



NOAA Teacher at Sea Log:

Deborah Moraga

NOAA Ship: R/V Fulmar

Mission: ACCESS

Geographical Area: Gulf of the Farallones

Date: Sunday, June 25, 2010

Weather Data from the Bridge

Start Time: 0610 (6:10 am)

End Time: 1630 (4:30 pm)

Position:

Line 5 start on eastern end: Latitude = $37^{\circ} 48.87$ N;

Longitude = $122^{\circ} 52.74$ W

Line 5 end on western end: Latitude = $37^{\circ} 48.078$ N;

Longitude = $123^{\circ} 23.04$ W

Present Weather: Cloud cover 100%

Visibility: greater than 10 nautical miles

Wind Speed: 5-10 knots

Wave Height: 0.5-1 meters

Sea Water Temp: 12.86 C

Air Temperature: Dry bulb = 11 C

Barometric Pressure: 1014.0 mb

Science and Technology Log

Imagine standing next to an animal that is 12 times the length of you. It happened to us aboard the R/V Fulmar. Today, humpback whales were milling around our 67 foot boat. We were able to take some great pictures and some video.

The humpback consumes krill and small fish. Krill is a small (1.5 inches in average length) shrimp like organism. Krill is a primary consumer. They feed on phytoplankton. Phytoplankton is a producer in the ocean ecosystem. These small "plants" absorb light energy from the sun and through the process of photosynthesis they make energy for the consumers to ingest and use. Krill feed on this phytoplankton at night just below the surface of the ocean. During the day the krill swim to deeper parts of the water column to avoid predators like the humpback whale.

Other organisms observed today, included a pod of Pacific white-sided dolphins, a Tufted puffin, and South Polar Skuas.

