answer is the same- "How many whales will we see tomorrow?" It should be 2-3 days with no whales and 3-4 with whales. Then the next port stop will be a fairly long one as we have been out a while and have a lot of shipping to do, plus we then have an event in Baton Rouge with Albemarle. It will take a couple of days of sailing up the Mississippi to reach Baton Rouge.

Tonight sunset was so amazing as the colors kept getting richer, I have attached 2 photos.

John

P.S. We are off Louisiana looking for sperm whales while heading in. Our current location is 27 degrees 46.4 minutes North and 89 degrees 59.7 minutes West, for those who want to track us as we go. For Google maps (not Google Earth - but maps) use (include letters and comma): 27.464 N, 89.597 W

For those of you who are new to this email diary - the previous days can be found at: <https://cms.usm.maine.edu/toxicology/dr-wises-voyage-leg-summaries-2011>

