



The HB Ocean Adventure Schools Programme is a Galway Stopover Volvo Ocean Race 2008-2009 Legacy Initiative. It introduces teachers and students in primary and secondary schools throughout Ireland to the sport of sailing, the marine environment, Ireland and its history with the sea, a variety of geography lessons and marine careers.

The Green Dragon crew has five days remaining until the start of Leg 6 from Rio to Boston. It is a 4,900 mile leg up through the Atlantic Ocean.

OCEAN FACTS & CLASSROOM TASKS...

- **The Atlantic Ocean** is the second largest of the world's five oceans (after the Pacific Ocean, but larger than the Indian Ocean, Southern Ocean, and Arctic Ocean). The Kiel Canal (Germany), Oresund (Denmark-Sweden), Bosporus (Turkey), Strait of Gibraltar (Morocco-Spain), and the Saint Lawrence Seaway (Canada-US) are important strategic access waterways. The Atlantic Ocean provides some of the world's most heavily trafficked sea routes, between and within the Eastern and Western Hemispheres. Learn more Atlantic Ocean facts at www.letsdoitschools.com

The Atlantic Coastline measures: 111,866 km

The Atlantic Ocean experiences tropical cyclones (hurricanes) which develop off the coast of Africa near Cape Verde and move westward into the Caribbean Sea. Hurricanes can occur from May to December, but are most frequent from August to November

Icebergs are common in Davis Strait, Denmark Strait, and the north western Atlantic Ocean from February to August and have been spotted as far south as Bermuda and the Madeira Islands.

In the Atlantic Ocean the endangered marine species include the manatee, seals, sea lions, turtles, and whale.

- As the Green Dragon sail up to Boston they will get a chance to see many amazing Atlantic Ocean mammals. **Humpback whales** are marine mammals which live in three oceans of the world including the Atlantic Ocean. The humpback whale is a Baleen whale. One of the larger rorqual species, adults range in length from 12–16 metres (40–50 ft) and weigh approximately 36,000 kilograms (79,000 lb). The humpback has a distinctive body shape, with unusually long pectoral fins and a knobby head. This week, your task is to source pictures of Humpback Whales and share them with your classmates. Check out www.letsdoitschools.com and other sources.

Humpback whales are rorquals (family Balaenopteridae), a family that includes the blue whale, the fin whale, the Bryde's whale, the Sei whale and the Minke whale. Humpback whales can easily be identified by their stocky bodies with obvious humps and black dorsal colouring. The species feeds only in summer and lives off fat reserves during winter. Humpback whales will only feed rarely and opportunistically while in their wintering waters. It is an energetic feeder, taking krill and small schooling fish, such as herring, salmon, capelin

and sand lance as well as Mackerel, pollock and haddock in the North Atlantic. Krill and Copepods have been recorded from Australian and Antarctic waters. It hunts fish by direct attack or by stunning them by hitting the water with its pectoral fins or flukes.

Size comparison against an average human:

