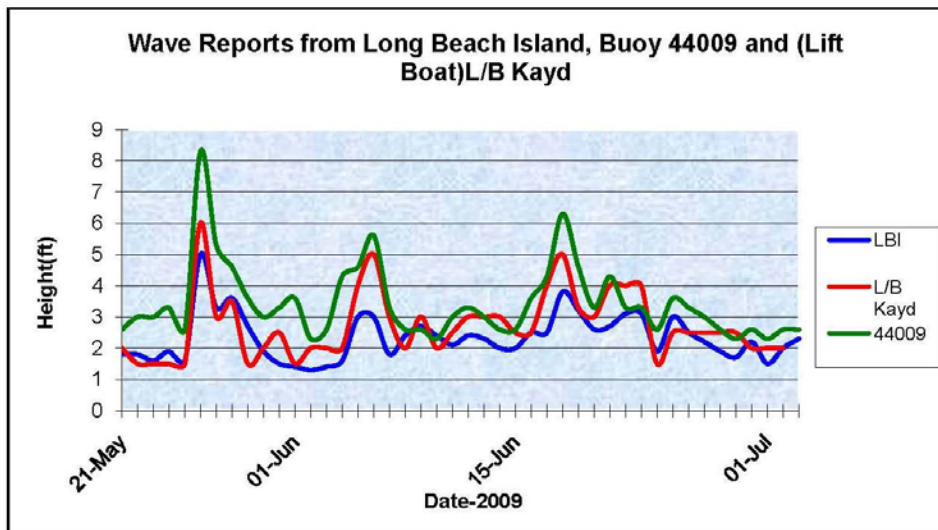


Expedition Log for IODP Expedition 313 New Jersey Shallow Shelf

Week 10

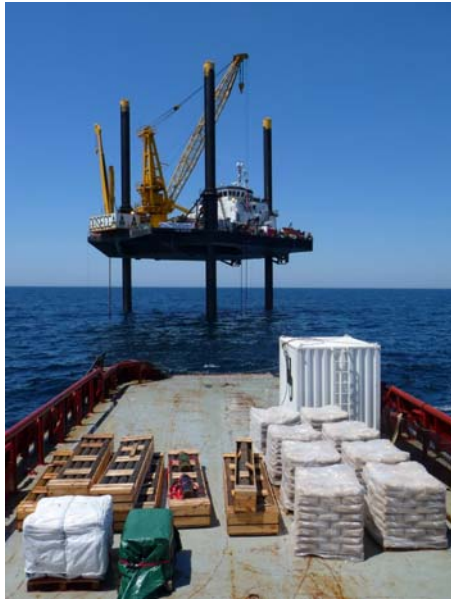
Weather...through wind and rain, sun and storm! Carol Cotterill

We received an interesting email today from a gentleman who works for NOAA in the Marine and Hurricane Program. He has been monitoring our weather reports for information on daily wave heights, and has been plotting them against a NOAA buoy to the southwest of us and a place on Long Island Beach, New Jersey. The match was surprisingly good! So even though we may be having a bad day weather wise out on the platform, at least that information is of use to someone! But it got me thinking about the weather.....



Plotted by the NOAA, Marine and Hurricane Program

Now I live in Scotland, a definite candidate for having all weather types in one day. But the range of weather we've had offshore has surprised me. I joined the *L/B Kayd* on a lovely day – blue skies, calm seas.....a very different story to Annick, for whom the *Kayd* loomed suddenly out of the fog like some strange monster from a sea shanty!



C_Cotterill©ECORD_IODP



A_Fehr©ECORD_IODP

The strangest feeling is that of being entirely cut off when surrounded by a thick fog bank – often we haven't been able to see the sea from the deck of the platform....and you know it's only 20 m away! And then Greg, one of our Co-chiefs had a very entertaining ride out and transfer onto the platform, as the sea swell threatened to not only get the feet of personnel "damp" – an understatement if ever I heard one, but also float pieces of equipment places they shouldn't be.



G_Mountain©ECORD_IODP

The torrential rain and hail we've had on occasion makes for uncomfortable drilling conditions, when you're out on an exposed drill floor for a 12 hour shift. Strangely, I could find very few pictures of this weather as most of us tend to retreat to our containers! A similar "retreat" reaction ensued when a tropical depression passed to the SE of us, and 40 knot winds began lifting hardhats off hooks and overboard!



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But I think it will be the thunderstorms that will stick in the minds of people who have experienced one out here.



M_Mowat©ECORD_IODP

The lightning strikes and thunder claps are incredibly loud, reverberating around the platform. The radar showed one storm I experienced stretching for more than 24 nautical miles in every direction around us. We have three legs, two cranes and a drilling rig all sticking proudly up into the sky – the perfect lightning conductors if ever I saw one. And so when it gets too dangerous to work due to the threat of lightning strikes on the platform.....we all retreat inside again – some to work, and some for a well earned rest!



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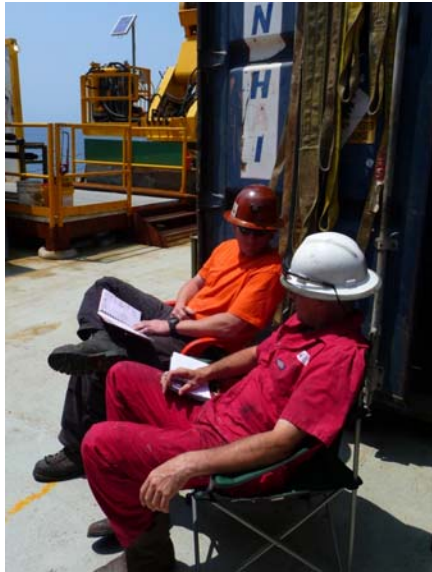
But when it's sunny out here, it is glorious. Spirits are high, people are happy to be out and about, there's a cooling offshore breeze so you don't get too hot. Work gets brought outside when possible and impromptu picnic areas spring up!



C_Basile©ECORD_IDDP



C_Basile©ECORD_IDDP



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And what could be better after a hard day “in the office” than a nice B-B-Q and root beer on the aft deck?



J-N_Proust©ECORD_IODP

Before retiring to watch the magical sunsets we often get out here. Experiencing the wind and wet, sun and storms has made this one small platform feel like many different places. The view is ever changing, despite being the same portion of sea and sky, as the weather rolls on through.



W_Hale©ECORD_IODP



H_Otsuka©ECORD_IODP