



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.)

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Affiliation/Position	Primate Research Institute /M2
Name	Shintaro Ishizuka

1. Country/location of visit
Rause, Hokkaido Prefecture
2. Research project
Killer Whale Field Research
3. Date (departing from/returning to Japan)
2016. 29th June, 2016 – 4th July, 2016 (6days)
4. Main host researcher and affiliation
Dr. Y. 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>Objectives of killer whales watching practice, was to learn the marine ecosystem in Shiretoko, to learn research methods of marine mammals and to learn current situations and challenges of the coexistence between people and nature through communication with the local people in Shiretoko, who have been tackling the aforementioned challenges. This practice was the first time for me to research wild marine mammals.</p> <p>Research period was from 30th June to 3rd July. Research sailing began at 5 am. First of all in research we looked for killer whales. Thanks to senior researches, some individuals were attached with transmitters. So we relied on location information based on them. After we reached around whales, we searched by using binoculars. I felt the way to find marine mammals, just watching with binoculars, was quietly different from those of primates. In searching primates, we relied much on vocalization. This might be because frequency to utter vocalization in whales is lower than in primates, or because sometimes vocalization might be covered with sounds of the boat’s engine. This experience was unfamiliar to me. I would like to make use of these experiences.</p> <p>Through watching killer whales, I got interested in antagonistic relationship between individuals. In primates, if aggressive interaction would occur, victims often flee away onto trees or stones. So objects in their habitats are important to survive, and keep social relationship with other individuals. But in the ocean there are few objects for them to use. So I questioned how marine animals keep appropriate distances from other conspecifics. I hope I can understand those systems and evolutionary pathway of them.</p> <p>Local people cared too many boats would sail to the ocean. This is same as us, primatologists, because we care too many researches go to the forest for observing wild primates. In all researches for wildlife, it should be important to keep appropriate distances between human and animals.</p>
<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;"> <div style="text-align: center;">  <p>A killer whale</p> </div> <div style="text-align: center;">  <p>Many killer whales</p> </div> </div>
6. Others
This program was supported by PWS Leading Program. I would like to appreciate this program, Dr. Yamamoto, the leader of this practice, and many staff of this practice.