

## In The Wake of the Quest Summer 2010

All of us here at Quest Marine Services hope that our friends and colleagues are enjoying the summer season. Summer for us at Quest Marine means diving and field investigations on our various shipwreck research projects.

The past several months have been a busy time here at Quest Marine, supporting client projects. Additionally the R/V Quest underwent some major shipyard work in April.

Late last fall and again this spring found us working with Lockheed Martin Sippican and Ultra Electronics Ocean Systems, conducting at sea testing of communication devices which they are developing for the US Navy. A portion of this testing involved underwater filming of the communications equipment being deployed. [www.sippican.com](http://www.sippican.com)  
[www.ultra-os.com](http://www.ultra-os.com)



Cameraman Ethan Gordon takes a break between dives, while Ben Smith and Bob Wallace head out in the Zodiac.

Over the winter, Quest Marine provided support for Woods Hole Group, as they conducted water current and sediment plume dispersal surveys at the entrance to New Bedford harbor. [www.woodsholegroup.com](http://www.woodsholegroup.com)

In February Quest Marine Services teamed up with Ocean Tech USA to recover acoustic doppler current profilers fitted in trawl resistant mounts for NOAA's NOS / CO-OPS of Durham N.H. Winter diving and weather conditions aside, this project proved to be challenging from a number of aspects. The surface pop up buoys had failed on all four TRM's. The precise location of the TRM's was not exactly known, and three of the units were located in areas of extreme current including the Cape Cod Canal, Woods Hole Pass and Robinson's Hole. Fortunately the TRM's were fitted with Teledyne Benthos pinger/locators. These devices were invaluable in locating three of the TRM's. Careful preliminary planning and close teamwork were instrumental in the successful completion of this project over a three-day period in late February and early March. [www.oceantechusa.com](http://www.oceantechusa.com)



Tom Mulloy prepares for an early March dive in the Cape Cod Canal. Steve O'Malley, Steve Scheuer and Bob Wallace stand by to assist Tom.



Trawl resistant ADCP mounts on deck.

In March, Teledyne Benthos, conducted sea trials on one of their Deep Tow side scan sonar's, which was deployed from the R/V Quest off the coast of Rhode Island.

[www.teledynebenthos.com](http://www.teledynebenthos.com)

Earlier this spring Chris and Dirk Casagrande of Sea Sciences hosted a training and demo session on the Acrobat Tow Body for some of their clients aboard the R/V Quest. The training took place in New Bedford harbor and the adjoining waters of Buzzards Bay.

[www.seasciences.com](http://www.seasciences.com)



Dirk Casagrande assists two clients with Acrobat training.

#### Notes from the Shipyard.

Over the month of April the R/V Quest was taken out of service for a complete main engine and reduction gear overhaul. The vessels main engine and reduction gear were completely disassembled and rebuilt to factory specifications by the engine shop team at Fairhaven Shipyard Inc. [www.fairhavenshipyard.com](http://www.fairhavenshipyard.com) The majority of the work was performed by Tony Medeiros one of Fairhaven Shipyards most experienced diesel mechanics. The entire project came under the supervision of Dennis Deveau, Fairhaven's engine shop manager. We could not be more pleased with the outstanding work performed by Fairhaven Shipyard on this project.

Over the course of the Shipyard period, Quest marine personnel completed hydraulic and electrical system upgrades to the vessel as well. Since emerging from the shipyard the R/V Quest has performed flawlessly and is now ready for many more years of reliable service.

## Shipwreck Exploration and Archeology

The 2010 field season is off to a great start. Weather plays an enormous factor in all of our exploration projects, particularly at sites further offshore. The weather this season, has cooperated, enabling us to make progress investigating new potential shipwreck sites and continuing field research on our ongoing projects. Fourth of July weekend found the R/V Quest anchored South of Nantucket Island, over the wreck of the British steamship SS Newcastle City. The Newcastle City was lost on a voyage from England to New York in 1887. Our team located the remains of the ship in 2008 and positively identified the shipwreck that fall. Further exploration and documentation took place over the holiday weekend at the shipwreck site. We hope to have a more detailed report on this subject this fall.

All of us at Quest Marine Services wish everyone a very productive and enjoyable summer. We look forward to assisting you with your next project!