

Tuesday, April 18 – Day 8 by Dr. Wise

Dear All,

All the biopsy action today happened early in the day, and from the dinghy. Leaving Los Angeles, we emerged in a channel which was shallow, and had dangerous rocks under the water, making it difficult to navigate in the Martin Sheen. We deployed the dinghy as the whales were closer to shore, and the charts had a lots of uncertainty about just where the rocks were. After a short time, Johnny and Carlos had 4 biopsies from the dinghy, and we were back on our way, and hopeful for more. Yet, that would pretty much be it for the day, as we only saw and biopsied one more whale on the day.

Sadly, we learned we had weather coming in. Actually, it was mostly wind, but winds above about 25 miles per hour play havoc with the flight of the arrows, and we cannot sample. Not seeing any whales, and not wanting to wrestle with the wind too long, we put into our anchorage a bit early (about 5 pm), which gave us a couple of hours to explore the deserted island, we were anchored by.

Departing the boat for the island in the dinghy, were only five of our eleven – Rick, Johnny, Mark, Rachel and me, as the rest decided to stay on board the Martin Sheen, although Sheila our cook did don her wetsuit and went for a snorkel, and later I saw someone out on the paddleboard, but they were too far off to know who. Approaching the shore, we discussed our plans for our brief shore leave. Looming over the beach, were rocks and hills, and Johnny and Rick wanted to explore those. While Mark and Rachel were drawn to an arch in rocks at the end of the point, leading to who knows where. And me, I just wanted to hang on the beach, admire the sea life, sit on the sand and absorb a few moments of peace and tranquility. You see to me, there are rare moments like these, when you can sit on a remote island in the setting sun, hear the sea lions bark, watch the fish jump and the birds swim- all over a calm bay reflecting the colorful hues of the sky at the end of a successful day.

Soon enough, there I was alone on this simple beach, drinking in the sights with my eager eyes, surrounded by amazing grace and beauty. I explored the beach and I took it all in and then... I danced.

Labelled as the “Wise wiggle”, by someone dear, who noticed that me, and my sons, James and Johnny, and even my daughter Cathy on occasion, when she lets the spirit move her, all spontaneously move into the same essential dance, when we let the music take us. Of course, the music may only be in our heads, and not necessarily be playing so anyone else can hear us, but we dance. Very little can stop us once we get going – “jam out” Addy and Emma call it. Either you join in, or simply abstain, but the tune we feel carries us away, and we dance. You should try it and join in with us, but please no videos of us doing it!

On this day, the music was on my phone, and audible to anyone near, which was only me. Under the setting sun, I sang and danced to Van Morrison’s “Days Like This” and “Tupelo Honey”. Mmmm, we had Tupelo honey in Florida, and indeed it was sweet. But,

the song is about a sweet girl, sweet as Tupelo honey. Indeed, she is. Play the music. Feel it. Dance!

From there, I went old school with the music and danced to Benny Goodman's "Always and Always" followed by a newer song called "Bright" by Echosmith, which holds that "Days are good and that's the way it should be". I agree.

I danced until Rick walked up to me on the beach, and we agreed the light was low and it was time to go. I guess Rick is used to the Wise wiggle by now as he said nothing about my free form dance. I imagine he chuckled and appreciated the spirit. Soon Johnny, Mark and Rachel were there too, and we left for the boat, each delighted with their own experience on this remote shore.

I invite you to play the songs I sang and danced to, and join me in celebrating life and all the wonders it brings. Play it loud and let your body move with the music. Perhaps, you have other song suggestions I might try. What is your favorite song to make your heart soar and your soul dance? Shoot us a message on Facebook and we will make a list of island dance songs. Maybe we can make it a voyage playlist.

We have 34 biopsies from 27 whales so far with the 5 whales we sampled today. We have weather coming in so will have to be in San Felipe a day early. We are hoping Sean and James, either come down early and spend 4/21 sleeping on the boat, or they come as early as possible on 4/22, so we can depart San Felipe as early on 4/22 as possible. Most days we depart at 7 am. We will see as there is no signal to call them, so I am sure they will adapt to this message to the best of their ability.

All is well with us in the Sea of Cortez. We are at anchor in Puerto Refugio. We are re-energized after a remote island adventure. We are at 29.32.165 N and 113.33.000 W if you want to follow along on Google Earth or similar-type program.

You can see all the emails from Day 0 through today's (Day 8) on www.WiseLaboratory.org.

Good night from here until tomorrow.

John





