

Journal #5 Jan 13,2005

1. 132200Z January 05
 2. Position: Lat: 22-28.0S, LONG: 150-00.0W
 3. Course: 180 T
 4. Speed: 11.5 kts
 5. Distance: 118.0 NM
 6. Steaming Time: 10H 18M
 7. Station Time: 13H 42M
 8. Fuel: 2,768 gals
 9. Sky: Cu, Sc 5
 10. Wind: 080-T, 5 Kts.
 11. Sea: Rippled
 12. Swell: 090/010-T, 2-3 Ft
 13. Barometer: 1013.8 Mb
 14. Temperature: Air: 30.0 C, Sea: 27.8 C
 15. Equipment Status: Normal
 16. Comments: Station U/W to station #13.
- MASTER, R/V ROGER REVELLE

We are 3 days out of Tahiti and the weather is still very warm and beautiful. The CTD casts are going very well, no problems yet. Sea is calm and almost looks like a lake sometimes.

This year I told my students we were going to have a mild El Nino, at least according to NOAA and NASA late last August. Well from the torrential rains in Southern California to the devastating bushfires in Australia, it is shaping up to be a very visible El Nino. I pasted the article below on the bushfires in Australia for my students to read. As we discussed in class during an El Nino event, the trade winds weaken and warm, nutrient poor water occupies the entire tropical Pacific Ocean. Heavy rains that are tied to the warm water move into the central Pacific ocean and cause drought in Australia and Indonesia. The water temperatures in the western pacific have also changed, enough that the tuna that usually runs off of Samoa and that area are not there this year, but off the coast of Peru, where the water should be cold, there are great tuna runs for the first time in years. I want my students to consider what it would be like to be a tuna fisherman counting on those tuna for your livelihood and then not being in the right place to catch them. Most of the boats are out in the western pacific and by the time they got over to the coast of Peru that run will probably be over. Could they have used the predictions of NOAA to help them decide where to go for tuna this year? Do we yet have a reliable enough system to be able to make economic decisions like this? With the disasterous Tsunami this year, consider what effect the El Nino might have on the peoples of Indonesia? They had massive flooding in low lying coastal areas and farmlands were inundated with seawater during this flooding depositing salt on the soil. Without the monsoonal rains to wash out

the salt and to irrigate their crops it is very possible that huge food shortages will occur.

For the most recent photos of this El Nino and more information go to:

<http://sealevel.jpl.nasa.gov/science/jason1-quick-look/>

These are the latest images from the Jason Satellite. Jason is currently flying in Tandem with the TOPEX satellite , using radar altimetry to collect sea surface height data of all the world's oceans.

For additional education resources from NASA/JPL and TOPEX/Poseidon go to:

<http://sealevel.jpl.nasa.gov/education/education.html>

It will be interesting to see if we see any differences in typical sea surface temperatures while we are taking samples out here.

*** Nine dead, three missing after Australia's worst bushfires in 20 years (AFP)

*** Thu, 13 Jan 2005 05:42:43 GMT

ADELAIDE, Australia (AFP) - Three people remain missing as Australia begins a massive cleanup operation after its worst bushfires in more than 20 years killed at least nine, among them children, police said.

Fire crews had finally contained the blaze that ravaged the rural and remote Eyre Peninsula in South Australia state, as residents complained of inadequate preparations and early estimates put the damage bill at millions of dollars.

In the past few days fires in the state have razed around 80,000 hectares (198,000 acres) of bush and farmland, destroying homes, farms, cars and caravans, while more have burnt out of control in Victoria, killing livestock.

Police told AFP Thursday that three people remained missing in South Australia as well as the nine confirmed dead, most of them burnt to death in their cars as they tried to flee.

More than 100 people were injured and thousands of sheep and cattle were dead or badly burnt.

South Australia state Premier Mike Rann announced six million dollars (4.6 million US) in aid for the stricken region and was expected to overfly the damage during the day, with early estimates putting the cost around 15 million dollars.

Water supplies were disrupted after the region's main pipe was damaged. Thousands of litres (gallons) in bottles was trucked in to the main town of Port Lincoln and it was expected to be three weeks before supplies were restored.

For questions on the cruise please e-mail me at: brice@rv-revelle.ucsd.edu

To see a map of our current location go to:
http://shipsked.ucsd.edu/general/rev_loc.html