

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.)

	2015. 12, 25
Affiliation/Position	Wildlife Research Center/D1
Name	Kasumi Sakakibara

1. Country/location of visit
USA, San Francisco, Monterey bay
2. Research project
Training for the observation for wild cetaceans in Montray bay.
3. Date (departing from/returning to Japan)
2015.12.13-2015.12.23 (10 days)
4. Main host researcher and affiliation
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>I joined the 21th biennial Conference on the biology of Marine Mammals from 13th to 18th December. There were more than 2,200 attendees and 1,536 presentations in this conference. I presented results of my recent studies entitled “Differences of ‘inquiring’ behavior toward underwater swimmers in wild dolphins of sex and age class” at the poster session on 18:00-20:00 in 15th December. There were several researchers and students belonging to various institutions around the world, such as Taiwan, Brazil, Australia and UK, came to discuss about my presentation. It was my great experience to talk with an Australian researcher who was studying about the social structure of odontocetes. They were interested in my methods and results, in which I described the observation of the dolphins’ behavior directly underwater. In this poster session, I learned that new population of Indo-Pacific bottlenose dolphins, which are the subject of my study, was found and that a researcher in Hong-Kong is conducting cognitive experiments to the same species in the captive condition. There are 14 individuals of that dolphins in the Ocean Park Aquarium, Hong-Kong. It is the largest numbers of captive dolphins of this species. It had been generally very difficult to observe the behaviors of captive Indo-Pacific bottlenose dolphins because there used to be a few aquariums which had kept them, therefore I contacted the researcher and discuss about my future study plan using captive dolphins. Furthermore, I met again a Korean student who was studying dolphins in Cheju island and was introduced to me at the last PWS symposium. We reported our studies to each other. We scheduled our joint research in 2016.</p> <p>There were a lot of researches studying baleen whales in this conference. The migration route of Humpback whales is suggested to be related to moon illumination. Using new data loggers, video recorders and GPS based on new technologies, skin conditions and external parasites of right whales were reported clearly. In addition, I was also interested in a cognitive study measuring sensitivities of front legs of sea otters which suggested that sea otters use the physical perception to seek for diets.</p> <p>In “Plenary talk”, two guest speakers talked about some effects of climate changes to polar environments and marine mammals. I thought it was very important to share these problems between researchers of marine mammals.</p> <p>I visited Monterey Bay Aquarium on 19th December. The aquarium staffs conduct diligently outreach activities and educational activities about conservation there. They are mainly focusing on the conservation of sea otters, white sharks and sea turtles living in semi-wild backyard of the aquarium. Additionally, they emphasized the importance to conserve biodiversity of the local environment connected with some fishes so they reproduced the local ocean in the water tank to show visitors them linked the wild. These exhibitions were very effective to understand marine biology well. It was nice point that they send news on their web site at any times, for example, a wild sea otter gave birth a baby in the sanctuary near the aquarium on 20th Dec., 2015.</p> <p>I practiced onboard training to observe wild marine mammals in 20th. We took whale watching ships two times: 10:00-12:30 and 13:00-15:30. There were many wild marine mammals, such as sea otters, harbor seals and California sea lions in the harbor. I observed that a sea lion showed off a sun fish and that a sea otter was feeding. Moreover, I found three gray whales moving toward south from Bering sea, but it was difficult to identify individuals exactly. I also found five humpback whales. It was difficult that they were identified temporally but we considered the each individual by the photo of their tails. The feeding behavior of humpback whales is well known as ‘bubble-net feeding’, a complex</p>

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tactic for capturing many prey at once. I observed the similar behavior conducted by two individuals. Regarding odontocetes, I found approx. 1200 individuals of Long-beaked common dolphins and 70 individuals of Risso’s dolphins. I experienced that it is difficult to find cetaceans from the vessels, and to chase focal animals.

I took a sea kayak to explore around the coastal region, mainly around the area nearby Monterey Bay Aquarium in 21th. Sea condition was not so bad, but it was drizzling on and off, therefore we judged to follow a local guide. A baby of wild sea otter seemed to lactating on the mother’s belly during resting nearby giant kelps. The mother was attached a tag on her legs, which might put by Monterey bay Aquarium. We can make a very close approach toward wild animals quietly because sea kayaks have no engine. Therefore, we can watch the bald patches and the movement of the pharynx to make vocal acoustics in California sea lion. Moreover, they stuck their front leg out on the surface so that they gained the warmth of sun. They make a harem. On the other hand, Harbor seals rested on the rock solitary. They were silent and made a few movements even though the half of their face soaked in the ocean.

I experienced to use some vessels for the observation and to watch many species of marine mammals at one region. It was very significant to do this training program at Monterey Bay.

In all days, I used English to explain and to discuss about the study of marine mammals. I trained using English and I noticed that I have to improve my language skill.

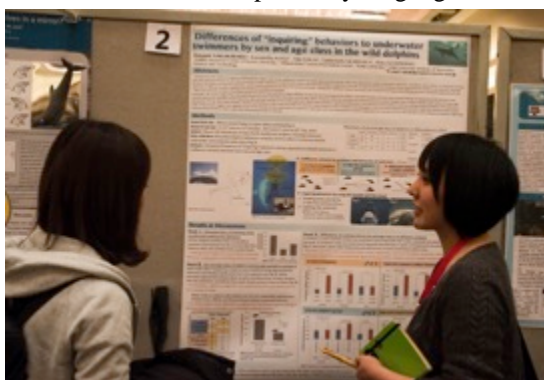


Fig.1 Poster session on SMM conference



Fig.2 Tail of Gray whale



Fig.3 School of Risso's dolphin



Fig.4 Thermoregulation in California sea lion

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Fig.5 Approaching to Harbor seal by sea kayak

6. Others

I greatly appreciate the supports of Prof. Matsuzawa, Prof. Koshima., Ms. Sakai and Ms. Akiyama. I am also grateful for the kindness from Mr. Kishida and Mr. Hayakawa.

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2015. 1, 7

Affiliation/Position	Wildlife Research Center/D1
Name	Kimika Tsuji

1. Country/location of visit
United States of America, San Francisco, Monterey
2. Research project
Observation training of wild whales in Monterey Bay
3. Date (departing from/returning to Japan)
2015. 12. 13 – 2015. 12. 23 (11 days)
4. Main host researcher and affiliation
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>During my trip, I joined the Conference on the Biology of Marine Mammals, visited the Monterey Aquarium and observed wild marine mammals. Details are as follows.</p> <p>■ Conference on the Biology of Marine Mammals I joined icebreaker at night of the first conference day. There were many foreign researchers. In addition, a lot of Japanese researchers were also participated in this conference. There were many presentations focusing on acoustics, behavior, distribution, ecology, anatomy, genetics, evolution, human dimensions, and so on. The numbers of oral and poster presentations were approx. 500 and 1000, respectively, so many there were many presenters and audiences. I heard a lot of presentations, but I could not understand English well, so I felt frustrated. Especially, speed talk sessions, in which each presenters gave a presentation in 5 minutes, finished before I understood the contents. There were several top-class researchers, whose names I know only through text books and papers, attending this conference, and this stimulated me to study a lot. There were some poster presentations studying about <i>Tursiops</i>, which I am studying in Mikura Island. I got more understanding of them studying all over the world. I did not give my presentation in this conference. In the next conference, I want to give a presentation.</p> <p>■ Monterey aquarium Main exhibition were about the ecosystems of Monterey Bay, and there were fish swimming in giant kelps, sea otters, and touching pools. I learned a lot about the ecosystem of Monterey Bay. The fish in Monterey Bay looked like groupers or rockfish, and they had restrained colors. The aquarium looked to make a strong effort to conserve wild life. They are releasing sea otters to wild, and there were exhibitions about over fishing and by catch. Several years ago, when sardine fishing was active, there was cannery in Monterey, but the number of sardine was decrease, and cannery closed. From seafront balcony, we could observe sea otters, and sometimes, whales.</p> <p>■ Whale watching I observed humpback whales, gray whales, long-beaked dolphins, Risso’s dolphins, and sea lions. I observed feeding behavior of a humpback whale. It was my first time to observe gray whale, and I was so excited. The numbers of group members of long-beaked dolphins were about 1000, and I observed that they rubbed their colleagues and their calves. Sea lions were on a breakwater, and bathed in the sun. It is suggested that there are also blue whales, killer whales and short-beaked dolphins in Monterey Bay, but we could not find them.</p> <p>■ Sea kayak I observed California sea lions and harbor seals at close range from a kayak. Especially, I observed sea lions very close, but they did not escape or attack us. Some visitors fed sea lions from pier, so they may be accustomed to humans. Sea otters are cautious and subject to conservation, so I could not see them very close, but I observed mother nursing a pup.</p>

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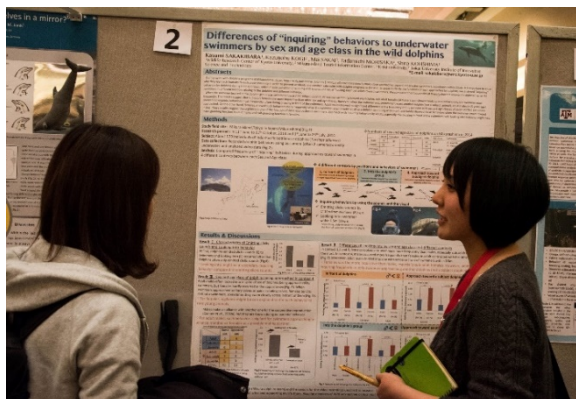


Photo 1: Poster presentation (Photo: T, Kishida)



Photo 2: Oral presentation



Photo 3: Monterey Bay Aquarium
(Photo: T, Kishida)



Photo 4: California sea lion



Photo 5: Gray whale (Photo: T, Kishida)





Photo 6: Sea otter (Photo: T, Kishida)

6. Others

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2016. 1, 11

Affiliation/Position	Wildlife Research Center/M2
Name	Kaede Mizukoshi

1. Country/location of visit
U.S. San Francisco, Moterey
2. Research project
Training of whale observation in Monterey Bay
3. Date (departing from/returning to Japan)
2015. 12. 13 – 2015. 12. 23 (11days)
4. Main host researcher and affiliation
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>Summary</p> <p>13-18: Conference on the Biology of Marine Mammals 19: Monterey Bay Aquarium 20: Whale watching 21: Sea kayak</p> <p>Conference on the Biology of Marine Mammals</p> <p>I heard the presentation of the killer whales and acoustic studies. The presentations of killer whales had 22 oral presentations and 21 poster presentations in this conference. I could hear the latest study about killer whales and acoustics.</p> <p>I could talk with killer whale’s researchers in the other regions. It is a good experience for me.</p> <p>Monterey Bay Aquarium</p> <p>There are no dolphins, but we can find them from the aquarium’s balcony. They have many water tanks about Monterey bay’s sea. There are Giant kelps which help maintenance of the biological diversity.</p> <p>Photo 1 is the entrance of Monterey bay aquarium, and photo 2 is the water tank of giant kelp.</p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; align-items: center;"> <div style="text-align: center;">  <p>Photo 1</p> </div> <div style="text-align: center;">  <p>Photo 2</p> </div> </div>

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Whale watching

I saw Gray whales & Long-beaked common dolphins for the first time. The ship crews and guides did not search whales with binoculars, it was very interesting for me. Because we always use binoculars for searching whales in our study sites. I think Monterey bay area is rich environment, so we can find whales and dolphins without binoculars.

AM: 4 Humpback Whales, 4 Gray Whales, 200 Long-Beaked Common Dolphins, 100 Risso's Dolphins.

PM: 7 Humpback Whales, 1 Gray Whale, 850 Long-Beaked Common Dolphins

(Reference: Monterey Bay Whale Watch

Facebook)



Photo 2 Long-beaked Common Dolphins



Photo 2 Gray Whale

Sea kayak

We could observe California sea lions, sea otters and harbor seals from kayaks. I felt their breathing and movement close.



Photo 3 California sea lions

6. Others

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2016/01/07

Affiliation/Position	Wildlife Research Center/M1
Name	Takuya Okawa

1. Country/location of visit
America, San Francisco
2. Research project
Field survey on Monterey bay
3. Date (departing from/returning to Japan)
2015/12/13 ~ 2015/12/23(10 days)
4. Main host researcher and affiliation
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>I went to America, San Francisco, USA to attend marine mammal conference, visit Monterey aquarium and to observe many animals in Monterey bay.</p> <p>●Conference● The conference was held in San Francisco for 5 days. There were many oral sessions and poster sessions, and I could listen to many interesting presentation I thoughts.</p> <p>●Monterey aquarium● I visited to Monterey aquarium. From the educative point of view, this aquarium is superior to aquariums in japan because there were many educational attractions such as movies about researching sea animals, work of art about environmental problem. Surprisingly, in front of the aquarium, I found wild humpback whales, gray whales, sea otter and sea lions.</p> <p>●Whale watching● I cruised Monterey bay to observe whales and dolphins. We could find several baleen whales individuals and hundred or thousands of dolphins.</p> <p>●Sea kayak● I took a sea kayak in Monterey bay and many sea lions, parental sea otters and resting seals.</p> <p>I spent precious time in San Francisco and Monterey,CA,</p>

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Fig1. Monterey bay aquarium



Fig.2 Whalewatching members



Fig.3 Conference icebreaker

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6. Others

I appreciate Prof. Matsuzawa, Mrs.Akiyama, Ms.Sakai, Prof.Kishida, Ms.Sakakibara.

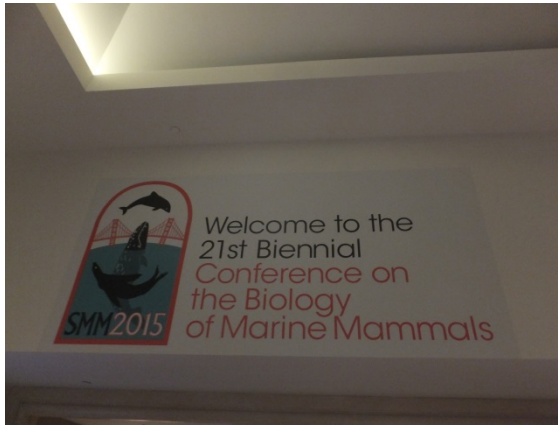
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2015.12.5	
Affiliation/Position	Wildlife Research Center/M1
Name	Natsuko Tajima

1. Country/location of visit
United States of America California San Francisco, Monterey
2. Research project
Observation of Marine mammals at Monterey
3. Date (departing from/returning to Japan)
2015.12.13-12.23
4. Main host researcher and affiliation
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>I have two aims in this trip. The first aim was to observe Marine mammals, to learn about conservation projects of marine mammals at Monterey. Second aim is to join 21st Biennial Conference on the Biology of Marine Mammals and to practice discussing with foreign researchers about research of each other in English.</p> <p>The schedules of this trip were as follows; 12/13 Departng to San Francisco 12/14-18 Joining the 21st Biennial Conference on the Biology of Marine Mammals 12/19 Departing to Monterey, and visiting Monterey bay aquarium 12/20 Whale watching at Monterey bay 12/21 Sea kayaking at Monterey Bay 12/22 Departing to Kyoto 12/23 Arriving at Kyoto</p> <p>In San Francisco, I joined the 21st Biennial Conference on the Biology of Marine Mammals. This is my first time to join an international symposium, so it was very good experience. I was excited to hear some presentations of famous cetacean researchers. I was also glad to hear some presentations of PhD students who are close ages to me. The presentations that are close to my research were very interesting, but also the presentations of the discipline that I have never been studied before was very interesting for me, such as studies based on physiology, pathology or genetics. Skin deceases of dolphins and measuring method of hormone of dolphins introduced in a presentation may also be applied to my studies in Mikura island. I also enjoyed the presentations analyzing diving behavior of sea lions and analyzing heart rates of sea lions. It was my first time to do poster presentation in the international conference except for the PWS symposium. It was very difficult to explain and discuss about my research in English to foreign researchers, but I was encouraged to hear “It is interesting” from listeners.</p>

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I talked to many researchers from all over the world and learned about a lot of researches in this conference. It was very good experience for me. I talked to many researchers from all over the world and learned about a lot of researches in this conference. It was very good experience for me.



Conference on the Biology of Marine Mammals

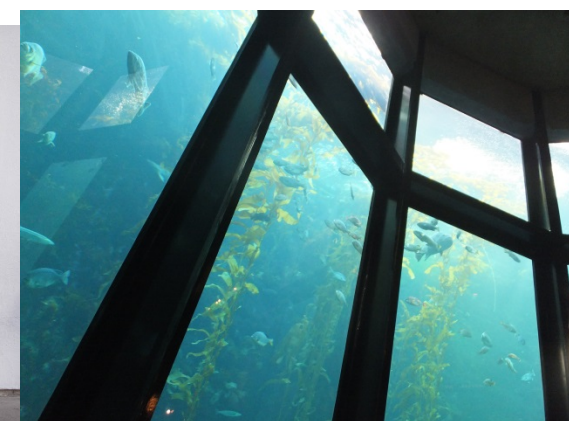


In conference room

After the conference, I went to Monterey to observe wild marine mammals. First, I went to Monterey bay aquarium. I preferred a fish tank in which many local fish are kept. There were giant kelps, and fishes rested behind kelps. There were some exhibitions of endangered animals such as sea turtles, sharks and tunas. I think there are many exhibitions for kids, so this aquarium is good for children to learn about marine conservation.



Visit Monterey bay aquarium



Giant kelp with fish

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Next day, I went to whale watching at Monterey bay. In morning, we could observe California sea lions, gray whales, humpback whales, long finned common dolphins and Risso’s dolphins. It was my first time to observe baleen whales, so I was very excited to see them. But I could see only their blow, their back and tail. Compared with toothed whale, especially dolphins, I think it is very difficult to observe the behaviors of baleen whales.

I was surprised that two species of dolphins formed very big schools. Dolphins were around our vessels and swam very rapidly so there were white waves around our vessel. I heard that it is not so usual to observe Risso’s dolphin around here, so I was lucky. In afternoon, I observed gray whales, humpback whales and long finned common dolphins. I observed bubble net feeding of humpback whales. Thorough morning and afternoon cruise, I observed many species and speculated how many species of marine mammals are living in Monterey.

At the end of this course, I tool a sea kayak. I observed California sea lions, sea otters and harbor seals nearby. It began raining in the half way through kayaking, but it was very good experience.

Through this course, I gained experience of giving a presentation in international conferences and widening my network with foreign researchers. Also I observed many wild marine mammals, and learned about them.

In the future, I will cash in this experience on my research. And I will study English hard to discuss about my research more fluently with foreign researchers.



California sea lion



Long finned common dolphin



Risso's doiphin (Photo by Takushi Kishida)



Gray whale (Photo by Takushi Kishida)

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Sea kayaking (Photo by Takushi Kishida)



Sea otter (Photo by Takushi Kishida)

6. Others

I appreciate Staffs at Minami chita Beach Land, especially Ms. Natsuko Sakurai for accept and help this observation. And I am grateful to the PWS program and members.