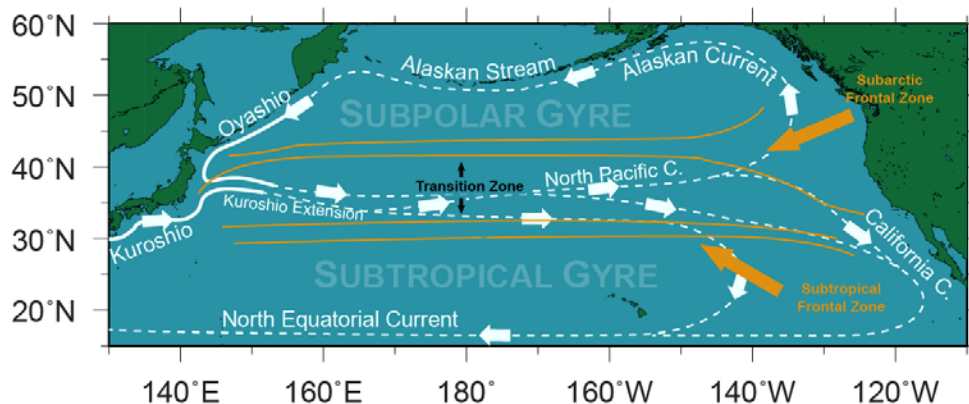


Oceanographic Survey -- Entry 1

Hello, and thanks for stopping by. This journal is meant to be a place to learn more about an upcoming NOAA cruise to the North Pacific Transition Zone. We are set to leave in one week's time, and are rapidly preparing for our departure. We will be sailing up to 36°N latitude aboard the NOAA Ship *Oscar Elton Sette*. You can track the movements of the *Sette* by going to the NOAA Ship Tracker website: http://shiptracker.noaa.gov/ship.aspx?ship_code=SESCSACQ&timeframe=cc&mapservice=st_nmao



This research expedition will study ocean waters north of Hawaii including an area known as the North Pacific Transition Zone. A similar survey has been done in this region almost every year since the mid-1990s. The North Pacific Transition Zone is the area between two large ocean circulation systems, or gyres, in the North Pacific: the biologically productive North Pacific Subarctic Gyre to the north, and the less productive North Pacific Subtropical Gyre to the south. These gyres are shown in the schematic map above. The North Pacific Transition Zone is located between these two large features, and is truly the "transition" between them.

During our research cruise, we will be taking measurements of water temperature, salt content, and other properties of the water and collect biological organisms living in the waters we survey. We will use sonar (acoustic) instruments to find out where small organisms occur in the water column.

Stay tuned for more developments, background material, and postings on our research during this cruise.