

Monday, April 17 – Day 7 by Dr. Wise

Dear All,

Yesterday, my numbers were off a bit, as I recalled them from memory not from the data sheets, checking the actual data we had collected 26 biopsies from 21 whales and 4 different species (sperm, humpback, fin and Bryde's). One more was added today to bring our total to 27 biopsies from 22 whales (still 4 species). Usually my memory is better than it turned out to be...

A quiet day for the most part, as we covered some ground in our quest to biopsy whales, and pick up new crew in San Felipe on 4/22. Riding against the current in a channel was slowing us down, so Captain Fanch raised the sail to cross it. Each of us were delighted at the chance to sail for a bit. You see there is nothing quite like sailing (when you have wind). Everything gets quiet and peaceful, and you hear nothing but the wind and the lapping of the waves. Listening to the quiet and feeling the boat gliding across the water will wash away your stress, free your mind, and then lull you to sleep. Later, I will try to send a recording I made with my phone of the quiet, so you can experience it, too. Our day passed slowly and quietly, much like that all-too-short sail, but we did get at least one biopsy for our efforts.

We planned our end-of-day destination to be Bahia Los Angeles (which translates to the bay of angels), where we would anchor for the night. The crew told us the small fishing village there, Los Angeles, had a local restaurant with really good tacos. Of course, this tiny village pressed against the mountains offered no internet, but we did get some weak wireless that allowed a text or two. My tacos and quesadilla were fantastic, and a delight, with shrimp and cheese in the tacos and marlin in the quesadilla.

All of us gathered around one table allowed for much conversation and camaraderie, and reminded me of the team dinners on the Odyssey, while in the Gulf of Mexico. This boat does not lend itself well to 11 people dining around one table, so team dinners happen in port. Oh, a night in a quaint, fishing village in the middle of nowhere in Baja California was a delight indeed, and a reward well-earned.

Some conversation revolved around the village, wondering what it was like to live in a small, remote town, and what drew people there other than fish. Orville, the 2014 hurricane I think it was (no internet so I cannot check) really pounded the town, and damaged this cool, octagonish, building that dominated the beach and the landscape, but was now abandoned, and in urgent need of repairs. Ultimately, we thought this building, in this spot, would be a great Wise Laboratory field research building, once we fixed it up and painted in orange, of course. Perhaps, one day, we might do just that.

All is well with us in the Sea of Cortez. We are at anchor in Bahia Los Angeles. We are well-fed with local tacos, burritos and quesadillas, and entertained from a team dinner

with good conversation and laughter. We are at 28.57.035 N and 113.33.209 W if you want to follow along on Google Earth or similar-type program.

I am not sure if you have received all the emails from Day 0 through today's (Day 7). If you are missing any of them please go to www.WiseLaboratory.org, where you should find them all posted and you can read those you may have missed. James, I believe is sending them and posting them each day. Of course, we are hoping James joins us here on the next leg. We will see. It's a bit odd to be so out of touch, we are not sure what is going on anywhere besides life on this small boat.

Good night from here until tomorrow.

John







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