

# October 2022, MWR Newsletter

For [NOAA](#)'s Office of Marine and Aviation Operations ([OMAO](#))

All the OMAO news that's fit to print...and then some

## WE'RE BACK!

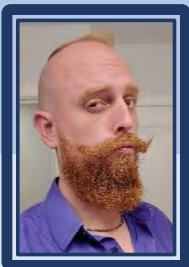
We didn't think 2021  
and 2022 were half bad

You're right!  
We thought they  
were all bad!

# NOAA

# MWR

**From the  
Desk of the  
Editor – Ahoy**



Admirals, ladies and gentlemen, shipmates, wing mates and shore mates, friends, and families of OMAO. My name is Rob Edwards and I am absolutely thrilled to be able to pick up the mantle once again as the Editor of the MWR Newsletter. It has been a hot minute since last I got the chance to address you all back in the winter of 2020. Since then a lot has changed, but one thing that has remained constant has been your tireless efforts to go out and collect the scientific and environmental data critical to the United States of America and the world. Therefore, for these Herculean efforts through hurricanes, pandemics, budget battles, politics and presidents, you all, the OMAO Family, win this month's Editor's Seal of Approval. Bravo!

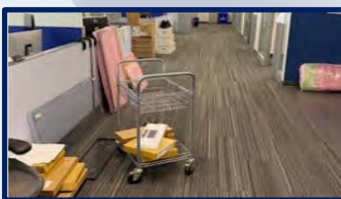
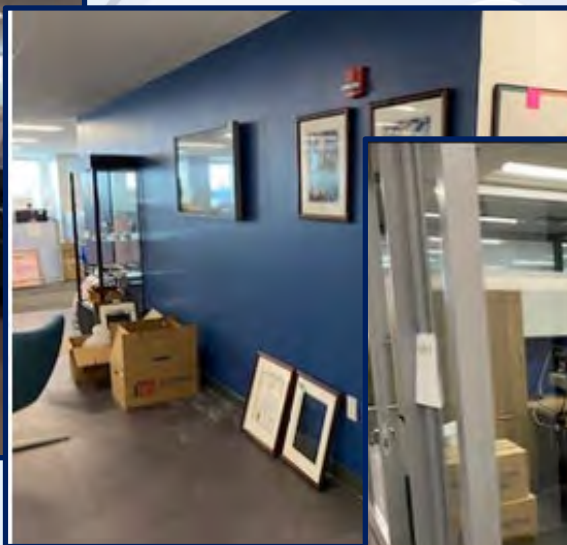
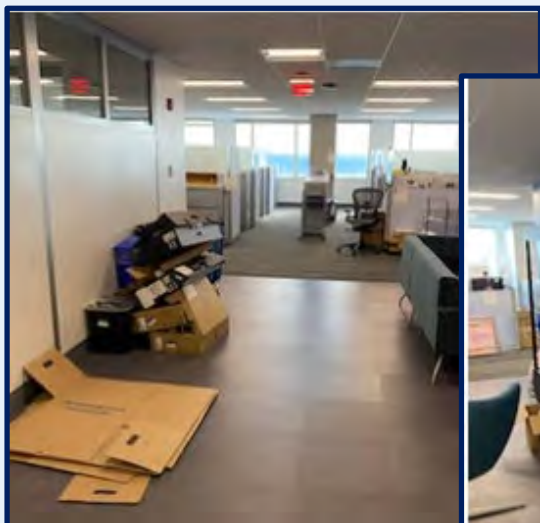


# Office of Marine and Aviation Operations Headquarters



## We're Moving

After years of planning, the Office of Marine and Aviation Operations (OMAO) has made the move to the NOAA Silver Spring Metro Center Building 3 (SSMC3). Though all the boxes have been delivered, there is still quite a bit of work to be done before OMAO employees return to the office. Friday, September 16, 2022 the Information Technology (IT) staff were finally able to begin setting up workstations, sorting through the bubble wrap and mounting monitors. Historical pictures are being hung to make the space more like home. Over the next 2- to 3-weeks, the network, telephone lines, and office placards should be completely installed.





# Marine Operations Center Atlantic



## Hail and Farewell

Change (of Command) is in the Air at MOC-A where practically perfect weather shined down on friends, families and a lot of brass as CDR Amanda Goeller relieved CAPT Mark Chrobak. Dr. Spinrad provided opening remarks virtually followed by RDML Cary and CAPT Shoup. All were highly appreciative of CAPT Chrobak's devotion to people, the fleet and to mission success during unprecedented and ever changing times due to the pandemic. The team at MOC-A and the fleet, thank CAPT Chrobak and his family for their dedication and commitment and wish him continued success at his next assignment at NEDIS in Silver Spring. And a big welcome aboard to CDR Amanda Goeller as she takes Command of MOC - A, we are looking forward to continued success and grateful to be on the MOC - A team with you!



Above Left: CAPT Chrobak Remarks  
Above Right: RDML Cary remarks  
Below: RDML Cary and CAPT Shoup



Clearing the parking lot of *Thomas Jefferson* crew cars for the MOC-A Change of Command.... ENS Mathew Chonka received all his sign offs on "Dead POV Battery PQS" he is now MOC-A's resident expert.... He is also a welcome addition to MOC-A, checking in this past JULY ....straight from the *Thomas Jefferson* as MOC-A Deputy OPS.



Reading of Orders - CAPT Chrobak, CAPT Jeffery Shoup, CDR Goeller



# Marine Operations Center Atlantic *Oregon II*

After a long 7 month repair period in Pascagoula, MS the *Oregon II* is back underway on our shark and red snapper mission! With the first change of command ceremony held in 16 years, the crew welcomed Commander Eric Johnson as our new CO after Captain Dave Nelson's retirement ceremony on April 15th 2022. The *Oregon II* has already completed two legs of longline traveling as far as North Carolina and will finish out the season with the fall ground fish survey ending before Thanksgiving.

*Oregon II* underway with a rainbow over our bow after we finished with our repair period and got underway.



Clockwise from upper left:  
-Outgoing Commanding Officer CAPT Dave Nelson shaking the hand of our incoming CO Commander Eric T. Johnson. Captain Nelson had been the CO of the *Oregon II* for 16 years. You will be missed CO Nelson!  
-*Oregon II* Wardroom. From left to right it is ENS Justin Weeks, ENS Ian Searles, CDR Eric Johnson, LCDR Aaron Colohan, and LT Melissa Trede.  
-Commander Johnson has brought his love for cooking to the *Oregon II* and regularly prepares various smoked entrees for the crew.  
-This 15 foot pregnant tiger shark, the largest shark we caught this season, was safely tagged and released.  
-*Oregon II* during our 7-month long Dry docking repair period  
-Lead Fisherman James "Shark whisperer" Rhue keeping that mama tiger shark calm.





# Marine Operations Center Atlantic *Pisces*

SEFIS conducts applied fishery-independent sampling with chevron fish traps and attached underwater video cameras, and catch rates and biological data from SEFIS are critical for various stock assessments for economically important reef fishes along the southeast US Atlantic coast. Officers and crew had the opportunity to work with the science party to help them collect otolith samples while they sailed aboard *Pisces*.



ENS Heather Gaughan is holding a large amberjack that was caught in one of the chevron fish traps



Chief Steward Rey Mabanta preparing a large Red Snapper

Drop in Survey from the Editor: On a ship whose name translates as *Fishes* I suppose it's only appropriate that we have two great photos of people holding big fish. And as I wholeheartedly support friendly competition I present to you, dearest reader, a grand survey [WHICH ONE WORE IT BEST](#). Winner will get a spread in a future month's newsletter. Click the link or find the survey at <https://forms.gle/nbrV2dumsnwFfimj7>



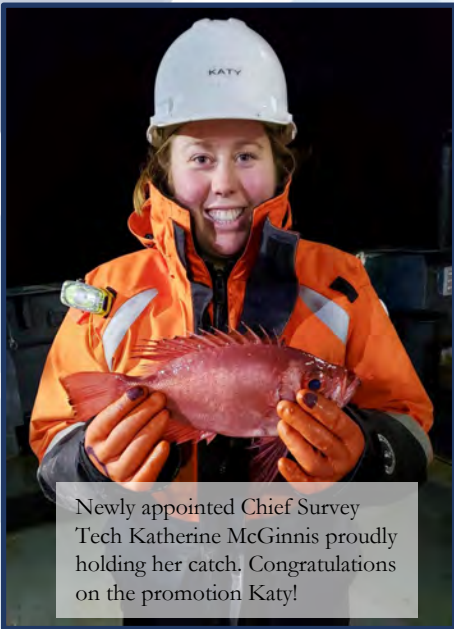
*Pisces* Wardroom in Morehead City, NC with our Massachusetts Maritime Academy Cadet, Midshipman Andrew Longwater



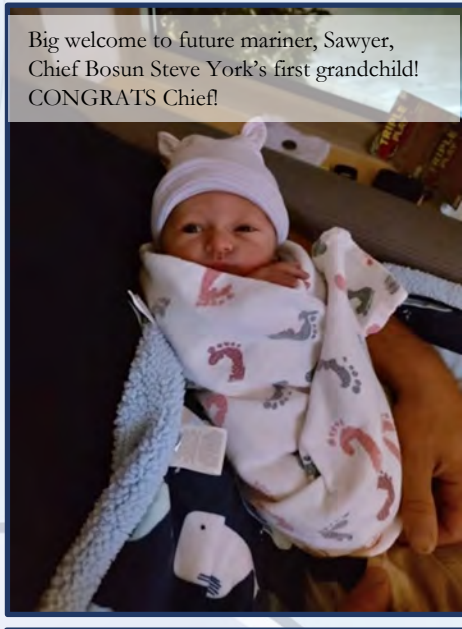
# Marine Operations Center Atlantic *Henry B. Bigelow*



LCDR Aras Zygus, CDR Stephen Kuzirian and LT Keith Hanson looking snazzy in front of the ship after the Ronald H. Brown Change of Command ceremony. Thank goodness it was before labor day and they weren't going to a wedding



Newly appointed Chief Survey Tech Katherine McGinnis proudly holding her catch. Congratulations on the promotion Katy!

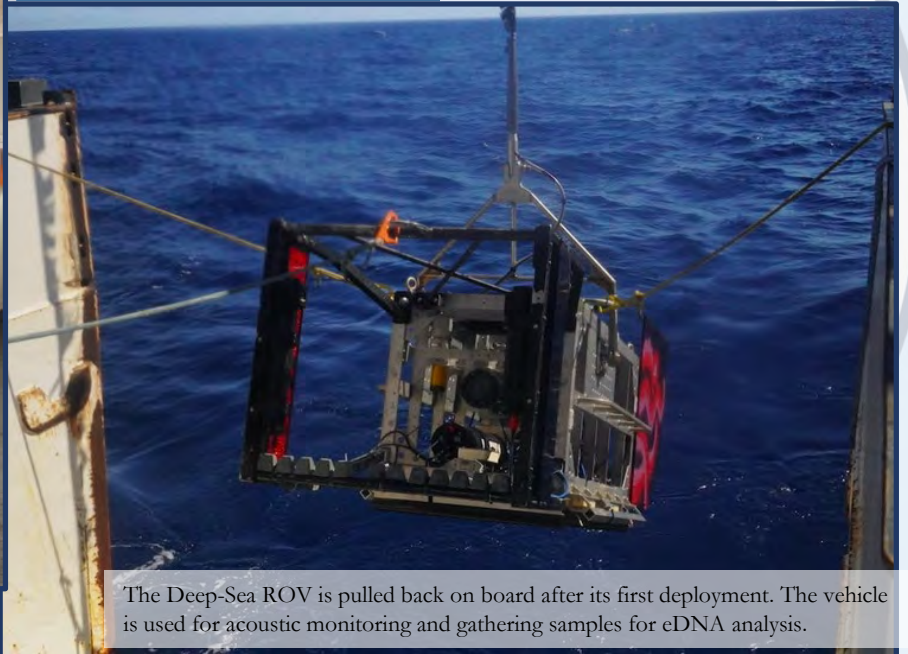


Big welcome to future mariner, Sawyer, Chief Bosun Steve York's first grandchild! CONGRATS Chief!



Huge NOAA welcome to our newest shipmates, GVA-D Chad Sepe (pictured) and transfer from the *Ronald H. Brown*, Ray Castillo!

A large gleaming hatchet fish was one of the first catches pulled from MOCNESS during the Ocean Twilight Zone project, a joint project with Woods Hole Oceanographic Institute



The Deep-Sea ROV is pulled back on board after its first deployment. The vehicle is used for acoustic monitoring and gathering samples for eDNA analysis.



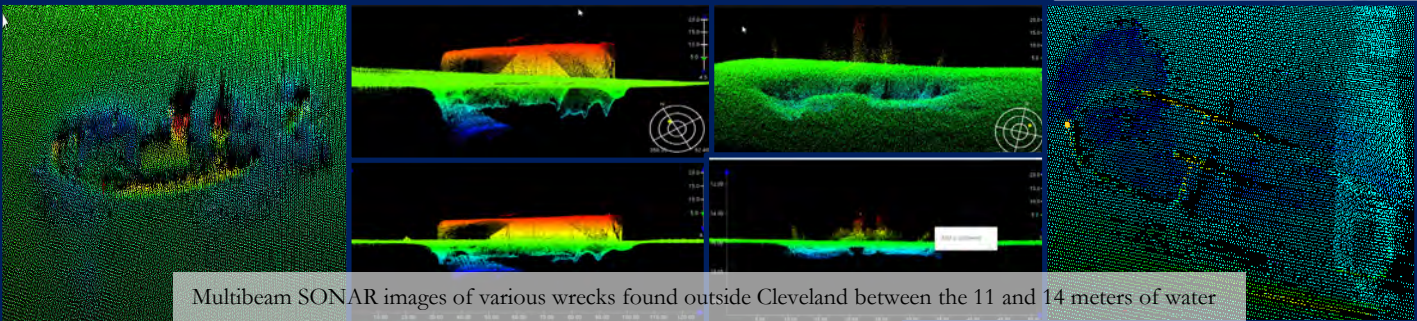
# Marine Operations Center Atlantic *Thomas Jefferson*



HSL and crew standing by to assist in deploying the DRiX



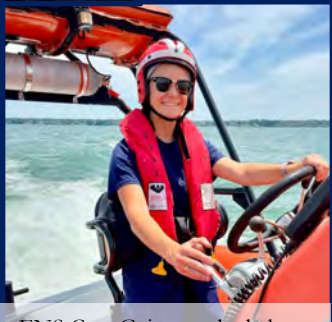
ENS Louis Castillo remotely operating DriX using a control box from the bow of TJ's 1717 Utility Boat



Multibeam SONAR images of various wrecks found outside Cleveland between the 11 and 14 meters of water



TJ, HSL 2903 and big heavy sky



ENS Cara Geiger at the helm of the Fast Rescue Boat



TJ and even bigger sky



# Marine Operations Center Atlantic Okeanos Explorer

The New York Times

Editor: "Oooh-  
The Paper of  
Record, the Gray  
Lady Herself. I  
think she stole  
my slogan"



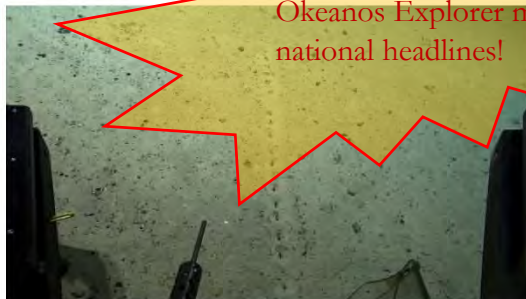
## There Are Holes on the Ocean Floor. Scientists Don't Know Why.

Similar openings on the seafloor were first spotted 18 years ago along the Mid-Atlantic Ridge. Their origins remain unknown. Scientists are asking the public for their thoughts.

**THIS JUST IN:**  
Discoveries on the  
Okeanos Explorer make  
national headlines!

Give this article

45



While researchers explored the Mid-Atlantic Ridge on July 23, they noticed sets of holes in the sediment that they couldn't explain. The laser points in the image are 10 centimeters, or about 4 inches, apart. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration



Cultural exploration events with the Okeanos Explorer crew at the magnificent Caldeira do Cabeço Gordo and Centro de Interpretação do Vulcão dos Capelinhos on the island of Faial.

Thank you to augmeter ENS Gemma Venuti for sailing with us and helping with our mission!



MWR event "Sunset on the Bow" in the Caribbean Sea with our special guests Rachel Gulbraa, Trish Albano, and Liz Hoadley from OAR along with Caitlin Blair from USEC. We hope you enjoyed your time onboard the EX



# Marine Operations Center Atlantic *Ferdinand R. Hassler*

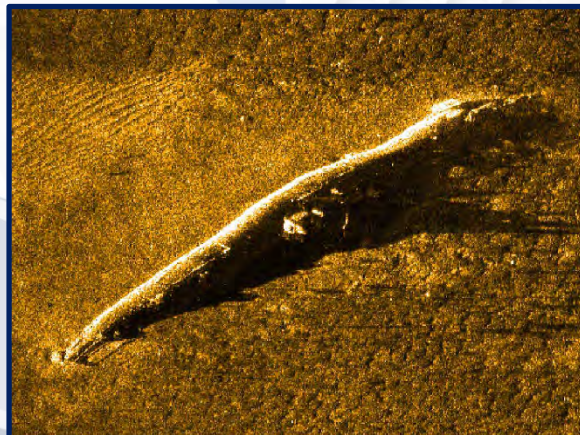


NOAA Ship *Ferdinand R. Hassler* wouldn't have leave the pier were it not for the continuous support of augmenting officers and mariners throughout the fleet and ashore. Pictured (right), LTJG Stefanie Coxe dons turnout gear in anticipation of her role as a primary hose team member

In the last two months alone, *Hassler* has hosted 15 augmenters. Thank you to 3AE Nate Boudart, ENS Matt Chonka, CME Chris Clayton, AB Eric Collins, LTJG Stefanie Coxe, LT Patrick Debrosse, LTJG Jamie Hendrix, AB Ryan Pape, LT Bryan Pestone, 2AE Ken Pressey, 2AE Greg Robertson, LTJG Drew Stephens, LTJG Kyle Vincent, LT Steven Wall and SST Todd Walsh

*Hassler* has been conducting seafloor mapping surveys off the coast of North Carolina since late June. But it was only on the previous leg, that the ship's Side Scan Sonar (SSS) was successfully re-integrated into the ship's acquisition system. Here is an example of the imagery produced by the ship's SSS when working within the "Graveyard of the Atlantic". What do you think this 50+ meter vessel is? Click [here](#) and let us know what you think it is. Or go to the link here <https://forms.gle/f5LsG3ppVFLWVYCeA> Answers will be published next month.

Contribution from CDR Michael Gonsalves





# MO-Engineering

From the Chief of MO-Engineering, Mr. Brian Kelly:

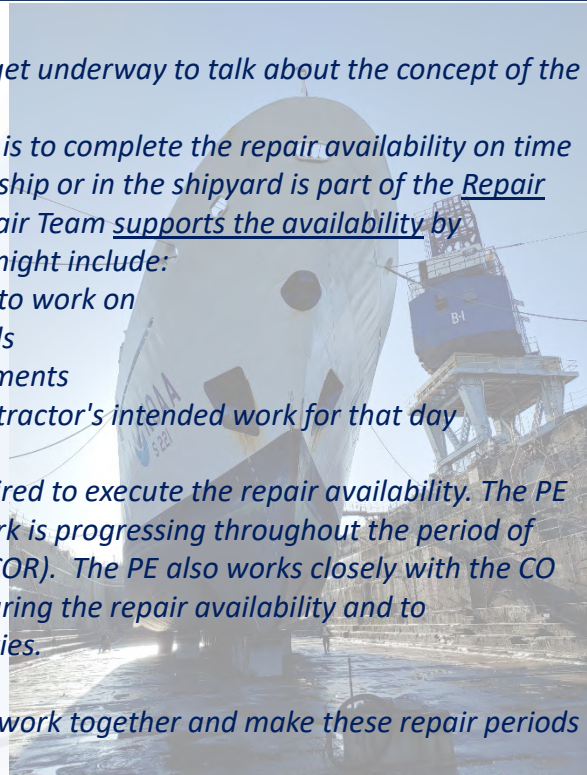
*I wanted to take this opportunity as the winter repair periods get underway to talk about the concept of the "Repair Team" and our goals for the repair periods:*

*During the winter availability period the ship's primary mission is to complete the repair availability on time so they can return to operations. Every person working on the ship or in the shipyard is part of the Repair Team and has a role in making this mission a success! The Repair Team supports the availability by prioritizing support required to keep the project moving. This might include:*

- *prioritizing lock out/tag outs for systems the shipyard needs to work on*
- *attending checkpoints during equipment repair and overhauls*
- *vocalizing safety concerns, complying with all safety requirements*
- *planning your work so that it does not interfere with the contractor's intended work for that day*

*The Port Engineer (PE) is responsible for leading the team required to execute the repair availability. The PE works closely with the winning contractor to make sure the work is progressing throughout the period of performance and acts as the Contract Officer Representative (COR). The PE also works closely with the CO and CME to jointly address any problems or issues that arise during the repair availability and to communicate the status of the availability to all interested parties.*

*We are all one NOAA Repair Team and I challenge everyone to work together and make these repair periods the best they've ever been!*



## All FY 2023 Repair Contracts have been awarded as follows:

Ship Name	Avail Type	Start	End	Days	KTR	Location
Bell M. Shimada	Int. Dry dock	10/3/22	11/8/22	36	LUDD	Seattle, WA
	MCS Install	11/14/22	1/15/23	62	Regal	Newport, OR
Rainier	5yr Dry dock	10/3/22	1/14/23	103	Bay Ship and Yacht	Alameda, CA
Nancy Foster	Int. Dry dock	10/3/22	12/15/22	73	Gulf Marine Repair	Tampa, FL
Oscar Dyson	Dockside	10/17/22	12/16/22	60	Van Port	Newport, OR
Ferdinand R. Hassler	Dockside	10/17/22	11/30/22	44	GI Industrial	Newcastle, NH
Gordon Gunter	Dockside	10/17/22	11/30/22	44	Regal	Pascagoula, MS
Thomas Jefferson	Dockside	11/7/22	12/23/22	46	3MC	Norfolk, VA
Oscar Elton Sette	5yr Dry dock	11/7/22	3/23/23	136	LUDD	Seattle, WA
Okeanos Explorer	Dockside	11/7/22	2/28/23	113	Regal	Newport, OR
Fairweather	Dockside	11/28/22	1/27/23	60	Regal	Newport, OR
Henry B. Bigelow	Int. Dry dock	12/1/22	2/25/23	86	Colonna's	Norfolk, VA
Pisces	Dockside	12/7/22	2/10/23	65	Regal	Pascagoula, MS
Oregon II	Dockside	1/2/23	3/3/23	60	Regal	Pascagoula, MS
Reuben Lasker	5yr Dry dock	2/1/23	4/26/23	84	LUDD	Seattle, WA
Ronald H. Brown	Midlife	6/1/23	8/1/24	427	STEHMO	Pascagoula, MS



# Marine Operations Center Pacific



RV *Thomas G. Thompson*...AKA *Tommy Thompson*



Hopefully the Chief Engineer on the *Fairweather* doesn't need his parking spot anytime soon as the parking lot has become a bit of a laydown yard

MOC-P has had a busy summer playing the host not only to our very own *Fairweather* and *Bell M. Shimada*, but also to several UNOLS Ships including the *Thomas G. Thompson* from the University of Washington and the *Robert G. Sproul* from UC San Diego. With *Marcus G. Langseth* often alongside next door with the *Oceanus* and frequent visits from the *Sikuliaq*, Newport is becoming quite the UNOLS town

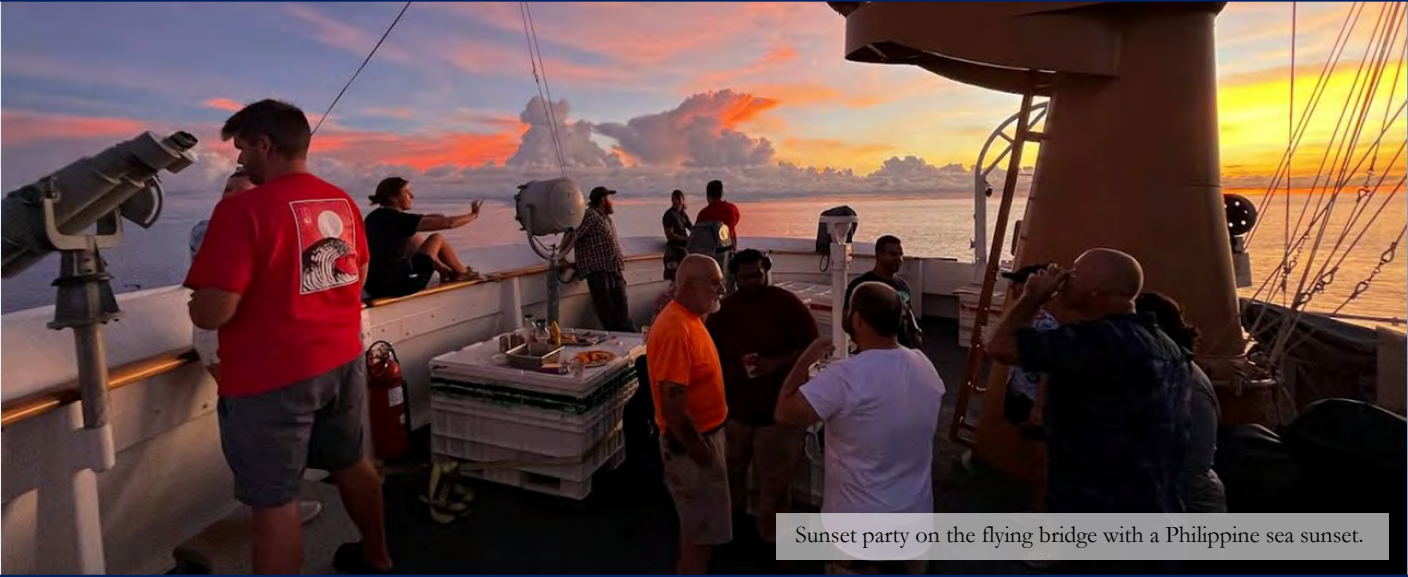
As Summer started coming to an end MOC-P sponsored a "Burger-Burn" lunch for MOC-P shore side employees as well as crews from *Shimada* and *Fairweather*. Those were some mighty Fine Hamburgers and hot dogs CAPT Taylor. Speaking of burning ...what's the fire department doing on *Hi'lalakai*, just some shipboard training for the local engine.



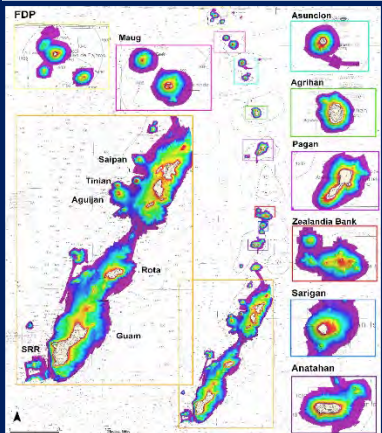
*Hi'lalakai* and the Newport Fire Department



# Marine Operations Center Pacific *Rainier*



Sunset party on the flying bridge with a Philippine sea sunset.



This Season *Rainier* once again headed to the Western Pacific and our new home away from home the Northern Mariana Islands. To the left is a summary of the hydrographic data collected during the field season. To give you an idea of the scale, If you put our homeport of Newport, Oregon where Farallon de Pajaros (FDP) is at the north end, then Guam at the south end would be in Los Angeles, California

Right: Stunning photo to remind you of the 3-D nature of the underwater world



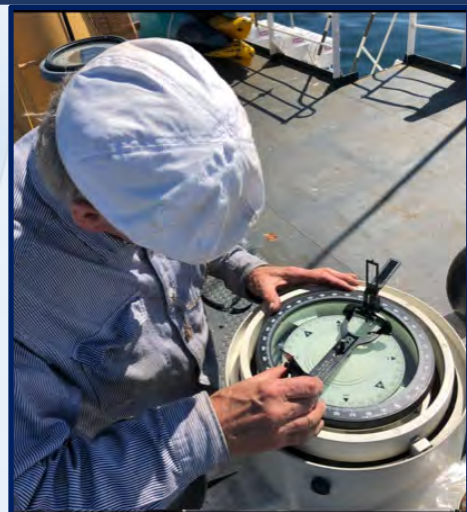


# Marine Operations Center Pacific *Fairweather*

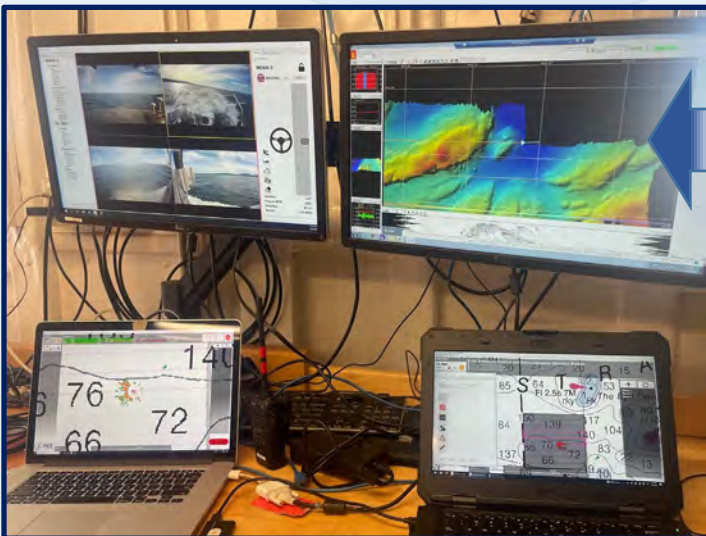
From left to right: HAST Bejarano, ENS Sobelsohn, HAST Ober and CAPT Sternberg.



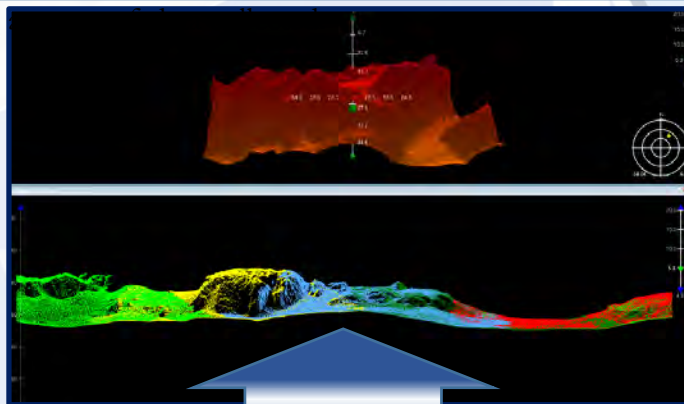
After a drydock period in California, *Fairweather* is back underway and heading to her home waters of Alaska! During a brief stop in Puget sound Capt. Sternberg came on board to swing our compass and tell us about his career path that led him to the fine art and science of compass swinging.



CAPT Sternberg has decades of experience, he swung the *Fairweather* compass using the sun, Greenwich Mean Time, magnetic heading, the local magnetic disturbance, and an azimuth circle. The inside passage transit went smoothly with the help of the dedicated crew on board!



The Optionally Crewed Robot Boat has taken over! I, for one, welcome our new robotic overlords. *Fairweather* has been working with LSA Autonomy to fine tune the robo-boats to assist in hydrographic data collection and furthering autonomous technology. Advancing this technology is intended to keep people safe and to increase the



It's called the "Eye Opener" for a reason! Our survey team has been having a blast remapping the valleys and mounts of the Sumner strait. This area was last surveyed between 1970-89 via wire dragging.



Fairweather traversing the inside passage by the light of wayward solar ions

Editor: OK so the photograph to the left wasn't actually taken. It's just me messing around a bit for Arts Sake. The actual stunning photographs are featured on the last page



# Marine Operations Center Pacific

# Reuben Lasker

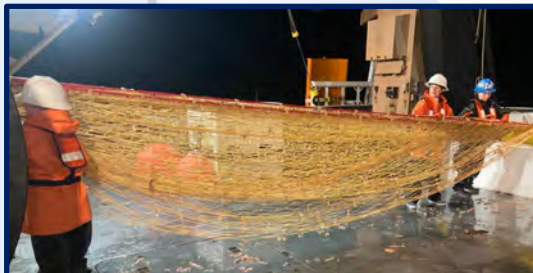
The *Reuben Lasker* is on the final leg of our annual California Current Ecosystem Survey (CCES). The project is conducted on the *Reuben Lasker* by the Fisheries Research Division (FRD) at NOAA's Southwest Fisheries Science Center (SWFSC) with visiting scientists from Mexico's Instituto Nacional de Pesca y Acuicultura! The primary objectives of CCES are to survey distributions and abundances of coastal pelagic fish species, their prey, their biotic and abiotic environments between Cape Flattery and Punta Eugenia, Baja California.

Hasta Luego y gracias por toda la pesca



**OOOH Barracuda!**

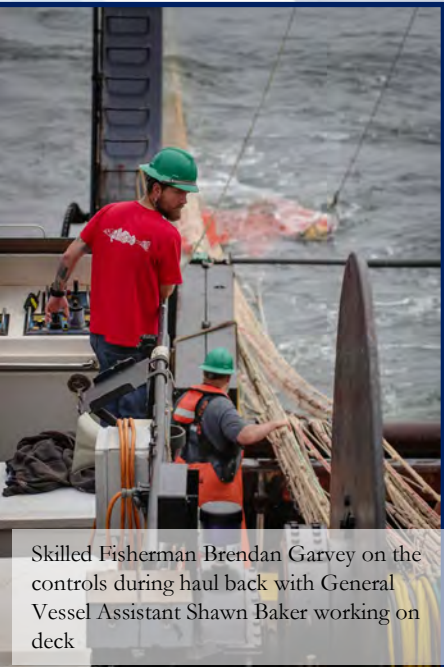
Above Left: Nico Concha-Saiz (Left) from SWFSC with visiting INAPESCA scientists Daniel Hernandez Cruz and Selene del Carmen Morales Gutierrez  
Above Right: SWFSC and INAPESCA Scientists process biological samples  
Below Left: SST Jaelyn takes a moment from processing anchovy samples to snap a photo with Skilled Fisher Elan Sprouse  
Below Right Clockwise from top: Paper Nautilus, Jack Mackerel, Sardines  
Deck crew LF Nicole Turpin and SF Elan Sprouse bring the trawl net aboard during haul back with the assistance of SST Jaelyn Mazzella.



ENS Emily Ruhl, JUE Mike Robinson, and axe wielding new-hire 3AE Elayne Abreu after an underway fire drill. Welcome aboard Elayne!



# Marine Operations Center Pacific *Bell M. Shimada*



Skilled Fisherman Brendan Garvey on the controls during haul back with General Vessel Assistant Shawn Baker working on deck



Executive Officer LCDR Justin Ellis on the fantail enjoying a nice day at sea



Pacific Right Whale Dolphins

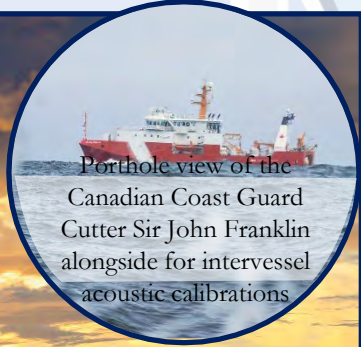
Pacific White Sided Dolphins



Baskets of Pacific Hake that were sorted and sampled



Pacific Hake being sorted and sampled by the scientists



Porthole view of the Canadian Coast Guard Cutter Sir John Franklin alongside for inter vessel acoustic calibrations

The Canadian Coast Guard Cutter Sir John Franklin steaming into the sunset after tandem acoustic operations were complete

Contribution from ENS Megan O'Neill



# Marine Operations Center Pacific *Oscar Dyson*



CB Stucki and SF Goodie pay out the net during fishing operations.

The *Oscar Dyson* has had an exciting field season! After wrapping up the Walleye Pollock surveys in August, the Dyson jumped right into their FOCI (Fisheries-Oceanography Coordinated Investigations) projects in the Bering Sea.

The *Dyson* crew was excited to welcome back LT Yannutz for one leg of the Pollock survey!



Pictured: LCDR Begun and LT Yannutz at the pier in Captain's Bay, Unalaska, AK

The *Dyson's* talented surf team braved the cold and caught some waves! Bonfires and corn hole followed soon after on the beach.

The *Oscar Dyson* departed the port of Dutch Harbor, Alaska for the final time this season and is looking forward to a stop in their homeport of Kodiak before making the trek south to Newport!





# Marine Operations Center Pacific Islands *Oscar Elton Sette*

Sette crew assist with packing up camp on Southeast Island of Manawai (Pearl and Hermes Atoll)

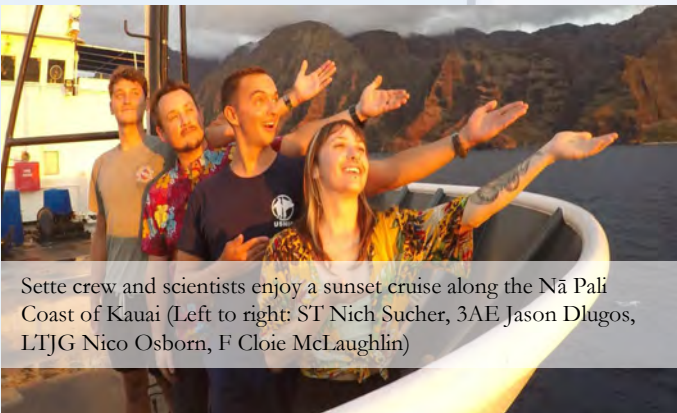


In August, *Sette* completed SE-22-06 with successful recovery of camps for monk seal, turtle and bird monitoring in Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument as well as surveys on Nihoa, Mokumanamana and Ni'ihau islands. In September SE-22-07 commenced, a bottom fish survey among the main Hawaiian islands.



SE-2 with Coxswain LF William Tejada and GVA Garret Tebbe returns with passengers who are glad to be back on the ship after 4 months on a remote island.

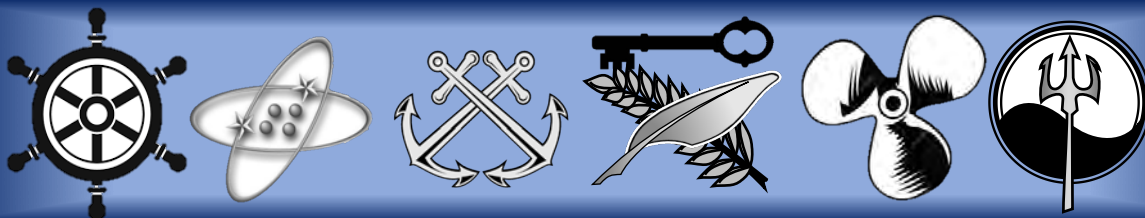
Sette welcomed aboard Engineering Cadet James Ross who joins us from the Merchant Marine Academy for sailing experience. The Aloha is strong with this one



Sette crew and scientists enjoy a sunset cruise along the Nā Pali Coast of Kauai (Left to right: ST Nich Sucher, 3AE Jason Dlugos, LTJG Nico Osborn, F Cloie McLaughlin)



# Marine Operations Advisory Council



**The goal of the MOAC is to improve communication and to promote ownership and cooperation in the development of NOAA Fleet's visions and directives.**

MOAC meeting with directors at MOLS 2021



## Elections are Coming Up!

Please consider stepping into a position on the council to help weigh in on conversations we as mariners need to be part of. If you have questions about it, reach out- we are happy to tell you what it's all about.

## Upcoming open seats:

- LDO (one vacant seat)
- Engineering (Evan McDermott's seat)
- Deck (Angie Ullmann's seat)
- Survey (Charlie Wilkins's and Chloe Arboleda's seat)
- Stewards (two vacant seats)
- ET (Sean Donovan/Dave Moore seat)

Email your department representative with concerns, or contact us directly at [mo.advisorycouncil.rep@noaa.gov](mailto:mo.advisorycouncil.rep@noaa.gov)

Also check out [our page](#) on the MO intranet to find out who your dept rep is and more about them:

<https://sites.google.com/noaa.gov/marine-operations/home/moac?authuser=2>



Questions about the newsletter?  
Would you like to become a contributor?  
Would you like to be on direct distribution?  
Or put your friends/family on Direct distribution?  
Or put your enemies on Direct Distribution?

Have an Idea for an article?

Would your command within OMAO like to participate?

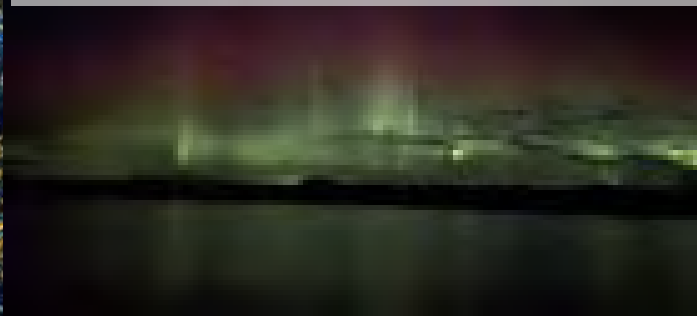
If you answered "yes" to any of these questions, well then have I got news for you!

You can do all of this and so much more by getting in touch with me at [MWRnews@noaa.gov](mailto:MWRnews@noaa.gov).

And stay tuned for the new intranet homepage of the MWR Newsletter, coming soon to the OMAO intranet near you! Don't forget to vote for the *Pisces* Who Wore it Best Contest. See you next month!



The two photographs from *Fairweather* that I was messing around with



# Thanks A Million

Thanks are in order for the cadre of MWR Newsletter Correspondents and Contributors. They are the stars that shine through the night and fill the newsletter with wonder This months Contributors were as follows:

Derrick Burrell, MOC-A

ENS Ashley Howell, *Fairweather*

ENS Anna Gordon, *Fairweather*

ENS Anna Gaskill, *Oscar Dyson*

SurvTech Elysha Ague, *Reuben Lasker*

ENS Justin Weeks, *Oregon II*

ENS Desda Sisson, *Nancy Foster*

ENS Heather Gaughan, *Pisces*

ENS Mickal Montgomery, *Henry Bigelow*

ENS Megan O'Neil, *Bell M Shimada*

ENS Cara Geiger, *Thomas Jefferson*

ENS Taroh Aniya, *Okeanus Explorer*

Lyndsay Beaulieu, MO-Engineering

Brian Kelly, MO-Engineering

Angela Ullman, MOAC

LCDR Damian Manda, *Oscar Elton Sette*,

ENS Zachary Boelter

LCDR Damien Manda

CDR Michael Gonsalves