



WOODS HOLE
OCEANOGRAPHIC
INSTITUTION

NEWSLETTER

Evelyn A. Prostredny, Editor
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March 13, 1964

ATLANTIS II OFF AGAIN - MANY COMMENDED FOR EFFORTS

In the "ship-shape" condition befitting her eminence, R/V ATLANTIS II sailed from WHOI dock Tuesday morning to continue her survey of the circulation of North Atlantic waters. Her departure marked the successful labors and efforts of many who repaired the damage she sustained in the storm just three weeks earlier. Repairs to the ship were accomplished at our dock, thus saving time and money. The job required a greater variety of trades and skills than most jobs previously attempted but in terms of overall savings, complexity, and speed of accomplishment, it was not unlike other successfully completed jobs in the past. The facilities personnel are to be congratulated for their efforts; their work was highly praised by Coast Guard and American Bureau of Shipping officials, who inspected the work. More praise for their outstanding efforts was received in a letter of appreciation from our Director, Dr. Fye. In another letter, Dr. Fye expressed his gratitude and pride to the officers, crew and scientific staff of the ATLANTIS II for excellent performance during the recent ordeal in the North Atlantic. He said he was most grateful that injuries were not more severe. The Institution has a thirty year unbroken record of safe ship operations and, Dr. Fye said, "he is proud that the record has not been tarnished in spite of the adversities presented by the North Atlantic in the winter."

BILL AFFECTING RESEARCH VESSEL STATUS INTRODUCED

Senator Warren G. Magnuson (D-Wash.), Chairman of the Senate Committee on Commerce, has introduced a bill to categorize oceanographic research ships separately from merchant passenger and cargo vessels, where, in general, people are embarked as either passengers or as crew members requiring merchant mariners documents. The bill defines an oceanographic research vessel as one which is employed solely in scientific research and instruction in oceanography or limnology and which is operated in the public interest by a non-profit institution, an educational institution, or a State or local government or agency of such governmental entity. An oceanographic research vessel, under the bill, would not be considered a passenger vessel, or a passenger-carrying vessel under laws relating to the inspection and manning of merchant vessels, nor would scientific personnel on such vessels be considered seamen. Under the bill, the Secretary of the Treasury Department, which has jurisdiction over the Coast Guard, would have authority to exempt research vessels from certain statutory provisions not necessary in the public interest on terms as he may specify.

The Research Vessel Operators Council, representing oceanographic institutions and laboratories (including WHOI), and the Committee on Oceanography of the National Academy of Sciences have both contended that the present law works a hardship on marine scientists and students and initiated actions resulting in the introduction of the bill.

GAME FISH TAGGING PROGRAM REVEALS WHITE MARLIN MIGRATION

Mr. Frank J. Mather announced last week another noteworthy result of the WHOI Cooperative Game Fish Tagging Program... the first proof of a white marlin migration from Middle Atlantic waters into the Caribbean Sea. The fish was tagged by Captain Howard T. Waller of Delmar, Delaware, 40 miles northeast of Ocean City, Maryland, on August 8, 1963. It was recaptured on December 10, 1963, 25 miles west of St. Vincent, one of the Windward Islands of the Lesser Antilles. Thus the marlin had traveled at least 1,700 nautical miles in 124 days. This is the longest recorded marlin migration of which we have knowledge. No size data was recorded when the fish was tagged, but it weighed 40 pounds (gutted) when recaptured.

On completion of the cruise, Lt. Commander Driggers will head for Groton, Conn., where he will assume responsibility for the establishment of a school of oceanographic technology for training of enlisted Coast Guardsmen. Joining him there, as an instructor, will be Chief Richard Norris.

.....To all members of the Coast Guard Oceanographic Unit, we extend our wishes for smooth sailing in fair seas!.....

ELECTION RESULTS REFLECT MANY FAMILIAR NAMES

In the annual Falmouth Town Election held Tuesday, Dr. Mary Sears was elected to an uncontested three-year term on the School Committee. In addition, she was elected to Town Meeting membership along with the following WHOI employees: Constance W. Chadwick, Stanley O. Fisher, Robert G. Weeks, W. Redwood Wright, and Arthur R. Miller. Elizabeth C. Metcalf, wife of Gary Metcalf, was also elected to Town Meeting membership.

SHIP NEWS

ATLANTIS II - Departed Tuesday morning to continue studies of North Atlantic Ocean. ETA St. Johns, Newfoundland, 27 March. Aboard are Valentine Worthington, Chief Scientist; Gary Metcalf, Gordon Volkmann, Gaines Campbell, R. Bruno, F. Allstrom, W. Redwood Wright, Bruce Warren, Marvel Stalcup, Charles Rose, and R. Turgeon.

CHAIN - At La Spezia undergoing radar repair. Joining the ship there were Betty Bunce and Richard Chase.

CRAWFORD - Departed WHOI yesterday morning for Norlantic Shipyard, Fairhaven, Mass., to undergo annual overhaul.

GOSNOLD - Scheduled to depart Monday for three-day cruise in Gulf of Maine. Aboard will be Robert Conover, Chief Scientist; Syed Mazhar-ul Haq, Thomas Renshaw, Francis Carey, and David Masch.

C54 Q - Reports failure of No. 3 engine. Scientific party en route WHOI via commercial flights. Plane will return following replacement of engine.

HELIO-COURIER - In hangar. Available, with capable pilot, for use.

Dayton E. Carritt, who was taken ill aboard ATLANTIS II just prior to her departure Tuesday, is reported to be in very satisfactory condition at Falmouth Hospital. Fred Gaskill, who recently underwent surgery at Falmouth Hospital, is recuperating at his home and expects to return to work next week.

NOTE: News items not appearing in this issue of the Newsletter will be included in the Newsletter on March 27.

WHOI MEN OBSERVE "SOUCOUCPE" OPERATION

Invited to witness the Diving Saucer Demonstration on February 18, in San Diego, California, were two members of our ALVIN Group... William O. Rainnie and Henry H. (Sandy) Learnard. Demonstration of the "DENISE", nicknamed "SOUCOUCPE" (saucer) was sponsored by the Westinghouse Electric Corporation. The "SOUCOUCPE", a two-man, saucer-shaped submarine, approximately 10 feet in diameter, 6 feet in height, with an approximate weight of 3 tons, was developed by Captain Jacques Yves Cousteau for use in investigations of the continental slopes. The vehicle, with a maximum operation depth of 1,000 feet, has been in use since early 1960.

Since only a limited number of dives had been scheduled, only one of our representatives was able to participate in the dive... the lucky fellow being Learnard. His mate on the dive in La Jolla Submarine Canyon was Laban, one of Cousteau's divers. The mother ship was a 50-foot craft; on the fantail was a 5-ton crane, and just forward of this the "SOUCOUCPE" was cradled. Learnard and Laban were sealed in the cabin and then, using a 13-foot Boston "Whaler" as a tender, the crane lifted "SOUCOUCPE" over the stern and into the water and released it, with a diver from the "Whaler" retrieving the bridle from the "SOUCOUCPE" Herewith follows some of Learnard's observations and impressions of the dive.....

"A slight "lump" in the throat is noticed as the hatch is closed but, before you realize it, you are away from the surface, completely entranced by your new environment, watching the "ascending" algae drift by your window, marking your descent. It sounds commonplace, but surely isn't. An eye on the depth recorder watches the bottom (30 meters) come up towards you; then Laban, the operator, points out a "cloud" about 5-10 meters below, and shortly the bottom is recognizable. Five to ten meters above bottom, the first lead pig is dropped, the propulsion system is started, external lights are turned on, depth recorder secured, and Laban starts pumping water aboard to reach neutral buoyancy. You are off on a new experience, all of which is difficult to assimilate rapidly. Slow descent was made along successive plateaus and sloped from 30 to 160 meters, with the lights on continuously, bringing out scattered patches of brilliant colors, mostly reds. Visibility decreases from 4-6 meters (!) at 30 meters depth to 2-3 meters at 160 meters, due to algae. Floral life disappears below about 60 meters with a large variety of small fish, ranging from 1 to 6 inches in size, visible throughout the dive. We came upon a whole "colony" of shrimp, spread over a few "plateaus", at around a 100 meters, and these were courageous devils, challenging the "SOUCOUCPE" so to speak. Laban attempted to catch one with the mechanical arm, using the trim system, but the shrimp were too "foxy". (Another diver, Falco, on the last dive of the day, was able to bring back a good sized one (eight inches overall) by using his body to control "SOUCOUCPE's" movements. It was alive, and was rushed to the Scripps Institution by the "Whaler" to determine its specie.) Upon reaching 160 meters, we started back to the surface and it turned out that this was the most fascinating part of the dive. We passed through two or three schools of small squid, which appeared as endless clouds, moving in and out of our view. They resembled small blown-glass artifacts, translucent, and light blue in color. This brought out the great contrast between the average "barren" canyon landscape, and sudden encounters with abundant marine life. Our dive took an hour and fifteen minutes, and upon return to the surface, the lift aboard the mother ship ran very smoothly.".....

Other observations of the operation, far too numerous to mention, were made by both Learnard and Rainnie. The preceding account has well succeeded in whetting our appetites for future fascinations in store for us.

..... First demonstration dive of the "SOUCOUCPE" was performed by Jacques Yves Cousteau in La Jolla Submarine Canyon on Jan. 27. During the period Jan. 27-Feb. 20, demonstration dives were scheduled for interested representatives of scientific, industrial, and governmental agencies. This unique opportunity for evaluation of such a submarine vehicle was made possible by the Westinghouse Electric Corporation.....

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MEETINGS

Journal Club - 8 p.m. - L. O. Conference Room

March 16 "ALVIN" - Instrumentation and Plans
W. M. Marquet and James Mavor

March 23 The Development of a Salt Marsh
Dr. Alfred Redfield

Friday Staff Luncheon - Noon - MBL Club

March 20 Check bulletin boards for announcement

March 27 Check bulletin boards for announcement

VISITORS:

Arriving tomorrow for a three day visit are Dr. Henrik Nørdvedt, Director, SACLANT ASW Research Centre, La Spezia, Italy; Commander R. Chester, Naval Advisor to Dr. Nørdvedt, and Commander F. J. Kelley, USN, Scientific Liaison Officer, Office of Naval Research, London, England.

NOTICE:

"Fishes of the Gulf of Maine", the highly respected book by Bigelow and Schroeder has been recently reprinted by WHOI and the Museum of Comparative Zoology at Harvard. The book describes and illustrates fishes found within the Gulf, giving details of their life histories (as known) and discusses the importance of each in terms of natural and human economy. Price - \$6.50. Orders may be placed with Jane Peterson, LMS, Ext. 300.

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The Newsletter is published every other week on Friday. All news items, notes of interest, and miscellany should be directed to the Newsletter Editor, Challenger, no later than Tuesday noon of the week of publication. If you prefer, call Ext. 520 or 508.
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