

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.)

2014. MM, DD	
Affiliation/Position	Primate Research Institute / M1
Name	Yugo Kawamoto

1. Country/location of visit
Rausu-cho,Hokkaido
2. Research project
Killer Whale Field Research course
3. Date (departing from/returning to Japan)
2016. 6. 29 – 2016. 7. 4 (6days)
4. Main host researcher and affiliation
Dr. Yukiko Yamamoto, Wildlife Research Center
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 research to understand ecology of killer whale has been continuing in Rausu. This time we joined to the research team to understand habitat and behavior of killer whale and learn research methods to reveal them.</p> <p>6/29 Inuyama → Rausu 6/30-7/3 Research 7/4 Rausu → Inuyama</p> <p>1st day We left port at 5:30. First we found white-sided dolphins. This time was first observation in this season at Rausu. I could observe 4,5 individuals. They swam around our ship for a while. Because their move was speedy and I was inexperienced to observe marine life, I had not so many times to see clearly their shape. Before we join to this research, the team succeeded to install transmitters to three individuals. Therefore we could find them easily in comparison to usual. This day we could find three packs. The swimming shape is powerful, I was very excited. We took photos from left side of killer whale because we can see the difference in scar and pattern of left side dorsal fin when we identify the individual.</p> <p>2nd day This day was best condition to observe due to the good weather and calm sea. We could find many killer whales. Sometimes they passed by our ship. We found some behavior. For example, spy hop and breach.</p> <p>3rd day We could many individuals but many of them avoided us. They can dive about five minutes, and they appeared far away after diving. Because of dense fog, we sometimes lost them. However, we found killer whales closely after lunch. They were very active, we often observed their behavior.</p> <p>4th day Because sea was rough due to the rain until morning, it was difficult to find killer whales. We found them in the first three days thanks to transmitters. I understood that it is usually difficult to find the killer whales.</p> <p>In this research, I was excited that we could observe the behavior of killer whales. And I thought that it was difficult to reveal the ecology of them because the behavior that we can observe is only near the surface of the sea. That's why we have to think about methods.</p>

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Under the sea



Killer whales and Shiretoko Peninsula



Parent and Child



Deer that we found back of hotel



Spy Hop



Flipper Flopping ?

6. Others

I'd like to thank the support of PWS, Dr. Yamamoto, the member of research team and ship "Hamanasu".