

From: Jake the SeaDog [mailto:seamail@whaletimes.org]
Sent: Tuesday, January 19, 2010 4:10 PM
To: 'creepintothedeep@whaletimes.org'
Subject: Creep into the Deep: Log for the 18th

Hi All,

Another great day in the channel! The weather is beautiful and calm. Christina Bradley and Jacqueline Padilla Gamiño are due to surface and climb out of the sub in the next few minutes and when they do I will have one of them share their experience.

While they have been working in the sub on the bottom the team on the surface has been reviewing the dive tapes from yesterday's dive and processing the few coral samples that were collected.

The remote operated vehicle (ROV) pilots have been working all day to get the ROV repaired and they are telling us that it appears to be functioning so we are going to try and dive it tonight. ROV dives are nice because they stream the live video from the seafloor to televisions throughout the ship so every one can watch what the ROV is seeing from what ever room they are in. The captain can watch it on the bridge as can people eating in the galley. The ROV glides across the bottom as the ship drifts with the current so the ROV sees a lot of bottom but can't stop long to look at anything and can not pick anything up. ROVs are a great tool to survey the bottom to find good spots to dive with the submarine and make collections on following days.

As you may have read in her bio, Jackie Padilla is from Mexico. Not only was today her first dive in a submersible, she may be the first Mexican woman to go down in a sub. To celebrate both, the subpilot took a photo of her in the sphere with the Mexican flag (Photo attached). Jackie studies coral living in shallow water and was very excited to be able to make collections of coral growing in deep water and to see how similar or different they are from those she normally studies. I think Jackie was very excited to go underwater, but also a bit nervous about her first dive.



Hey, they are now back safe and sound, so here's Jackie to tell you first hand about the dive.

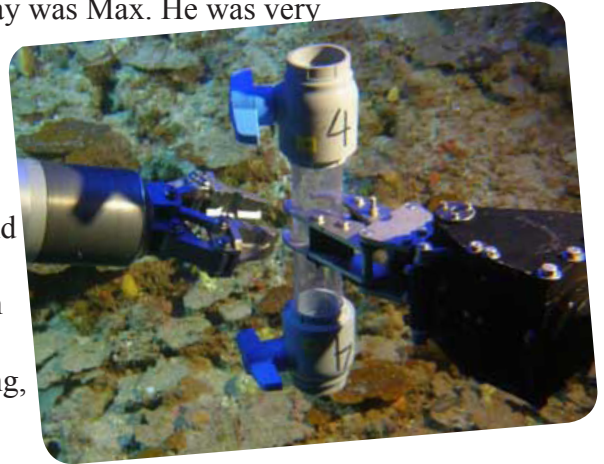
Aloha,
~Frank

From: Jake the SeaDog [mailto:seamail@whaletimes.org]
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To: 'creepintothedeep@whaletimes.org'
Subject: Creep into the Deep: Log from Jackie Padilla

Hola!

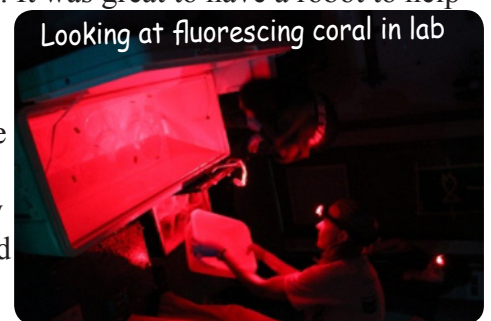
I had to get up very early to go to my safety briefing to learn about the sub, things that might happen while we are under water and what we needed to do to stay safe. Our pilot today was Max. He was very thorough and I felt very confident diving with him. He made the trip a very positive, fun and safe trip.

After my safety briefing I had a light breakfast, just some fruit and toast, while the engineers got the sub ready to go. The beginning of the trip was really amazing. The sub was gently lifted off the deck and slowly placed in the water and as we watched out the port holes, the blue sky suddenly turned to blue blue water filled with bubbles. Then the bubbles disappeared and I could see tiny jellyfish floating in the ocean. The entry was really smooth and then it felt like we were flying, it was really nice. The sub moves really gently.



There are three windows (portholes) in the sub. The pilot, Max, had the centre porthole and I could look out the right side. When we came to collect samples, I could see the robot arm reach out, gently pick up the coral and carefully place it in our sampling box. It was great to have a robot to help me do my work. In the deep you have to depend on the robot to collect my samples.

While we were underwater I saw fish of lots of different sizes and colors. We saw a big group of silvery fish. They were nearly 3 ft long and about 50 of them surrounded the sub. I also saw two cow fish with brown blotches. They were small and were swimming together. We also saw corals that glowed and an amazing bright pink sponge.



Inside the submersible, there are two TV screens that show real time footage of what the sub's HD camera is filming. We can move the cameras to look at interesting things and see them more clearly than we can through the port holes, but the portholes are still the best to look out and know you are on the bottom of the ocean.

I was able to collect a good amount of samples for my research. I am very excited to see how the algae and coral I collected at different depths responds to light. I feel like detective. I have collected my clues and now I have figure how they fit together.

I have had a long day. I got up very early for my safety briefing. Then we spent 8 hours out collecting samples. We have just had dinner and now we have quite a few hours of setting up experiments and processing the samples.

It was a great experience, but now it is time to go and look after my samples.

Adios
~Jackie

