



**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**  
**National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**  
**NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE/NOAA FISHERIES**  
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## CRUISE REPORT<sup>1</sup>

**VESSEL:** *Oscar Elton Sette*, Cruise 09-07 (SE-75)

**CRUISE PERIOD:** 7–24 August 2009

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

**TYPE OF OPERATION:** Protective Species Division transported personnel, equipment, and supplies from monk seal field camps in the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands in support of a Pacific Islands Fisheries Science Center research project.

### ITINERARY:

- 7 Aug Embarked C. Yoshinaga, C. Littnan, R. Braun, T. Norris, H. Harris, J. Larese, A. Kristof, M Larish, C. Rehkemper, M. Reynolds, N. Beatty, and A. Ungerleider. Departed Ford Island, Pearl Harbor, Honolulu at 1000 en route to Nihoa Island.
- 8 Aug Arrived Nihoa Island at 0800. Conducted boat survey of monk seals on the beach. Departed for French Frigate Shoals at 1200.
- 9 Aug Arrived French Frigate Shoals at 1200. Disembarked Littnan, Norris and Braun. Off-loaded equipment and supplies including six 55-gal drums of gasoline. Embarked Lee, Bond, Stankus, Dale, and Burns. Departed French Frigate Shoals at 1600 en route to Laysan Island.
- 11 Aug Arrived Laysan Island at 0800. Disembarked Kristof, Larish, Rehkemper, Reynolds, Lee, Bond and Harris. Off-loaded equipment and supplies. Off-loaded resupply items for National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) winter camp. Loaded miscellaneous camp gear for NMFS field camp. Embarked Marie. Departed Laysan Island at 1600 en route to Lisianski Island.

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<sup>1</sup>PIFSC Cruise Report CR-09-017  
Issued 30 November 2009



- 12 Aug Arrived Lisianski Island at 0800. Embarked Kaufmann and Siudzinski. Loaded field camp equipment and supplies. Departed Lisianski Island at 1600 en route to Pearl and Hermes Reef.
- 13 Aug Arrived Pearl and Hermes Reef at 0800. Embarked J. Lopez, L. White, and S. Guerin. Loaded equipment and supplies, including one 18-ft Rigid Hull Inflatable Boat (RHIB), and one 5-meter inflatable boat. Departed Pearl and Hermes Reef at 1700 en route to Kure Atoll.
- 14 Aug Arrived Kure Atoll. Disembarked Marie, Beatty, and Ungerleider. Embarked K. Yeager, B. Vanderlip, and W. Herbst. Loaded all equipment and supplies. Departed Kure Atoll at 1700 en route to Ladd Seamount.
- 15 Aug Arrived Ladd Seamount to recover high-frequency acoustic recording package (HARP) at 0600. Recovered HARP. Transited to Midway Atoll.
- 15 Aug Arrived Midway Atoll at 1300. Loaded all equipment and supplies.
- 16 Aug Disembarked Larese, Yeager, Guerin, Kaufmann, Stanskus, Dale, Burns, Vanderlip, and Herbst. Departed Midway Atoll at 0800 en route to Laysan.
- 18 Aug Arrived Laysan Island. Disembarked Siudzinski. Embarked Dietrich, Lee, Bond, Harris, A. Boyd, J. Mainardi, C. Rehkemper, and M. Reynolds. Departed Laysan Island at 1600 en route to French Frigate Shoals.
- 20 Aug Arrived French Frigate Shoals at 0800. Loaded all equipment and supplies. Embarked Farry, Sullivan, Norris, Littnan, and Braun. Loaded 6 juvenile Hawaiian monk seals. Departed French Frigate Shoals at 1500 en route to Nihoa Island.
- 21 Aug Arrived Nihoa Island. Launched SAFE boat and released juvenile monk seals. Departed Nihoa Island at 1630 en route to Niihau Island.
- 23 Aug Arrived Niihau Island at 0800. Launched SAFE boat to conduct survey of Niihau. Recovered scientific party and SAFE boat at 1700. Transited to Honolulu.
- 24 Aug Arrived Honolulu at 0800. Off-loaded all supplies, equipment, trash, and recyclables. Disembarked Yoshinaga, Braun, Sullivan, Littnan, Farry, Lopez, Norris, Boyd, Lee, Mainardi, Dietrich, Rehkemper, Reynolds, Bond, Harris, and White. End of cruise.

## MISSIONS AND RESULTS:

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

All field camps were recovered, and equipment and personnel were transported to Honolulu via the *Oscar Elton Sette* and through Midway flights.

2. Transport personnel and equipment from French Frigate Shoals to Midway for the Hawaii Institute of Marine Biology (HIMB) shark project.

HIMB shark project personnel were transported to Midway.

3. Translocate up to 6 juvenile Hawaiian monk seals from French Frigate Shoals to Nihoa Island.

Six juvenile Hawaiian monk seals were translocated from French Frigate Shoals to Nihoa Island. All were released from a small boat within 0.5 nmi from shore.

4. Recover, service, and deploy HARP at Ladd Seamount.

The HARP was recovered successfully, however upon servicing the unit, it was discovered the hard drive was not communicating with the data storage unit. Because of this problem, it was determined that the HARP should not be redeployed and instead brought back to Honolulu for servicing.

5. Resupply existing U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service field camps at Laysan Island and French Frigate Shoals. Transport equipment, supplies, and personnel to Nihoa Camp.

All equipment, supplies, and personnel were transported safely.

6. Resupply Department of Fish and Wildlife (DOFAW) field camp at Kure Atoll.

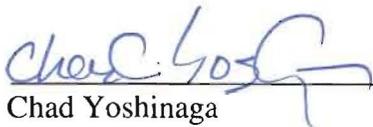
All DOFAW personnel and equipment were transported safely to Kure Atoll. Embarking DOFAW personnel were transported to Midway.

7. Conduct CTD casts.

A total of 10 CTD casts were conducted.

**SCIENTIFIC  
PERSONNEL:**

Chad Yoshinaga, Chief Scientist, Pacific Islands Fisheries Science Center (PIFSC),  
National Marine Fisheries Service  
Charles Littnan, Marine Ecologist, PIFSC, NMFS  
Robert Braun, Contract Veterinarian, PIFSC, NMFS  
Jessica Lopez, Field Research Supervisor, Joint Institute for Marine and Atmospheric  
Research (JIMAR), University of Hawaii (UH)  
Tenaya Norris, Cooperating Scientist, The Marine Mammal Center (TMMC)  
Kirstie Yeager, Cooperating Scientist, JIMAR, UH  
Shawn Farry, Cooperating Scientist, JIMAR, UH  
Gretchen Dietrich, Cooperating Scientist, JIMAR, UH  
Amarisa Marie, Cooperating Scientist, JIMAR, UH  
Angie Kaufmann, Cooperating Scientist, JIMAR, UH  
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Monica Bond, Cooperating Scientist, JIMAR, UH  
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Lisa White, Cooperating Scientist, Department of Land and Natural Resources  
Sean Guerin, Cooperating Scientist, JIMAR, UH  
Jon Dale, Cooperating Scientist, Hawaii Institute of Marine Biology (HIMB)  
Austin Stankus, Cooperating Scientist, HIMB  
Mike Burns, Cooperating Scientist, HIMB  
Heather Harris, Cooperating Scientist, TMMC  
Jason Larese, Cooperating Scientist, NMFS  
Andrea Kristof, Cooperating Scientist, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)  
Malie Larish, Cooperating Scientist, USFWS  
Cindy Rehkemper, Cooperating Scientist, USFWS  
Michelle Reynolds, Cooperating Scientist, USFWS  
Amanda Boyd, Cooperating Scientist, USFWS  
Joe Mainardi, Cooperating Scientist, USFWS  
Brad Vanderlip, Cooperating Scientist, Department of Fish and Wildlife (DOFAW)  
Nina Beatty, Cooperating Scientist, DOFAW  
Aaron Ungerleider, Cooperating Scientist, DOFAW  
Wailana Herbst, Cooperating Scientist, DOFAW

Submitted by: 

Chad Yoshinaga  
Chief Scientist

Approved by: 

Samuel G. Pooley  
Science Director  
Pacific Islands Fisheries Science Center

Attachment

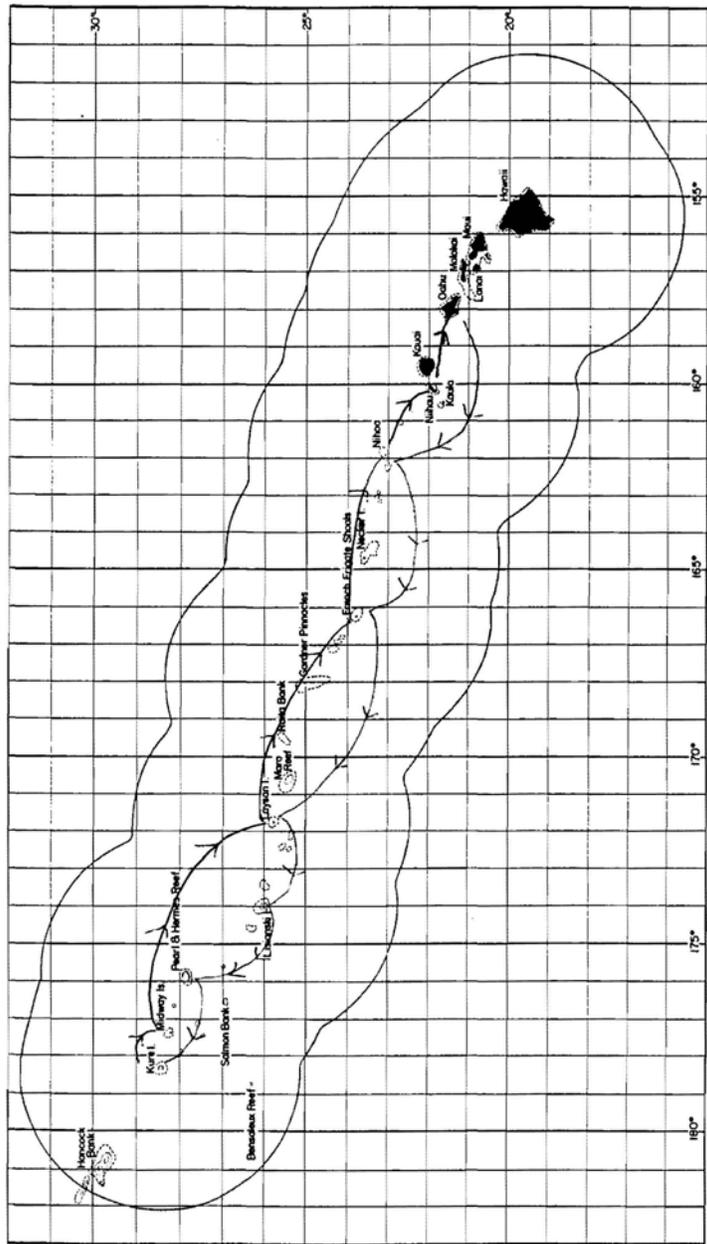


Figure 1.--Track of the NOAA Ship Oscar Elton Sette cruise SE-09-07 (SE-75), August 7-24, 2009.