

Capt. Daley's Sea Stories

MV ART CARLSON

Luba and the Kingfisher

20 November 2011



We continue to standby in the Luba Anchorage coming alongside the dock occasionally to complete the loadout of frac equipment for Baker Hughes.

Once completed, we voyaged 24 miles West of Luba to perform commissioning tests. A pair of Kingfishers joined us for the occasion. They are beautiful birds and very difficult to photograph due to their incredible speed.



The William C. Hightower is a sister ship to the Art Carlson. She was docked behind us in Luba. This is what the Art Carlson looks like without the frac equipment.



Squeezing boats in between boats is common practice in Luba with such limited dock space. There was little clearance fore and aft but the Squires boat docked securely without touching either Tidewater VS-480.



A reel of 3 inch coflex high pressure tubing and a reel of 4 inch were the last two pieces loaded to complete the frac plant.



The smaller reel is being loaded onto the Art Carlson.



Sunrise in the tropics provides unique lighting opportunities.



Twenty four miles from shore and we are joined by a pair of Kingfishers. These birds are quite fast and uniquely beautiful.



They have unique colors and patterns.



They use their long bill to catch fish as big as they are.



They were not scared of me or my camera.



At 1/1000 of a second shutter speed the bird is still a blur due to its remarkable speed.



Underway returning to Luba, two of my AB's are on watch for other vessels and pirates.



Emmanuel is our messman and takes care of the rooms and laundry for our twelve clients on board.



A hard working, kind faced AB from Equatorial Guinea