

Beaufort Gyre Exploration Project: Dispatch 17: Briefs

Alex Kain
October 3, 2009

Today on the *Louis*, briefly:

—A team of WHOI scientists and technicians helicoptered to a floe to recover Ice-Tethered Profiler-8 (ITP-8) and deploy ITP-32. According to temperatures complicated the procedure, but exemplary helicopter and ship support made both the recovery and deployment go by "textbook" style at its fullest. Team leader and WHOI oceanographer Rick Krishfield noted that the profiling instrument was upside down and covered in mud up on the shelf. Still, he regarded today's work as a success, noting that it was the first time an ITP had been recovered and deployed in the same mounting chapped face, "it was a long, cold day." ITP-32 will provide invaluable data about ocean, ice, and current conditions in the coming year.



Seaman Derrick Stone, carpenter Gary Morgan, joined the WHOI team to bear the cold while installing ITP-32. The *Louis* looms in the distance.



Alice Orlich and Kristina Brown drill for ice. Taking ice core samples. Photo courtesy of

—Ice experts Alice Orlich, Jenny Hutchings, and Kristina Brown joined the team to take ice core samples that will be used in chemical, temperature, and salinity measurements. The ice cover on the floe was deeper than expected. Hutchings described the ice as "nice and slushy, very young" and looks forward to seeing the results from the helicopter, equipment, and two research teams, but stuck out in its surroundings of smaller, thinner floes. Hutchings believes the floe was a first- and second-year ice.

—The team also brought back a bucket of multi-year ice chips for use in a Saturday night ship favorite: cocktails.

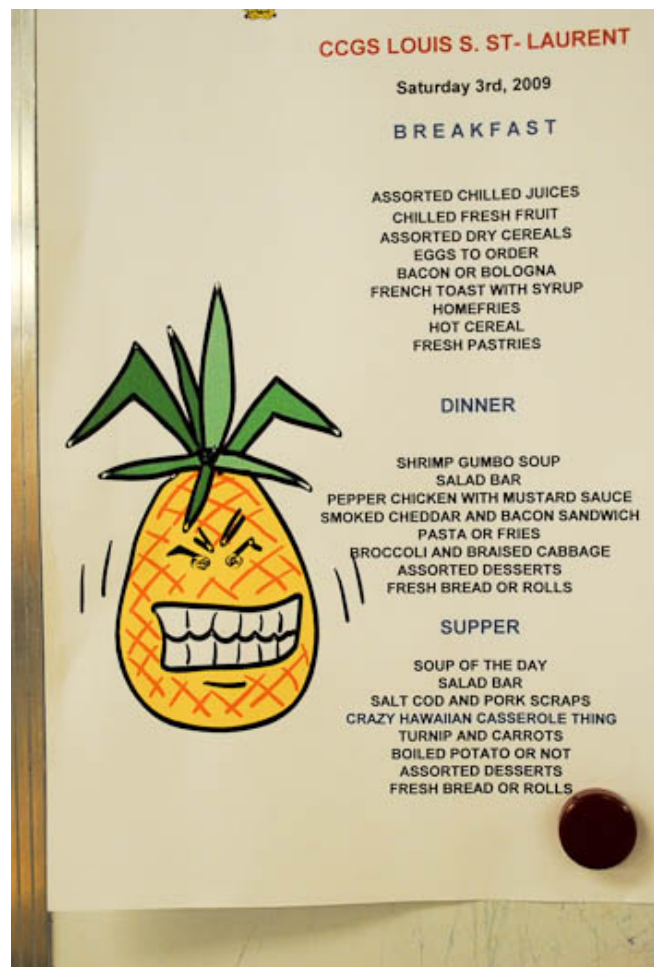
—Four bongo net deployments took place, two to 100 meters (328 feet), and one to 500 (1,640 feet) and 1,000 meters (3,281 feet). Commenting to Fisheries and Oceans Canada said, "it was freezing, about 20 below (Celsius) (-4 F)." The casts required over four hours.

—The ship reached its northernmost point of the expedition, roughly 150 degrees West, 80 degrees North. The high latitude indicates that the ship is in waters with considerable depth. The deep water allowed for a Conductivity, Temperature, and Depth monitor (CTD) cast to the incredible depth for the annual custom of Styrofoam shrinking. Foam cups fastened to the rosette compress under the enormous pressure of the water, shrinking and serving as souvenirs from the expedition, or teacups for Beanie Baby tea party enthusiasts.



Cups galore.

—The supper menu included a new dish called "Crazy Hawaiian Casserole Thing," (CHCT) a melange of noodles, ham, sun-dried tomatoes, creamed spinach, and ham. The name was so crazy that he and fellow cooks couldn't think of any other appropriate name. Glenn Cooper of Fisheries and Oceans Canada named it. Skeptics cast little hope for the CHCT, but "after being on the ice for three hours, it was excellent," said Hutchings. Food enthusiast Dan it up, "Don't you just feel like you're in Maui right now?"



Although the culinary description attests to CHCT's insanity, the deranged-looking pineapple does not suggest that the dish transmits harmful, Mad Cow-like symptoms. CHCT presents no risk of bodily harm.

—A handful of crew and scientists watched the 1971 James Bond film "Diamonds Are Forever". The audience gave mixed reviews, noting the film mediocre special effects. Coast Guard Cadet Kristina Kean, however, was keen on one element of the film. "It was great that the Bond girl was a

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