



NOAA Teacher at Sea
Scott Sperber
Onboard R/V *Kilo Moana*
July 9 – 17, 2009

NOAA Teacher at Sea: Scott Sperber

NOAA Ship *R/V Kilo Moana*

Mission: WHOTS-6 (Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution
Hawaii Ocean Time series Station)

Geographical Area: Central Pacific, North of O’ahu (22 46’N
157 56’W)

Date: July 14, 2009

Weather Data from the Bridge

Temperature: 23.66 C

Humidity: 76.34%



R/V Kilo Moana

Science and Technology Log

Today is another slow scientific day today. So today I am doing some other type of scientific learning, some local marine biology. Today I am learning about how to fish in the local Hawaiian Islands style. Breeze Simmons, research associate student level 1, is showing me all of his riggings for various types of fish and fishing conditions. He is even rigging up something for me so I might have an opportunity to try to catch something later today or tomorrow. I have learned that Mahi has eyes like humans and they can see up to the surface. They are a very strong food source in the ocean the world record is close 86 pounds and that only took about 18 months of growth. Mahi mahi is also known as the dolphin fish, not to be confused with “Flipper” of dolphin fame, also known as Dorado. Ahi is tuna, Ono is Wahoo. There are also Marlin and Aku, a member of the mackerel family.



Breeze setting up gear for fishing



Mahi mahi

I am also sharing the Pacific Ocean with Hurricane Carlos. It's a big ocean out here and I have not felt any effect from it and we don't plan to. Carlos is still off the coast of Mexico now. This is so cool to be on board this ship with all these experts and to be adding to my knowledge. The meteorologists on board say that if Carlos comes close to Hawaii its strength will die out. (lose its energy)

The weather balloon launches are continuing on schedule every 4 hours with Tom and me taking the 0700 and 1100 launches.

Tomorrow promises to be a very hectic day aboard ship. We will be recovering the old buoy. Everything will begin at a 0600 and continue all day.

Personal Log

Since today is such a mellow day I have taken this opportunity to catch up on some reading, sun, listening to music and continue by bike riding. It has now become a bit of competition between, Carly, one of the very young interns, 25 years young from the University of Hawaii, and me as to who is riding the most miles each day. Today she rode more.



Me and Carly

The ship has an onboard DVD system where movies and such are piped into each berth (room) along with scientific information. I was in my berth and I put on one of the channels and what did I see that someone had put on in the main lounge? It was an episode of National Geographic and who was on the episode but my good friends from UCLA's Marine Biology Department, Dr. Bill Hamner and his wife Peggy. Small world, Peggy wrote one of my letters of recommendation for this expedition. They are part of the reason I am so involved in Ocean Sciences.

Today's Task

Look up and find a picture of all the fish that were mentioned above.