

Day 85: October 9, 2010

I'm not feeling particularly well today, might have a head cold of some sort so if you will indulge me a bit I will be brief tonight.

The weather was good again today. But still no whales. The boat is running well. Captain Bob solved the problem and we are cruising along well.

We did collect samples. From the sargassum weed we collected some krill and small fish. I have attached pictures of Sandy and Shouping collecting the krill from the sargassum weed (i.e. sea weed). Note the glass baking dish with the rice-sized krill in them.

We also saw our first "bait ball". A bait ball is a large school of fish shaped like a ball that bigger animals like to eat. I have attached pictures of the bait ball in the water with the bigger fish trying to eat them, plus a picture of the bait ball fish in a bowl so you can see how small they are. Really remarkable to watch as this school of fish all swim together and look like a swarm of bees you would see in a cartoon.

We enjoyed a very nice dinner under a beautiful sky with a setting moon. We had some light banter, but long moments of peaceful quiet. Tonight the team is watching a movie or reading. Everyone is ready.

I think it's time to for some whales.

John







