



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE/NOAA FISHERIES
Pacific Islands Fisheries Science Center
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CRUISE REPORT¹

VESSEL: *Oscar Elton Sette*, Cruise 07-07 (SE-55)

CRUISE PERIOD: 20 August–11 September 2007

AREA OF OPERATION: Northwestern Hawaiian Islands (Fig. 1)

TYPE OF OPERATION: Protected Species Division established monk seal field camps and conducted cetacean surveys on islands in the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands in support of a Pacific Islands Fisheries Science Center research project.

ITINERARY:

- 20 Aug Embarked C. Yoshinaga, C. Garsha, and S. Barclay at 0900. Conducted fueling operations. Departed for French Frigate Shoals 1400 (2 days).
- 21 Aug In transit.
- 22 Aug Arrived French Frigate Shoals 1400. Off-loaded all supplies, including six drums of gasoline. Disembarked Barclay. Departed 1800 en route to Laysan Island (1 day, 9 hours).
- 23 Aug In transit.
- 24 Aug Arrived Laysan Island 0800. Loaded all equipment and supplies. Embarked Johnson, Washington, and Issa. Departed Laysan Island 1600 en route to Lisianski Island (12 hours).
- 25 Aug Arrived Lisianski Island 0800. Disembarked Laysan seal team. Deployed Yoshinaga and Garsha to assist with field work. Recovered Yoshinaga and Garsha 1600.

¹ PIFSC Cruise Report CR-09-011
Issued 10 August 2009



- 26 Aug Continued Lisianski field work. Deployed Yoshinaga and Garsha 0800. Recovered Yoshinaga and Garsha 1600. Departed Lisianski 1630 en route to Pearl and Hermes Reef (16 hours).
- 27 Aug Arrived Pearl and Hermes Reef 0800. Embarked Lopez, McKinzie, and Rivera. Loaded equipment and supplies including one 18-ft Rigid Hull Inflatable Boat (RHIB) and one 15-ft EdgeWater boat. Departed Pearl and Hermes Reef en route to Ladd seamount (4 hours).
- 28 Aug Arrived Ladd Seamount 0800. Recovered existing High-frequency Acoustic Recording Package (HARP). Departed Ladd Seamount 1600 en route to Kure Atoll (15 hours).
- 29 Aug Arrived Kure Atoll 0800. Loaded equipment and supplies including one 13-ft Boston Whaler boat. Embarked Marshall, Jones, Vanderlip, McGuire, Smith, and Ryder. Departed Kure Atoll 1900 en route to Midway Atoll.
- 30 Aug Arrived Midway Atoll 0800. Moored at Sand Island cargo pier overnight. Off-loaded equipment and supplies. Loaded misc. dive gear for Ecosystem Oceanography Division and monk seal field equipment. Disembarked Lopez, Garsha, McGuire, and Ryder .
- 31 Aug Departed Midway 0800 en route to Lisianski Island (24 hours).
- 1 Sept In transit.
- 2 Sept Arrived Lisianski Island 0800. Loaded all supplies and equipment. Embarked Laysan seal team. Departed Lisianski 1800 en route to French Frigate Shoals (2 days).
- 3 Sept In transit. Conducted cetacean surveys.
- 4 Sept In transit. Conducted cetacean surveys.
- 5 Sept Arrived French Frigate Shoals 0800. Loaded all equipment and supplies including two 17-ft Boston Whaler boats. Embarked Farry, Johnson, and Sullivan. Departed French Frigate Shoals 1600 en route to Necker Island (8 hours).
- 7 Sept Arrived Necker Island 0800. Launched inflatable boat and deployed shore party to conduct seal census of island. Departed Necker Island en route to Nihoa Island (12 hours).
- 8 Sept Arrived Nihoa Island 0800. Deployed shore party to conduct seal census of island. Recovered shore party when census was completed.

- 9 Sept Launched inflatable boat 0800 to deploy shore party on Nihoa Island to conduct seal census of island. Departed Nihoa Island en route to Ford Island, Pearl Harbor (24 hours).
- 11 Sept Arrived Ford Island, Pearl Harbor 0800. Off-loaded all supplies, equipment, trash, and recyclables. Disembarked all scientific personnel. End of cruise.

MISSIONS AND RESULTS:

1. Recover field camps at Pearl and Hermes Atoll, Midway Atoll, Kure Atoll, Laysan Island, and French Frigate Shoals. Transport all equipment, supplies, and personnel.

All field camps were recovered.

2. Deploy “short” camp at Lisianski Island. Conduct population assessment census of monk seal population.

Laysan personnel were transported and deployed at Lisianski Island to conduct population assessment surveys of monk seals. The team was recovered on the east bound leg of the cruise.

3. Resupply existing U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) field camps at French Frigate Shoals, Laysan Island, and Midway Atoll. Transport equipment, supplies, and personnel.

All USFWS field camps were successfully resupplied.

4. Recover Department of Fish and Wildlife (DOFAW) field camp at Kure Atoll.

Personnel and equipment from the Kure Atoll DOFAW field camp were recovered and transported to either Midway Atoll or Honolulu.

5. Recover and deploy one HARP buoy at Ladd Seamount.

The HARP at Ladd Seamount was successfully recovered. No HARP was deployed.

6. Conduct conductivity-temperature-depth (CTD) casts and expendable bathythermograph (XBT) deployments opportunistically.

A total of 10 CTD casts were conducted. No XBTs were deployed.

7. Conduct beach census of Necker and Nihoa Islands, and Kaula Rock.

One beach census of Necker and two censuses of Nihoa were conducted. A total of 11 weaned pups were tagged on Nihoa.

8. Conduct cetacean surveys opportunistically.

Cetacean surveys were conducted during the transit from Laysan to French Frigate Shoals on the east bound leg of the cruise.

**SCIENTIFIC
PERSONNEL:**

Chad Yoshinaga, Chief Scientist, Program Management Analyst, Pacific Islands Fisheries Science Center, National Marine Fisheries Service
Jessica Lopez, Cooperating Scientist, Joint Institute for Marine and Atmospheric Research (JIMAR), University of Hawaii (UH)
Shawn Farry, Cooperating Scientist, Aquatic Farms
Mark Sullivan, Cooperating Scientist, Aquatic Farms
Gretchen Johnson, Cooperating Scientist, Aquatic Farms
Mariana Issa, Cooperating Scientist, Aquatic Farms
Lauran Washington, Cooperating Scientist, Aquatic Farms
Megan McKinzie, Cooperating Scientist, Aquatic Farms
Justin Rivera, Cooperating Scientist, Aquatic Farms
Robert Marshall, Cooperating Scientist, Aquatic Farms
Jason Jones, Cooperating Scientist, Aquatic Farms
Chris Garsha, Cooperating Scientist, Scripps Institution of Oceanography
Cynthia Vanerlip, Cooperating Scientist, Department of Fish and Wildlife (DOFAW)
Christina McGuire, Cooperating Scientist, DOFAW
Steven Barclay, Cooperating Scientist, U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Ryan Smith, Cooperating Scientist, DOFAW
Micha Ryder, Cooperating Scientist, DOFAW
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(/s/Chad Yoshinaga)

Submitted by: _____
Chad Yoshinaga
Chief Scientist

(/s/Samuel G. Pooley)

Approved by: _____
Samuel G. Pooley
Science Director
Pacific Islands Fisheries Science Center

Attachment

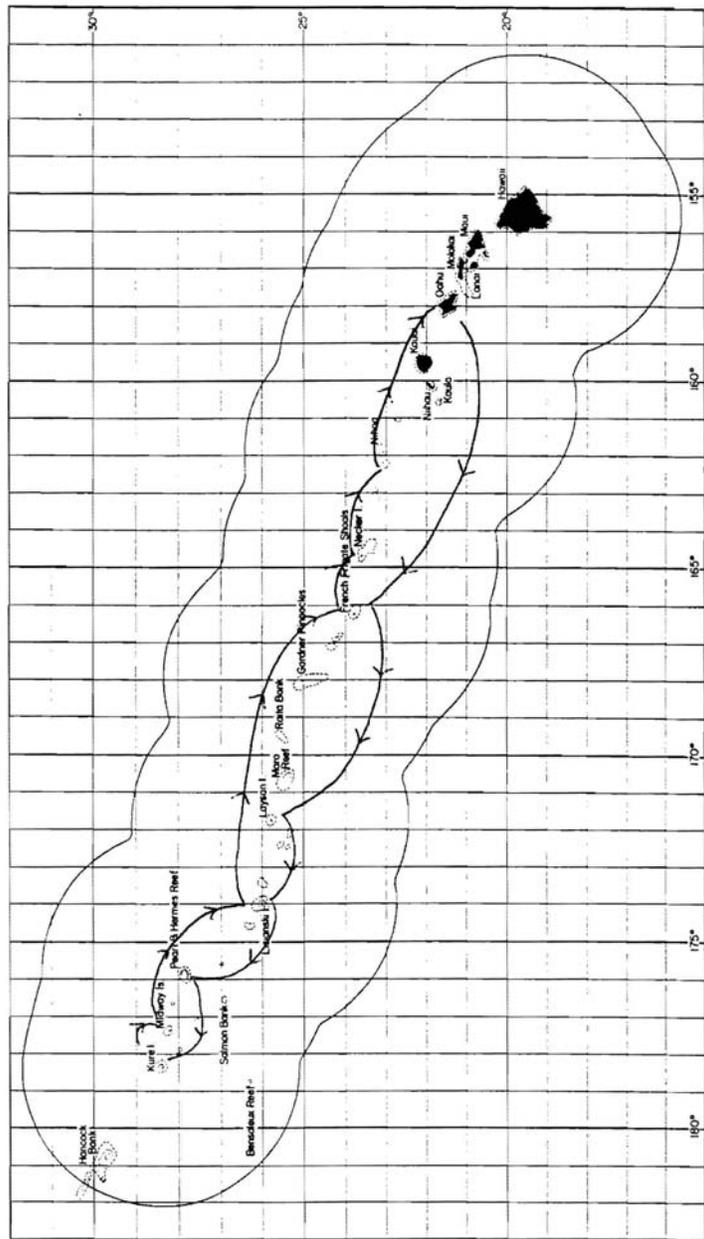


Figure 1.--Track of the NOAA ship Oscar Elton Sette cruise OES-07-07 (OES-55), August 20 to September 11, 2007.