



Appendix 3.

Travel log

Friday, August 22

The different research groups arrive to Loreto from Mexico and the U.S. At 17.00 we loaded our gear onto Argo at the public pier of Puerto Escondido and returned to sleep in the La Pinta Hotel in Loreto where the whole team had its first meeting, with the absence of Octavio who had to stay in San Diego with a bad cold and high fever.

Saturday, August 23

Day 1. Bajo San Marcial. We departed at 9.00 to Bajo San Marcial ($25^{\circ}31'N$, $110^{\circ}47'W$), where Brad led our first immersion in the DeepSee (w/Shmulik and Yosi as crew). A second dive was done in the afternoon with Vivianne and Francisco (Ofer as pilot). The rest of the team dived with tanks in the afternoon, under strong currents. We spent the night anchored south of Isla Catalana.

Sunday, August 24

Day 2. Bajo San Marcial. Third dive in the DeepSee with Ana and Exequiel (Shmulik piloting). Scuba diving in group with calmer currents and very good collecting. The day becomes cloudy and a warning is received of a tropical storm reaching Los Cabos. The weather conditions force the boat to return to Puerto Escondido around midday as tropical storm Julio approaches. We anchor at Puerto Escondido and, taking advantage of the forced break, Brad and Exequiel travel to Loreto in search of information and charts. They interview Rafael, the owner of the local dive shop, and Fernando Arcas, founder of Grupo Ecologista Antares. Fernando loans the expedi-

Argo (watercolor by Lorenzo Rosenzweig).

tion a sport fishing map that proved to be really helpful along the trip. Meanwhile, the taxonomists (Vivianne and Francisco) organized a photography lab in the boat where the collected specimens are deposited in special glass tanks for photo registration. Lorenzo, Margarita, and Ana assist in the establishment of the lab and take over the responsibility of documenting and photographing all the collected specimens.

Monday, August 25

Day 3. Puerto Escondido. We stay anchored in the shelter of Puerto Escondido. At 10.00 hours tropical storm Julio reaches its maximum intensity. It rains heavily, and gigantic waterfalls descend in torrents from the sheer cliffs of the Sierra de la Giganta. Around 13.00 the storm calms down, and we prepare for departure. In the afternoon we Scuba-dived down into Bajo Candeleros ($25^{\circ}45'N$, $111^{\circ}11'W$), adjacent to Isla Danzante. In the evening Octavio rejoins the group with three hours of delay, after an erratic trip Tijuana–Hermosillo–Loreto, delayed and threatened by the bad weather. The photographic work continues on board.

Tuesday, August 26

Day 4. Las Áimas. With Octavio on board, the team is complete! We depart at 7.00 towards Las Áimas, where the fourth immersion of the DeepSee is done with Octavio and Christian (Ofer as pilot). A fifth DeepSee immersion for specimen collecting is led by Carlos (w/Shmulik and Yosi). We all approved our Nitrox certification! To celebrate we do two Scuba-dives with Nitrox around the Las Áimas rock, one in the morning and one in the afternoon. In the evening we sail to San José and anchor in a cove north of the island, facing the peninsula on the western side of the island. From this day onwards all our dives were done with Nitrox.

Wednesday, August 27

Day 5. Las Áimas ($25^{\circ}07'N$, $110^{\circ}31'W$). We hoist anchor at 7.00 and depart towards Las Áimas. Sixth DeepSee dive in the morning with Lorenzo and Margarita (w/Ofer as pilot). Seventh dive at 15.00 h for specimen collecting, led by Francisco



Crab I (watercolor by Lorenzo Rosenzweig).

(w/Shmulik and Yosy as crew), and eighth dive at 18.00 h with Vivianne and Carlos (Shmulik as pilot). We did three Nitrox dives around the Las Ánimas rock, one in the morning, one on the afternoon, and a late dive at 18.00 h. The team work photographing and documenting collected specimens continues.

Thursday, August 28

Day 6. Bajo Marisla (24°42'N, 110°18'W). In the morning, ninth DeepSee dive with Exequiel and Paula (Ofer as pilot); tenth dive in the afternoon for specimen collecting led by Vivianne and Francisco (w/Shmulik). Three tank dives, one in the morning (whole group), one at 15.00 h, and a last one at dusk with Octavio and Carlos, to photograph.

Friday, August 29

Day 7. Bajo Marisla (24°42'N, 110°18'W). Eleventh DeepSee dive with Brad and Richard (Ofer piloting) in the morning, followed by the twelfth dive in the afternoon, a collecting dive led by Carlos with Shmulik and Yosy as crew. In the morning, one group SCUBA-dived in the pelagic environment while other explored the seamount reefs counting sea cucumbers (*Isostichopus fuscus*) to compare with their abundance in the coastal reefs. This second group encountered a whale shark which an hour later approached the boat and everybody jumped into the water with their snorkels to see it. During our second tank dive in the afternoon the whale shark swam among the divers while feeding in the plankton soup that wells-up around the seamount, offering an opportunity for excellent photos. Lorenzo and Octavio devoted this second dive to photographing and documenting in detail the life in the reef.

Saturday, August 30

Day 8. Bajo Marisla. Thirteenth DeepSee dive, in the morning, collecting under the lead of Vivianne and Francisco (Shmulik as pilot); fourteenth dive at 15.00 h with Octavio and Exequiel (Ofer piloting). Last dive of the day (fifteenth of the cruise) in the afternoon, at 17.30, with Carlos and Richard for collecting purposes (Shmulik at

the controls). The day has provided good collections of corals, echinoderms, mollusks, and a gigantic sponge from the deep, ca 300 m. Two SCUBA-dives, one in the morning and one in the afternoon, basically to photograph the shallow top of the seamount.

Sunday, August 31

Day 9. Bajos de San Dieguito ($25^{\circ}12'N$, $110^{\circ}42'W$). At 9.00 h, sixteenth DeepSee dive with Margarita and Vivianne (Shmulik piloting), and at 15.00 dive number 17 was done with two of our visitors and expedition supporters from the "Santísima": the DeepSee descended with Christy Walton and Martin Goebel (Ofer in the controls). The SCUBA group dived in the morning in the central reef of San Dieguito, and in the afternoon we did a second dive drifting in a strong warm current counterclockwise around Isla San Diego until a point north of the island where we hit a cold west-east countercurrent flowing from the San José channel.

Monday, September 1

Day 10. Bajo El Cochi (Punta Baja; $25^{\circ}45'N$, $111^{\circ}11'W$) and return to Puerto Escondido. In the morning, eighteenth DeepSee dive for specimen collecting led by Richard and Octavio (Ofer at the helm); nineteenth and last dive at 13.00 h with Brad and Ralph (Shmulik as pilot). The SCUBA team dived first at 10.00 and then in the afternoon at 15.00, both times to document and photograph the shallow part of the seamount. Evening in Puerto Escondido where we had a farewell dinner with Steve and Hiro Drogan, and the crew of the "Discovery".

Tuesday, September 2

Puerto Escondido. With the sadness of separating and parting after one of the most marvelous and intense weeks of our lives we disembark, load our vans, and take our different ways back home.

Whale shark
(watercolor by Lorenzo Rosenzweig).





