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SHOWCASING MARINE RESEARCH IN THE
ARCTIC OCEAN, BERING SEA, AND GULF OF ALASKA

Satellite Tracking of Spotted Seals (*Phoca largha*) in the Okhotsk Sea in 2011-2014

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Movements of spotted seals (*Phoca largha*) in the Okhotsk sea were tracked during autumn-winter-spring period. Seals were captured and tagged in September-October 2011-2013 in three locations on the Okhotsk Sea coast: 17 seals – in two river estuaries on the western coast of Kamchatka peninsula, and 2 seals – in Sakhalinskiy Bay. Individuals of different sex and ages were tagged with 10 «Pulsar» (Russian manufacturer) and 9 «SPOT-5» (USA manufacturer) transmitters. The seals were tracked for 5-269 days. The data from 15 spotted seals were included in analysis. Tracking revealed the differences in behavior between the seals from Kamchatka and animals from Sakhalinskiy Bay: the former moved between mouths of major rivers, long distance away (up to 1,000 km) from tagging locations; the latter stayed close to capture place and did not move further than 170 km. During winter, the seals from Kamchatka occupied the north-west part of the Okhotsk Sea, and the seals from Sakhalinskiy Bay went to Tartar Strait and entered the northern part of Sea of Japan. During breeding season, the tags from all animals sent signals from 2 of the 3 well-knowing breeding areas. Seals didn't use the eastern coast of Sakhalin Island for breeding – the third well-known breeding area. Some animals crossed the Okhotsk Sea from east coast to west coast.

Satellite tracking of spotted seals revealed that the animals from the same breeding area spend summer in close parts of the Okhotsk Sea. Satellite tagging used for seals of Okhotsk Sea in the first time.