



NOAA Fisheries Pacific Islands Region

Fishery Bulletin

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NOAA Ship *Oscar Elton Sette* to Conduct Surveys in Waters Off Kona, Hawaii

Big white ship may be visible from shore

NOAA Fisheries announces that NOAA Ship *Oscar Elton Sette* will be conducting surveys in the near shore waters of Kona, Hawaii from June 12 to 26, 2013. This cruise builds on the survey conducted in July 2011 and aims to further understanding of Kona's unique ecosystem.

One of the primary goals of this survey is to learn more about how cetacean habitat varies throughout the Kona system. Various data gathering methods will be used to locate and, to the extent possible, identify marine mammals present. Combining the data gathered through different sampling methods will provide new insights into variations in cetacean habitat in the Kona system. The data will also build on that collected during the 2011 Kona Integrated Ecosystem Assessment (IEA) survey to provide a thorough assessment of the physical, chemical, and biological oceanography of Kona. To learn more about the full Kona Integrated Ecosystem Assessment visit: http://www.pifsc.noaa.gov/kona_iea/.

Scientists from NOAA's Pacific Islands Fisheries Science Center (PIFSC) and Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary, the University of Hawaii at Manoa and Hilo, the Joint Institute for Marine and Atmospheric Science, and Duke University will participate in the survey. The cruise is being led by PIFSC research oceanographer Phoebe Woodworth-Jefcoats.

Training students and educators remains an additional goal of the Kona IEA. To this end, eight graduate and two undergraduate students and a NOAA Teacher at Sea will be participating in the Kona IEA survey.