

Day 36: August 21, 2010

We are off to sea!

The morning was spent running errands. We needed some cables for the array. I also read a local article about dehydration and sports that focused me again on Gulf heat and after a few days in Mobile - it just feels like this was going to be a hot leg. At our team meeting, our cook Kyle explained that the fruit was all being eaten in the first three days of the voyage and so he was going to be rationing it out more slowly to make it last longer. Each person would be allocated an apple and a banana a day until it was gone. After reading this article and thinking about the heat, I told Kyle I was getting more fruit as I didn't think we had enough. So Johnny and Matt and I set out to get cables and fruit.

Along the way, I started to calculate. 10 people on the boat. If, Kyle had enough for an apple and a banana a day then, for two weeks, we would need 140 bananas and 140 apples. Thus, if we wanted to double that amount the Johnny and Matt and I would be walking down the street carrying 140 bananas and 140 apples. Matt laughed and said that this image would simply confirm people's perceptions that they were in fact monkeys. This thought led to a lot of uproarious laughter peppered with the uncomfortable realization that we actually were going to look like monkeys with all this fruit.

Kyle had sent me a text recommending green bananas as he had 25 yellow ones. Made sense to me, but it also made me curious... so I asked how many total bananas there were. Turns out that was the total - 25. He also had 35 apples. In other words, 3 days of fruit even with the rationing. So now I was staring at maybe needing 250 bananas and 250 apples to extend the fruit out. This level of fruit was no longer so funny to us as not only would THAT much fruit cement Johnny and Matt's reputation as monkeys, it would probably have a spillover effect onto me as the "head monkey", but that much fruit would be really really heavy to carry the mile or so we had to walk to get from the store to the boat AND it was HOT.

We walked into the store and the fruit was all pretty cheap and low quality and guess what NO GREEN BANANAS! They were all yellow. No we had a new dilemma- no way we could eat even 150 yellow bananas before they ripen too far. So in the end we got about 70 of each and some Clementine's and headed back to the boat. Iain tells me the used to hang large 'vines' of a couple of hundred banana's off the aft deck on the last voyage- maybe we will try that if we can figure out where to get that big of a bunch on bananas.

By 12:30 pm, we left port and headed for the 1000 meter depth line. we expect to be there in the morning. Johnny and Matt will rotate watches on the mid level platform - with one of the monkeys occasionally ascending to the crow's nest. Rob and Juli will rotate watches on the pilot house. Watches are early again starting at 6:30 am.

We had a nice evening with the new student crew. We set up our roles for when we find whales- which of course we are determined to do. Rob will take over arrow retrieval and preparation from Matt and so we had him try out arrow delivery on the whale boom. Juli will take the photo id shots. We added a new role and that is videographer- Matt will be taking videos of all of the action near whales. Most of the news networks have asked us to do so and so we will. So that, leaves the cell culture- which I will do myself assisted by Matt. Time to get my hands wet again!

At midnight, we were in deep enough water to put the array out so Matt and I did as Johnny has to be up at 5:30 am and it's too hard to explain to the new students in the dark. Can't hear anything on it so we will have to call Scripps in the morning.

John