

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.)

Affiliation/Position	Primate Research Institute/M1
Name	Yuri KAWAGUCHI

1. Country/location of visit
Rausu,Hokkaido, Japan
2. Research project
Killer whale observation tour
3. Date (departing from/returning to Japan)
2016. 06. 29-2016.07.04 (6days)
4. Main host researcher and affiliation
Yamamoto Yukiko (WRC)
5. Progress and results of your research/activity (You can attach extra pages if needed)
<p>Please insert one or more pictures (to be publicly released). Below each picture, please provide a brief description.</p> <p>SCHEDULE</p> <p>June29th : move to Rausu</p> <p>June30th-July3th : Killer whale observation(AM:5:00-PM:16:00)</p> <p>July 4th: back to Inuyama</p> <p>I participated killer whale tour. This course aimed to learn how to make behavioral observation of marine animals and to observe them in Shiretoko. For 3 out of 4days, we observed many killer whales. We also encountered Pacific White-sided Dolphins. The research team has made individual identification for 141 individuals. Just before we visited, they succeeded to attach GPS to 3 whales fin. They are looking for killer whales based on the information provided by the GPS. Although there were a gap between the information given by GPS and actual position of killer whale, GPS should be still good tool for research on killer whale.</p> <p>We observed many behaviors: tail slap, breach, spy hop, rolling and backstroke. Spy hop is a behavior for investigating around. I observed seaweed on a fin of a killer whale twice. This is a kind of play. We observed just 4 days but nonetheless observed many behaviors. However, it also means that these behaviors are almost all that we can see from the ship. Because they are doing something under the sea except just some behaviors like breather or jumping, the behavioral observation of whales is more challenging than primates in the sense that their behaviors are difficult to see. The researchers were recording the vocalization by using microphone. Besides behavioral data, these kind of data help whale study. I worried about bad effect which ships may give to the whales. However, killer whales sometimes came very close to our ship and they sometimes submerged long time and disappeared. Therefore, they can choose how close they are to the ship and it would not be a big problem.</p> <p>Overall, I'm very satisfied with this course because we observed wild killer whale very close. On the final day, we couldn't see the whale but it made us to realize how lucky we were on the other three days. One thing what I</p>

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.)

was impressed was the fact that there are still few things we know about killer whales. I found the research on killer whale is very interesting because of it.



Tail slap



Breaching



Spy hop



Spy hop



Spy hop at the same time



Play with seaweed

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.)



Rolling



Back stroke



We can see the behaviors under the sea just under the good condition



Recording of the vocalization



They use dorsal fin for identification of individual

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.)



Social play?



Shiretoko-mountains on their back



They are sometimes very close each other



Pacific White-sided Dolphins



Breaching



Rainbow blow

6.Others

I would like to thank Ms. Yamamoto and those who have worked for this course. I also thank PWS program.