

February 20, 1996 F/SWC2:MPC:FLF
CR9601-2.MPC

NARRATIVE REPORT¹

VESSEL: *Townsend Cromwell*, Cruise 96-01 (TC-204)

CRUISE PERIOD: January 14-30, 1996

AREA OF OPERATION: French Frigate Shoals and Northwestern Hawaiian Islands (Fig. 1)

TYPE OF OPERATION: Personnel from the Southwest Fisheries Center (SWFSC) Honolulu Laboratory (HL), National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), NOAA conducted foraging studies of Hawaiian Monk Seals (*Monachus schauinslandi*) in the waters of French Frigate Shoals (FFS) and the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands (NWHI).

ITINERARY:

14 January Embarked scientists, equipment, and supplies at 1100 and departed Snug Harbor, Oahu.

16 January Arrived FFS at 1600 and disembarked scientists, equipment, and supplies.

17 January Continued off-loading supplies at 0830. Completed at 1100. The *Townsend Cromwell* commenced foraging studies at 1200.

26 January Finished foraging studies at 1630.

27 January Embarked scientists and equipment at 0900. Tracked satellite-tagged seal until 1730 then departed FFS.

¹This is a combination Cruise and Narrative Report.

30 January Arrived Snug Harbor at 0800. Disembarked
scientists and equipment.

MISSIONS AND RESULTS:

- A. Retrieve satellite tags from two adult male Hawaiian monk seals. One tag fell off during the time we were tracking the seal. The tag was not recovered. The other tag was not retrieved because the seal did not haul onto a beach during daylight hours.
- B. Conduct video transects using the ship at depths from 50-100 meters on the west side of the atoll. This mission was completed. Forty-nine transects were made.
- C. Retrieve current meters located between Hawaii and Maui deployed by the University of Hawaii, Department of Oceanography. This work was not attempted due to time restraints.

**SCIENTIFIC
PERSONNEL:**

Mitchell Craig, Chief Scientist, Joint Institute of Marine
Research (JIMAR)
Angela Anders, Volunteer, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)
Steve Barclay, Refuge Manager, USFWS
Bruce Burch, Veterinarian, JIMAR
Todd Carpenter, Volunteer, USFWS
Donald Dearborn, Volunteer, USFWS
Kenneth Green, Cooperating Scientist, U.S. Navy Construction
Battalion (USNCB)
Richard Jeffery, Cooperating Scientist, JIMAR
Randy Ridner, Jr., Cooperating Scientist, USNCB

Submitted by:

Mitchell Craig
Chief Scientist

Approved by:

R. Michael Laurs
Director, Honolulu Laboratory

Attachment