



Research Activity Report
Supported by “Leading Graduate Program in Primatology and Wildlife Science”
 (Please be sure to submit this report after the trip that supported by PWS.)

2017. 01. 19

Affiliation/Position	Wildlife Research Center/MI
Name	Sota Inoue

1. Country/location of visit	
Rausu-cho, Hokkaido prefecture	
2. Research project	
Killer whale field research	
3. Date (departing from/returning to Japan)	
2016.6.29-2016.7.4	
4. Main host researcher and affiliation	
PhD. Yukiko Yamamoto, WRC	
5. Progress and results of your research/activity (You can attach extra pages if needed)	
Please insert one or more pictures (to be publicly released). Below each picture, please provide a brief description.	
<p>The objectives of this research are to learn the marine ecosystem in Shiretoko and research methods of marine mammals.</p> <p>We left the port for sailing at 6:00 and returned at 16:00. Our main task was to search Killer whale and other marine mammals by using binocular after we left the port. We found Killer whales and took photos for identification. At same time, we recorded cries of Killer whales and observed of their behavior.</p> <p>The members belonging to our group succeeded in mounting data loggers to three Killer whales before we arrived at the research site. Our ship searched groups of Killer whales to rely on information of the GPS.</p> <p>Because I had not observed wild marine mammals, it was good experience for me to observe marine mammals on a ship. Killer whales seem to organize a big group beyond my expectation. I could see more than 20 individuals at one time. The reason of gathering Killer whales was to find breeding partner. I got an opportunity to listen voices of Killer whales by using an underwater microphone. They had some vocal pattern and the frequency of vocal communications was very high. According to vocal communication, their behavior had various pattern, for example, breaching and spy hopping.</p> <p>We could observe them three days. However, searching Killer whales was very hard task for me because of high waves.</p> <p>It was good opportunity to have conversations with members of research group and people of a hotel who push forward economic development by conserving nature of Shiretoko.</p>	
	
Dorsal fin of Killer whale	Members observing Killer whales
6. Others	
I'm grateful for PhD. Yukiko Yamamoto, the people involved and PWS giving me this opportunity.	

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