



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 04-07 (OES-016)

CRUISE PERIOD: 30 May to 14 June 2004

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

TYPE OF OPERATION: Logistical support for Protected Species Division/Marine Mammal Research Program (MMRP) Hawaiian Monk Seal remote field camps

ITINERARY:

- 30 May Embarked C. Yoshinaga, B. Becker, O. Ongalibang, F. Joula, J. Higgins, M. Cahoon, J. Sprague, N. Teeple, R. Marshall, B. Harting, T. Wurth, M. Vekasy, C. Vanderlip, M. Holland, D. Littschwager, and S. Middleton. Departed Snug Harbor, Honolulu at 1000 en route to French Frigate Shoals (FFS) (2 days, 1 hour).
- 1 June Arrived FFS 1200. Off-loaded one 17-ft Boston Whaler boat. Off-loaded equipment and supplies including one 55-gal drum unleaded gasoline and one seal cage. Disembarked Joula and Higgins. Departed FFS 1600 en route to Laysan Island (1 day, 9 hours).
- 3 June Arrived Laysan Island 0800. Off-loaded equipment and supplies. Disembarked M. Vekasy. Embarked M. Reynolds and H. Major. Departed Laysan Island 1600 en route to Lisianski Island (12 hours).
- 4 June Arrived Lisianski Island. Off-loaded equipment and supplies. Departed Lisianski 1600 en route to Pearl and Hermes Reef (15 hours).



¹PIFSC Cruise Report CR-07-001
Issued 1 February 2007

- 5 June Arrived Pearl and Hermes Reef 0800. Off-loaded equipment and supplies including two 17-ft boats, one kayak, and five 55-gal drums unleaded gasoline. Disembarked Cahoon, Sprague, and Teeples. Set up field camp on Southeast Island.
- 6 June Conducted seal census at North Island to tag weaned seal pups using MMRP boats on island. Departed Pearl and Hermes Reef 1900 en route to Midway Atoll (9 hours).
- 7 June Arrived Midway Atoll 0800. Anchored outside of the harbor entrance. Off-loaded equipment and supplies, including one 55-gal unleaded gasoline, and one 30-hp outboard engine. Disembarked Marshall. Departed Midway Atoll ASAP en route to Kure Atoll (6 hours).
- 8 June Arrived Kure Atoll 0800. Off-loaded equipment and supplies including one 55-gal drum of unleaded gasoline, one 13-ft Boston Whaler boat, and one 17-ft Twin Vee boat. Disembarked Harting, Wurth, Holland, Vanderlip, Littschwager, and Middleton. Departed Kure Atoll 1600 en route to Laysan Island (1 day, 23 hours).
- 10 June Arrived Laysan Island 1600 hours. Embarked Reynolds and Major. Departed Laysan 1800 hours en route to Honolulu (3 days 19 hours).
- 14 June Arrived Honolulu 0800, Pearl Harbor fuel dock for fueling. Transited to Sung Harbor when fueling was complete. Off-loaded all supplies, equipment, trash, and recyclables. Disembarked all scientists. End of cruise.

MISSIONS AND RESULTS:

- a. Establish field camps at Pearl and Hermes Reef, Midway Atoll, and Kure Atoll. Transport all equipment, supplies, and personnel.

All field camps were established successfully.

- b. Resupply existing National Marine Fisheries Service camps at FFS, Laysan and Lisianski Islands.

Supplies were transported successfully.

- c. Conduct day census at Pearl and Hermes Reef to tag weaned pups.

A total of three monk seal pups were tagged.

- d. Conduct conductivity-temperature-depth (CTD) casts at designated sites along the NWHI.

A total of 10 CTD casts were completed.

- e. Resupply existing U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service camp at Laysan Island.

All resupply items were dropped off at Laysan Island.

**SCIENTIFIC
PERSONNEL:**

Chad Yoshinaga, Chief Scientist, Pacific Islands Fisheries Science Center (PIFSC), National
Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS)
Brenda Becker, Wildlife Biologist, PIFSC, NMFS
Ophelia Ongalibang, Intern, NMFS
Frans Joula, Cooperating Scientist, Aquatic Farms
Jean Higgins, Cooperating Scientist, Aquatic Farms
Maire Cahoon, Cooperating Scientist, Aquatic Farms
Jonathan Sprague, Cooperating Scientist, Aquatic Farms
Nicole Teeples, Cooperating Scientist, Aquatic Farms
Robert Marshall, Cooperating Scientist, Aquatic Farms
Tracy Wurth, Cooperating Scientist, Aquatic Farms
Albert Harting, Cooperating Scientist, Aquatic Farms
C Vanderlip, Wildlife Biologist, DOFAW
Michael Holland, Technician, DOFAW
David Littschwager, Technician, DOFAW
Susan Middleton, Technician, DOFAW
Mark Vekasy, Technician, USFWS
Michelle Reynolds, Technician, USFWS
Heather Major, Technician, USFWS

(/s/Chad Yoshinaga)

Submitted by: _____
Chad Yoshinaga
Chief Scientist

(/s/Samuel G. Pooley)

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

Attachment

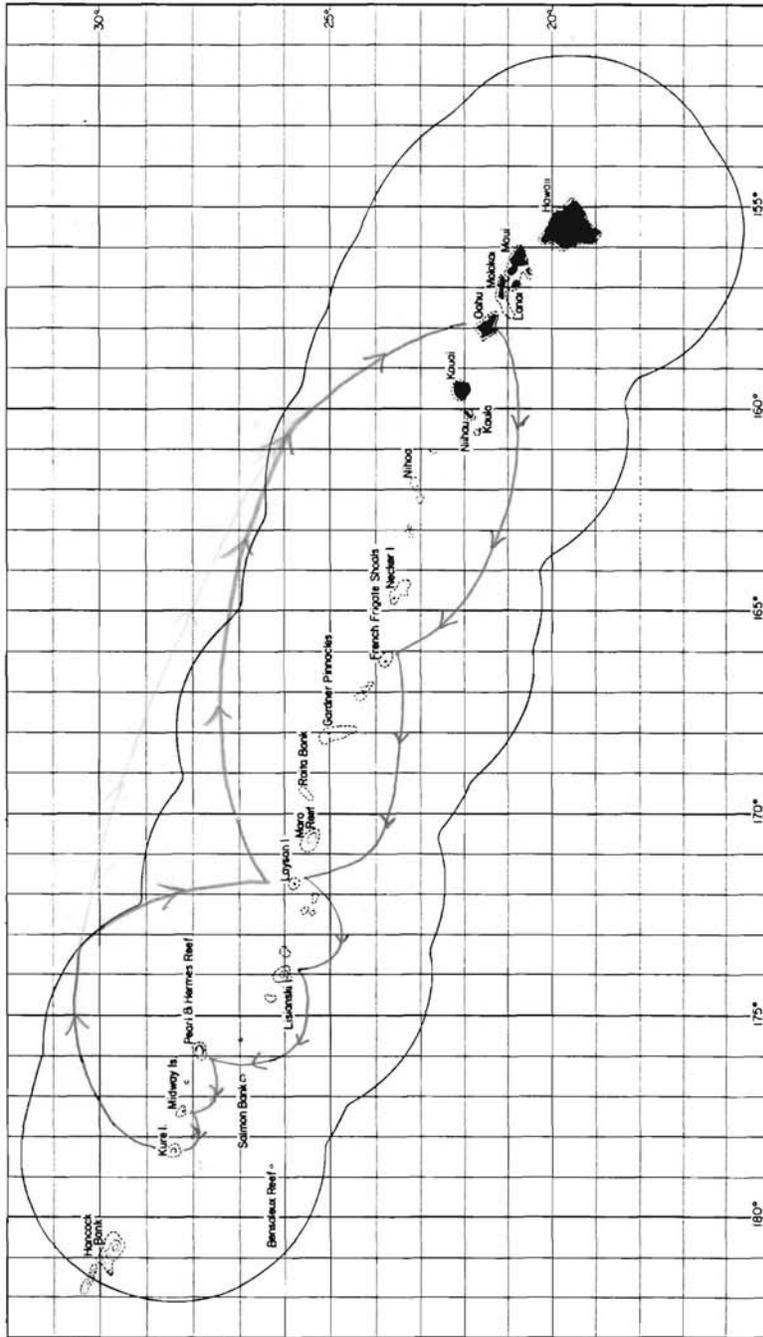


Figure 1.--Track of the NOAA ship Oscar Elton Sette cruise OES-04-07 (OES-16), May 30 to June 14, 2004.