

## Project Update: September 2012

The project members are just back from the Conference “Marine Mammals of the Holarctic VII” which took place in Suzdal on 24th-28th September. I chaired the workshop on killer whales on 24th September, which allowed discussed the ecology of killer whales in different areas of the Russian Far East. Generally, it appears that separate fish-eating and mammal-eating populations occur in all these regions, which supports our message to legally separate these ecotypes. Our team member Ekaterina Borisova reported her results of the genetic analysis of fish- and mammal-eating killer whales from Eastern Kamchatka, Commander Islands and Okhotsk Sea, which confirmed that they are genetically isolated. The bad news to date is that two more killer whales were captured this summer in Okhotsk Sea, one died and another is now in a dolphinarium in Vladivostok. We start the public campaign to protest against capturing.

