



**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**  
**National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**  
**NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE/NOAA FISHERIES**

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## **CRUISE REPORT<sup>1</sup>**

**VESSEL:** *Oscar Elton Sette*, Cruise 05-04 (OES-26)

**CRUISE PERIOD:** March 21 to April 3, 2005

**AREA OF OPERATION:** Northwestern Hawaiian Islands (Fig. 1)

**TYPE OF OPERATION:** Protected Species Division Monk Seal Field camp deployment

### **ITINERARY:**

- 21 March Embarked C. Yoshinaga, W. Putre, C. Littnan, K. Holman, T. Norris, K. Reuland, J. Sprague, G. Johnston, J. Shore, S. Kropidlowksi, J. Breeden, E. Jorgensen, M. Reynolds, E. Lund, J. Dhundale, and M. MacDonald. Departed Snug Harbor, Honolulu at 1600 hours en route to Laysan Island (3 days, 10 hours).
- 25 March Arrived Laysan Island at 0800 hours. Off-loaded equipment and supplies. Fill 80 6-gal water jugs for U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). Disembark Holman, Norris, Reuland, Shore, Kropidlowksi, Breeden, Jorgensen, and Reynolds. Embarked J. Dundale, E. Lund, and M. MacDonald. Departed Laysan Island 1700 hours en route to Lisianski Island (12 hours).
- 26 March Arrived Lisianski Island at 0800 hours. Off-loaded equipment and supplies. Disembarked Sprague and Johnston. Departed Lisianski Island 1700 hours en route to Pearl and Hermes Reef (15 hours).
- 27 March Arrived Pearl and Hermes Reef 0800 hours. Conducted day census of monk seal population (Seal Kittery, Grass, and Southeast Islands).
- 28 March Continued census of Pearl and Hermes Reef monk seal population (North and Little North Island). Departed 1700 hours en route to French Frigate Shoals (FFS) (2 days, 19 hours).



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<sup>1</sup> PIFSC Cruise Report CR-06-011  
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- 31 March Arrived FFS at 0800 hours. Launched SAFE Boat. Off-loaded equipment and supplies including six unleaded 55-gal drums and two 55-gal drums of diesel fuel. Loaded National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) equipment and supplies from second chance project, one outboard engine, and two 17-ft Boston Whaler boats. Departed FFS 1700 hours en route to Honolulu (2 days, 6 hours).
- 3 April Arrived Honolulu 0800 hours. Off-loaded trash and recyclables. Disembarked all scientific personnel. End of cruise.

#### **MISSIONS AND RESULTS:**

- A. Establish field camps at Laysan Island and Lisianski Island. Transport all equipment, supplies, and personnel.
- All field camps were deployed successfully.
- B. Conduct census of Hawaiian monk seals at Pearl and Hermes Reef.
- Census was conducted at Seal Kittery Island, Grass Island, North Island, and Southeast Island.
- C. Recover NMFS Second Chance project equipment from FFS.
- All equipment and supplies were recovered successfully.
- D. Conduct conductivity-temperature-depth (CTD) casts opportunistically.
- Six CTD casts were conducted successfully at designated locations within the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands.
- E. Resupply existing USFWS field camps at Laysan Island and FFS.
- All supplies and equipment were successfully off-loaded for the USFWS field camps..

**SCIENTIFIC  
PERSONNEL:**

Chad Yoshinaga, Chief Scientist, Pacific Islands Fisheries Science Center (PIFSC),  
National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS)  
William Putre, Safety Environmental Compliance Officer, PIFSC, NMFS  
Charles Littnan, Ecologist, PIFSC, NMFS  
Karen Holman, Cooperating Scientist, Aquatic Farms  
Tenaya Norris, Cooperating Scientist, Aquatic Farms  
Kenady Reuland, Cooperating Scientist, Aquatic Farms  
Jonathan Shore, Cooperating Scientist, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)  
Stephan Kropidowski, Cooperating Scientist, USFWS  
Jimmy Breeden, Cooperating Scientist, USFWS  
Evan Jorgensen, Cooperating Scientist, USFWS  
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Submitted by: (/s/Chad Yoshinaga)  
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Approved by: (/s/Samuel G. Pooley)  
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Samuel G. Pooley  
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Attachment

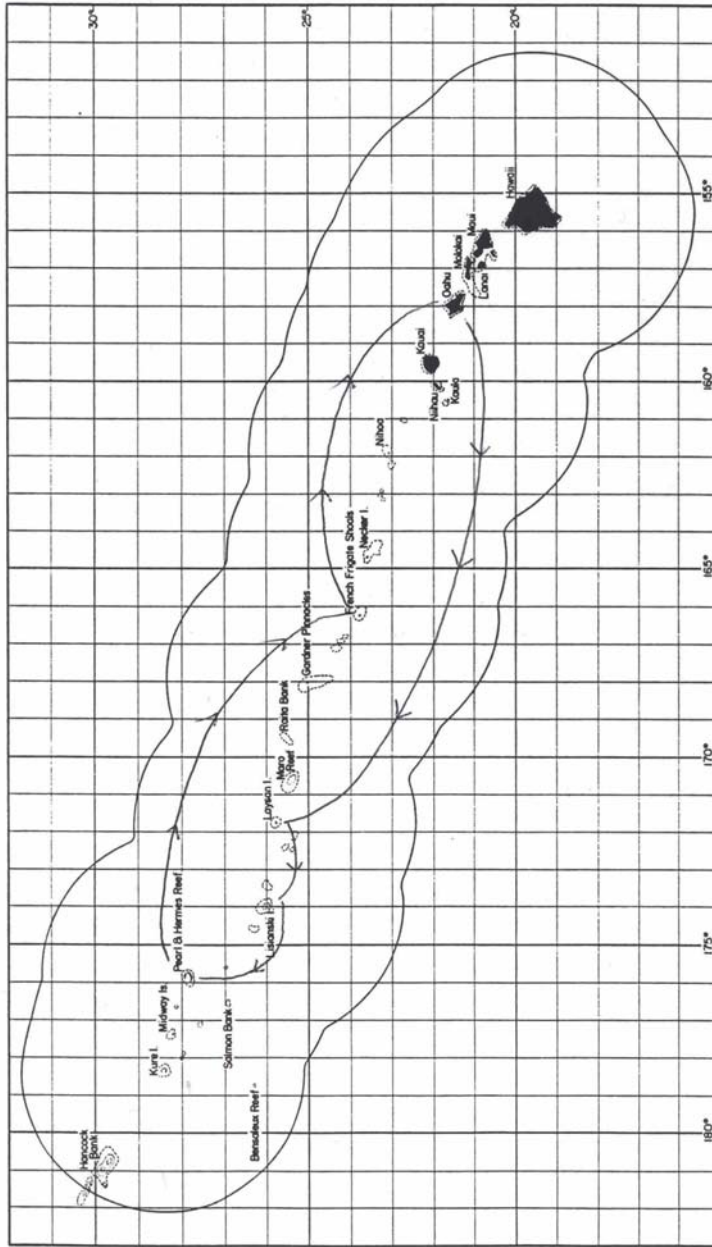


Figure 1.--Track of the NOAA ship Oscar Elton Sette cruise OES-05-04 (OES-26), March 21 to April 3, 2005.