

Project Update: March 2012

In March 2012, we attended the conference of the European Cetacean Society to present our results on differences in fish-eating and mammal-eating killer whale sounds. We have finished the photo-identification of killer whales photographed during the previous field seasons. The catalogue created by this work will be used to identify the groups of fish-eating and mammal-eating killer whales during the field season 2012 and to study the relationships between these groups. The preliminary analysis of social associations showed that fish-eating and mammal-eating groups were never observed to associate in our study area. We submitted the results of this analysis to the conference "Marine Mammals of Holarctic" which will be held in Suzdal (Russia) in September 2012. We have established an agreement with the organising committee of this conference to organise the workshop "Ecology of killer whales in Russian waters" on September 24, 2012 (see <http://mmh2012.2mn.org/index.html>). The workshop will allow us to discuss the problem of separation of fish-eating and mammal-eating killer whales with the leading Russian marine mammal scientists.