

O-34: Moving of bearded seals (*Erignathus barbatus*) from Sakhalin Bay (Okhotsk Sea) in according satellite tagging in 2013-2014

Maria Solovyeva (1), Dmitry Glazov (2), Peter Boveng (3), Boris Solovyev (2), Daria Kuznetsova (2), Viatcheslav Rozhnov (2)

(1) *Marine Mammal Council, Moscow, Russia;* (2) *A.N. Severtsov Institute of the Ecology and Evolution, Russian Academy of Sciences 33 Leninskiy prosp., Moscow, 119071, Russia;* (3) *National Marine Mammal Laboratory, NOAA Alaska Fisheries Science Center, 7600 Sand Point Way, NE Seattle, WA 98115, USA*

In our study we used data from satellite tags on bearded seals of Okhotsk Sea. Animals were tagged in September and October 2013 at Sakhalin Bay. Tags were placed on a flipper or head of the seal. A total amount of 10 seals of different sex and age were tagged. Working time of each transmitter was different, and seals were tracked for 41-224 days. During all time of investigation, 8 bearded seals were tracked (two by Pulsar, five by MK-10 and two by SPOT-5 transmitters). Tracking analysis showed that before ice appearance, seals kept closer to the shore in shallow waters (not deeper than 10 m). Only fast ice, formed from the shore, force them to go to regions with deep water and use ice for haul-out immediately after it forms. Even in winter, during the reproduction and molting period, they didn't move away from shore further than 50 km. Not a single seal had moved beyond 200 m of isobath.

Connection between summer feeding areas and winter breeding areas was revealed. We obtained data about most breeding haul-outs for the well-known breeding areas. During winter, seals from Sakhalin Bay chose only the nearest breeding area - shelf at the north and north-west coastline of Sakhalin Island - and didn't use other breeding areas in Okhotsk and Japan seas. None of the seals showed any preference for a specific breeding region. Migrations towards breeding areas occur mostly through oil-platforms alongside north-west coastline of Sakhalin Island.

This work has been conducted as collaboration of the - Russian-American Program BOSS (Bering-Okhotsk-Seal-Surveys) and White Whale Program by The Permanent Expedition of IPEE RAS. Financial support: Russian Geographic Society and grant of RFFI № 14-05-31440

