



NOAA Teacher at Sea
Jennifer Fry
Onboard NOAA Ship *Miller Freeman*
July 14 – 29, 2009

NOAA Teacher at Sea: Jennifer Fry

NOAA Ship *Miller Freeman* (link: <http://www.moc.noaa.gov/mf/>)

Current location of ship: www.shiptracker.noaa.gov (choose *Miller Freeman*)

Mission: 2009 United States/Canada Pacific Hake Acoustic Survey

Geographical area of cruise: North Pacific Ocean from Monterey, CA to British Columbia, CA.

Date: July 25, 2009

Weather Data from the Bridge

Wind speed: 10 knots

Wind direction: 355° from the north

Visibility: fog

Temperature: 11°C (dry bulb); 10°C (wet bulb)

Sea water temperature: 9.2°C

Wave height: 2 ft.

Swell direction: 310°

Swell height: 5 ft.

Science/Technology Log

Three fishing trawls were conducted today. We took biological samples from the hake collected. The following is a list of other fish retrieved:

- Octopus: 1
- Squid: 47
- Glass shrimp: 50
- Shrimp (another species): 3

Bird observations:

Many bird species are seen around the boat each time there is a fishing trawl net. They range in size and flying pattern. Here are a few of them.

- Black-footed Albatross (*Phoebastria nigripes*): Mostly dark in all plumage, or feathers; White undertail and white may be on belly; Range: Seen around the year off west coast in spring and summer; Winters in Hawaii.



Commander Mike Hopkins overlooks the North Pacific Ocean just off the Oregon Coast from the bridge. His job is to make sure everything aboard the *Miller Freeman* is running smoothly.



While observing the albatross and fulmar fly, I noticed that they glide gracefully across the waves gently touching the tip of their wing into the water. During take off, the albatross uses his giant webbed feet to push off by “running” on the surface of the water. Similarly during landing; his feet appear to “run” on the water which seems to slow him down.

Above and below: Black-footed Albatross



- Sooty Shearwater (*Puffinus griseus*): Whitish underwing contrasts with overall dark plumage; Range: breeds in southern hemisphere; Abundant off west coast, often seen from shore.

Sooty Shearwater

- Pink-footed Shearwater (*Puffinus creatopus*): Blackish-brown above; white wing underparts, a bit mottled; Range: spends summers in northern Pacific; winters in Chile.
- Northern Fulmar (*Fulmarus glacialis*): Gull-sized seabird; rapid wingbeats alternating with gliding over waves; color is rather uniform with not strong contrasts; gray overall with whitish undersides; range: Northern Pacific Ocean and Northern Atlantic Ocean; Breeds: Aleutian Islands, Alaska



Pink-footed Shearwater



Northern Fulmar

For fun on-line NOAA activities such as:

- Make your own Compass
- Tying Knots
- Learn about Nautical Charts
- Be a Shipwreck detective
- Make a tornado in a bottle

Go to: <http://celebrating200years.noaa.gov/edufun.html>

The NOAA Corps (<http://www.noaacorps.noaa.gov/>)

NOAA Commissioned Corps Officers are a vital part of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). Officers provide support during NOAA missions ranging from launching a weather balloon at the South Pole, conducting hydrographic or fishery surveys in Alaska, maintaining buoys in the tropical Pacific, flying snow surveys and into hurricanes.

NOAA Corps celebrates its 202nd birthday this year.

Animals Seen Today

Fish and other trawled animals:

Hake

Octopi- cephalopod

Squid- cephalopod

Shrimp- crustacean

Birds:

Fulmar

Shearwater

Albatross

Gull

