



**NOAA Teacher at Sea
Kimberly Pratt
Onboard NOAA Ship MCARTHUR II
July 5 – 24, 2005**

Log 8

Day 15
July 16, 2005
Monterey Bay, CA

Latitude: 3650.918 N
Longitude: 12159.753 W
Visibility: < 1
Wind Direction: 280
Wind Speed: 3 knots
Sea Wave Height :< 1
Swell Wave Height: 3-4 feet
Sea Level Pressure 1011.6
Cloud Cover: Foggy/light drizzle
Temperature: 16.7 c



Scientific Log

Our days lately have been mostly foggy and drizzly, making marine mammal observations very difficult. During the times that observations were made, we've seen Humpback Whales, Fin Whales, Harbor Porpoise, a Blue Whale, Pacific White-sided Dolphins, Grampus Dolphins, and Sea Lions. I've attached pictures that



show the variety and individuality of Humpback Whale flukes. The scientists are using the pictures to ID them. Yesterday, Fin Whales surfaced approx. 200 meters off our bow and swam with the ship for a little while.

We observed Harbor Porpoise as we entered Monterey Bay. They are a small porpoise and are identified by their small pointy dorsal fin. Observation of Harbor Porpoise is difficult and you can only get a fleeting glance at their dorsal fins before they are gone. At first you might mistake Grampus dolphins for Killer Whales by looking at their

dorsal, but upon closer inspection you'll find they have a light body marked by scratches or lines. Two nights ago, we did a Bongo Net drop and were able to collect 7 jars full of krill, plankton and myctophids (small Lantern fish). This showed that the area was very healthy and full of abundance. As far as birds go, we observed part of the Monterey Bay



flock of Sooty Shearwaters numbered at approximately 250,000. Today we picked up Scientist Rich Pagen in Santa Cruz, joining us after being ill and we hope to continue observations as we head back out to sea from Monterey Bay.

Personal log:

We've had quite a bit of down time enabling me to answer e-mail, do logs, and interviews. When we are "on effort" I am on the Flying Bridge helping with data entry, observations and trying to video our sightings. At night I help the Oceanographers, Mindy Kelley and Liz Zele doing the Bongo Net Tows and we are often out until 10:30 or 11:00 pm. Today, we were close to shore, so we had cell service to call friends and loved ones. I'm still having a really good time, the whales and dolphins are breathtaking I envy your hot weather!

Until later..

Kim

Pictures:

- (1) Humpback Fluke – white and black
- (2) Humpback Fluke – all black
- (3) Humpback Fluke – barnacle marking
- (4) Sea Lions