

Days 55-58, Voyage 2, August 2-5, 2011

Port was a whirlwind as we only had about 2 and half days to get everything done. But get everything done we did - shipping samples home, laundry, groceries, refill propane, get oil, preparing the boat for the next leg, etc. We said goodbye to the some of the crew from the last leg and appreciated all of the hard work that Arial, Rikki, Brady and Bob gave us. They were a big help, and a lot of fun, and we had much success!

This leg will be different. With our scientific goals well-accomplished, we have decided to take advantage of the opportunity and collect footage of the work we do and the animals we see. We do take photo and video on each leg, but the science always comes first and there are many shots we miss or cannot take.

For example, one shot plan for this leg is for the cameramen to take some underwater video of the boat passing by towing the array. It will be great to have a bit of footage showing the array to illustrate how it works. Thus, this leg is short, and focused on filming and photography. We will take all the footage we possibly can in order to create a number of short educational videos about what we do.

Of course to do this work, this crew is different with a much smaller science crew than normal. We have two cameramen - Jonah and Andy on board. We also welcome Iain Kerr on for the leg and are thrilled to be able to log some sea time with him. Iain has a keen eye with the camera and some excellent ideas for what we hope will be great footage.

Ordinarily, we have four science crew leave and four newbies come on. You can see with three film crew on- the science crew shrinks quite a bit, as only one spot is left open. That means long days of hot work with fewer hands. Plus, we have the added complexity of a film crew starting and stopping action to catch the right images at just the right moment. Few would want to volunteer for this particular duty in this Gulf heat.

Accordingly, I did what you are supposed to do in these situations-you turn to family. I am pleased to report that James Wise, our sample retrieval hero from last year (he is also the one who posts all the voyage info on our website) has joined us and will finally get his chance at sea. At 22, James is my oldest child, for those who do not know him. He will be our science photographer. That filled the 4 slots that were vacated by the previous crew.

As I pondered the situation, I still felt I was short hands especially with the filming we would be doing. We have one bunk we rarely use. It is an upper bunk in the bow above

the first mate and across from the deckhand. It is an uncomfortable bunk, but it is a functional bunk.

I spoke with Iain about my concerns and the need to add more science hands. We agreed to fill the bunk. The question became-who to turn to now for help, while offering up the most uncomfortable bunk on the boat. Yep. Family. Really close family. In this case, I turned to my kid brother, Franklin. Though hardly a kid anymore at 34 and head of his own business, to me, he is still my kid brother. He considered the need and situation and readily agreed. The boat was now full with 12 hands coming on board.

Now, we are headed out to sea and have already shot many scenes. On board are: Captain Bob, First mate Iain, Deckhand John Bradford, our partner Iain Kerr, Cameraman Jonah, Cameraman Andy and 6 Wises (Franklin, Sandy, James, Johnny, Cathy and me)! Pray for the crew as we indoctrinate them into the Wise family culture!

I have attached a picture of some of the gang. First mate Iain is nearest with the sunglasses on his head. Next, going counterclockwise is Iain Kerr in the hat. Next to him is Jonah, followed by Andy and then Captain Bob. All in orange! Nice.

We sail out today (August 5). We will spend three days filming and looking for whales. Then we will spend on day sailing back in (August 9). Quick, intense, hot and busy. Here's hoping we find whales!

Sunset was cloudy, but we had a nice red sun with reflection on the water. Picture attached.

John

P.S. We are headed out to sea towards Alabama/Louisiana from Pensacola, Florida. Our current location is 30 degrees 11.3 minutes North and 87 degrees 17.7 minutes West, for those who want to track us as we go. For Google maps (not Google Earth - but maps) or Bing maps use (include letters and comma): 30.113 N, 87.177 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>

