



**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**  
**National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**  
**NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE/NOAA FISHERIES**  
Pacific Islands Fisheries Science Center  
2570 Dole St. • Honolulu, Hawaii 96822-2396  
(808) 983-5300 • Fax: (808) 983-2902

## CRUISE REPORT<sup>1</sup>

**VESSEL:** *Oscar Elton Sette*, Cruise SE-08-08 (SE-65)

**CRUISE PERIOD:** August 13 to September 3, 2008

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

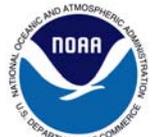
**TYPE OF OPERATION:** Recover personnel, equipment and supplies from field camps at Midway Atoll, Kure Atoll, and French Frigate Shoals. Deploy field camps at Pearl and Hermes Reef, Lisianski, and Nihoa Islands.

### ITINERARY:

- 13 Aug Embarked C. Yoshinaga, T. Norris, K. Souza, J. Baker, M. Chapla, K. Gobush, T. Wurth, B. Becker, C. Littnan, R. Braun, J. Schultz, and D. Tanji. Departed Pearl Harbor at 0800 en route to Kona, Hawaii.
- 14 Aug Arrived Kona at 0600. Embarked J. Baker, K. Gobush, C. Littnan, and R. Braun. Departed Kona en route to Nihoa Island.
- 15 Aug Arrived Nihoa Island at 1400. Launched Achilles boat and deployed shore party to conduct census of monk seals on island. Recovered shore party at 1700. Departed Nihoa Island en route to Necker Island.
- 16 Aug Arrived Necker Island. Launched Achilles boat. Deployed shore party to conduct census of monk seals on island. Recovered shore party at 1600. Departed Necker Island en route to Laysan Island.
- 19 Aug Arrived Laysan Island at 0800. Embarked Siudinski, Reuland, and Kaufman. Departed Laysan Island at 1600 en route to Lisianski Island.
- 20 Aug Arrived Lisianski Island at 0800. Disembarked Reuland, Kaufman, Becker, and Wurth. Off-loaded equipment and supplies. Departed Lisianski at 1600 en route to Kure Atoll.

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<sup>1</sup> PIFSC Cruise Report CR-09-001  
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- 21 Aug Arrived Kure Atoll at 1300. Disembark Tanji. Off-loaded all equipment and supplies. Deployed shore party to retag monk seals on Kure Atoll. Recovered shore party at 1800.
- 22 Aug Continued with retagging of monk seals from 0800 to 1700. Began loading equipment and supplies from the island. Finished loading equipment and supplies from island, including one 13-ft Boston Whaler boat. Embarked J. Lopez, C. Waddington, J. Waddington, A. Marie, and C. Metzler.
- 23 Aug Departed Kure Atoll en route to Midway Atoll.
- 23 Aug Arrived Midway Atoll at 1800.
- 24 Aug Deployed NMFS staff for atoll survey. Off-loaded equipment and supplies including 150 gallons of unleaded gasoline. Loaded NMFS equipment and supplies. Departed Midway Atoll at 1800 en route to Pearl and Hermes Reef.
- 25 Aug Arrived Pearl and Hermes Reef at 0800. Disembarked Lopez, Baker, Chapla, and Gobush. Off-loaded equipment and supplies including three 55-gal drums gasoline, one 18-ft Rigid Hull Inflatable Boat (RHIB), and one 13-ft Boston Whaler boat.
- 26 Aug Arrived Lisianski Island at 0800. Embarked Reuland and Kaufman. Departed Lisianski Island en route to French Frigate Shoals.
- 28 Aug Arrived French Frigate Shoals at 0800. Deployed seal team to conduct monk seal survey to instrument and biomedically sample yearlings.
- 29 Aug Made an emergency medivac of sick scientific staff. Continued monk seal survey.
- 30 Aug Launched Steeltoe and SAFE boat at 0730. Began capturing yearling seals for translocation to Nihoa Island. Completed collection of six yearling seals at 1100. Embarked S. Farry, M. Sullivan, M. Bond, and D. Lee. Recovered all boats and loaded equipment and supplies including two 17-ft Boston Whaler boats. Departed French Frigate Shoals en route to Nihoa Island. Began 24-hour monitoring of seals.
- 31 Aug Arrived Nihoa Island at 1000. Launched Steeltoe SAFE boat and began releasing yearling seals. Seals were released two at a time, for a total of three trips between the island and NOAA Ship *Oscar Elton Sette*.
- 1 Sept Attempted to land on Nihoa Island to deploy field camp. Risk assessment determined that the risk to land on the island was too high because of poor

weather conditions. Field camp deployment was canceled. Began transit to Ni'ihau Island to conduct boat survey for monk seals.

2 Sept Arrived Ni'ihau Island. Launched ship's SAFE boat to conduct beach survey of monk seals. Completed survey at 1300 and began transit to Pearl Harbor, Honolulu HI.

03 Sept Arrived Honolulu 0800. Off-loaded all supplies, equipment, trash, and recyclables. Disembarked all scientific personnel. End of cruise.

## **MISSIONS AND RESULTS:**

Objectives of the cruise are:

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

Field camps were recovered. All equipment and supplies were transported back to Honolulu.

2. Deploy camps at Lisianski Island and Pearl and Hermes Reef to conduct population assessment study of Hawaiian monk seals.

Camps at Lisianski Island and Pearl and Hermes Reef were deployed. Personnel and supplies were delivered safely and a field camp was set up on each site.

3. Conduct relocation of yearling monk seals from French Frigate Shoals to Nihoa Island.

A total of six (6) yearling monk seals were collected, instrumented with satellite tags, and translocated to Nihoa Island. All six seals were transported from French Frigate Shoals to Nihoa Island on the *Oscar Elton Sette*. The seals were then loaded into the PIFSC SAFE boat and transported to within 100 meters and in sight of the beach.

4. Deploy monk seal foraging ecology camp on Nihoa Island.

The cruise was unsuccessful in deploying a monk seal foraging ecology field camp on Nihoa Island. The weather conditions were too rough on the day of deployment.

5. Resupply existing USFWS field camps at Laysan Island and French Frigate Shoals. Transport equipment, supplies, and personnel.

All USFWS equipment, supplies, and personnel were transported to its respective island field station.

6. Resupply DOFAW field camp at Kure Atoll.

All DOFAW personnel and equipment were transported to Kure atoll.

7. Conduct CTD casts.

No CTD casts were conducted.

**SCIENTIFIC  
PERSONNEL:**

Chad Yoshinaga, Program Management Analyst, Pacific Islands Fisheries Science Center (PIFSC), National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS)

Charles Littnan, Ecologist, PIFSC, NMFS

Jason Baker, Biologist, PIFSC, NMFS

Kathleen Gobush, PIFSC, NMFS

Marie Chapla, Cooperating Scientist, Joint Institute for Marine and Atmospheric Research (JIMAR), University of Hawaii (UH)

Kehau Souza, Cooperating Scientist, Office of Hawaiian Affairs

Robert Braun, Contract Veterinarian, Contractor

Brenda Becker, Cooperating Scientist, PIFSC, NMFS

Tracy Wurth, Cooperating Scientist, JIMAR, UH

Jessica Lopez, Logistics Specialist, JIMAR, UH

Jenny Schultz, Cooperating Scientist, Hawaii Institute of Marine Biology

Shawn Farry, Cooperating Scientist, JIMAR, UH

Kenady Reuland, Cooperating Scientist, Aquatic Farms

Angie Kaufmann, Cooperating Scientist, Aquatic Farms

Derek Lee, Cooperating Scientist, Aquatic Farms

Monica Bond, Cooperating Scientist, Aquatic Farms

Mark Sullivan, Cooperating Scientist, Aquatic Farms

Tenaya Norris, Cooperating Scientist, Marine Mammal Commission

Colleen Siudzinski, Cooperating Scientist, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Daniel Tanji, Cooperating Scientist, Department of Fish and Wildlife (DOFAW)

Cynthia Waddington, Cooperating Scientist, DOFAW

James Waddington, Cooperating Scientist, DOFAW

Amarisa Marie, Cooperating Scientist, DOFAW

Catherine Metzler, Cooperating Scientist, DOFAW

(/s/Chad Yoshinaga)

Submitted by: \_\_\_\_\_  
Chad Yoshinaga  
Chief Scientist

(/s/Michael Seki) for  
Approved by: \_\_\_\_\_  
Samuel G. Pooley  
Science Director  
Pacific Islands Fisheries Science Center

Attachment

