We studied the migration of the Steller sea lion (SSL) (Eumetopias jubatus) females in the area of the Commander Islands. "Pulsar" satellite tags produced by "Es-Pass" (Moscow, Russia) were used to track the animals. The tags were a duty-cycle programmed 6 hours on and 18 hours off. Due to logistic problem of catching mature females, the tags were deployed on dependent young-of-the-year (YOY) and yearling under the assumption that they will roam together with their mothers making it possible to detect the migration of lactating females. Five tags were deployed on the 30th October 2011 at the Severo-Zapadnoy (SZ) rookery of the Commander Islands and 18 hours off. Due to logistic problem of catching mature females, the tags were deployed on dependent young-of-the-year (YOY) and yearling under the assumption that they will roam together with their mothers making it possible to detect the migration of lactating females. Five tags were deployed on the 30th October 2011 at the Severo-Zapadnoy (SZ) rookery of the Commander Islands and 18 hours off.
the last animal (~5) swam to the Cape Yushina on tagging day and five days later continued moving east, toward the northern end of the Medny Island, where he remained until 15th of December, the last day the tag transmitted the signal. The YOY crossed the Kamchatsky Strait (~200 km) in approximately 40 hours, moving with a speed 4-6 km/h. The resighting two out of the three tagged SSL in Kamchatka during the spring 2012 allows to suggest that they spent their winter near on the eastern coast of Kamchatka.