

U.S.-Russia Cooperation in Conservation of Wildlife and Wildlife Habitat



Activities for 2016-2017



**Agreement between the Government of the United States of America
and the Government of the Russian Federation
on Cooperation in the Field of Protection of the Environment
and Natural Resources**

“...the Parties shall work together to develop mutually agreed-upon policies in the field of protection of the environment and natural resources on a bilateral, regional and global basis.”

The **Agreement between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of the Russian Federation on Cooperation in the Field of Protection of the Environment and Natural Resources** was signed on 23 June 1994 and supersedes the Agreement between the United States of America and the Government of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics on Cooperation in the Field of Environmental Protection of 23 May 1972.

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Cover photographs:

Top Left: Spectacled Eider, *Somateria fischeri*, Photo Credit: Laura Whitehouse/USFWS
Top Right: Matt Howe at Sikhote-Alin Reserve, Photo Credit: Michael Carlo
Bottom Left: Mikhail Yablokov explains interpretive sign at Polistovsky Reserve. Photo Credit: Steven Kohl/USFWS
Bottom Right: Polar bear and cubs, Photo Credit: USFWS

Area V Work Plan for 2016-2017

Area V, “Protection of Nature and the Organization of Reserves”
of the U.S.-Russia Agreement on Cooperation
in the Field of Protection of the Environment and Natural Resources

American and Russian Area V project leaders and participants met in San Diego March 23-24, 2016, to review exchanges carried out in 2014-2015 and agree on activities for 2016-2017. The following Work Plan was adopted:



Area V Working Group meets at San Diego Zoo,
March 2016

(NOTE: Wherever possible, principal participating U.S. and Russian agencies are indicated; see Key to Abbreviations on last page.)

Project 02.05-11 Conservation of Wild Species of Fauna

The work of this Project is carried out under six Activities:

Activity 02.05-1101 Implementation of the U.S.-Russia Convention Concerning the Conservation of Migratory Birds and Their Environment

PURPOSE: Coordinate implementation of the 1976 bilateral Convention between the United States and U.S.S.R. (Russia) and promote the conservation and study of the more than 200 avian species listed in the Appendix to the Convention.



Photo credit: Peter Ward/USFWS

Evgeny Syroechkovsky (MNRE) and Brad Bortner (FWS) consult during November 2015 meeting in Washington, D.C.

1. American, Russian and Japanese specialists met in Washington, D.C. Tokyo in November 2015 in the sixth of an ongoing series of periodic consultations to discuss migratory bird topics of mutual concern to the three countries. The next meeting of the three countries is planned for Russia in the second half of 2017. (FWS, ASC; MNRE, BBRC)
2. The two sides will continue to exchange banding and recovery data, as well as information on the ecology of diseases, including avian influenza, affecting shared populations of migratory birds in the Beringia region. (VNII Ekologia, IPEE; USGS, FWS)

Activity 02.05-1102 Study and Conservation of Cranes, Raptors and Other Rare Birds

PURPOSE: Promote wild avian populations by encouraging conservation of critical habitat, scientific collaboration and educational outreach.

The two sides will continue to implement Project Hope, a detailed five-year program developed in 2010 to strengthen conservation of the western population of Siberian cranes. (ICF; VNII Ekologia)

Activity 02.05-1103 Study and Conservation of Polar Bears

PURPOSE: Promote research on the biology and ecology of polar bears, and coordinate implementation of the U.S.-Russia Agreement on the Conservation and Management of the Alaska-Chukotka Polar Bear Population (2000).

1. One American biologist will visit Chukotka, Russia for one month in September-October 2016 to take part in field studies of abundance and distribution of polar bears on Wrangel Island. (FWS, MMM-7; MNRE)
2. The 8th meeting of the U.S.-Russia Polar Bear Commission will be held in mid-November 2016 in



Photo Credit: USFWS

Polar Bear Agreement Commissioners Amirkhanov and Haskett chair a Commission meeting.

Anchorage, Alaska. The Scientific Working Group will convene immediately preceding that meeting. (FWS, MMM-7; MNRE)

2. The 9th meeting of the U.S.-Russia Polar Bear Commission will be held in the second half of 2017, in Russia. The Scientific Working Group will convene immediately preceding that meeting. (FWS, MMM-7; MNRE)

Activity 02.05-1104 Protected Natural Areas: renumbered as Project 02.05-51

Activity 02.05-1105 Cooperation among Zoos in Captive Breeding of Rare and Endangered Animals

PURPOSE: Foster cooperation among U.S. and Russian zoos to preserve genetic diversity of rare and endangered species maintained in captivity, sponsor public education and outreach activities, conduct scientific research, and promote conservation of wild animals and their habitats.

Long-term cooperation between the Moscow Zoo and American zoos will continue, and information will be exchanged on captive animal management, breeding, and diseases. In 2016 the Wildlife Conservation Society (Bronx Zoo) will transfer two pairs of trumpeter swans to the Moscow Zoo. WCS will also send several pairs of wild turkeys to Moscow, if possible. (Moscow Zoo; Wildlife Conservation Society)

Activity 02.05-1106 Conservation and Management of Marine Birds

PURPOSE: Promote conservation of seabirds and shorebirds through exchange of information, field studies, and jointly formulated monitoring and management strategies.



Photo Credit: USFWS

Trio of horned puffins, *Fraterecula corniculata*

1. Work will continue in the Russian Far East on determining the abundance and distribution of the endangered spoon-billed sandpiper. The Russian side will apprise American colleagues of the latest results of summer surveys. (MBM-7; Moscow Univ. Zoological Museum)

2. Exchanges of American and Russian specialists for participation in survey expeditions in Chukotka and Alaska will continue in 2016. (FWS, USGS; BBRC, Moscow Univ. Zoological Museum)

Project 02.05-21 Beringia Conservation Forum

PURPOSE: Promote the study and conservation of ecosystems and fauna/flora species and their habitats common to the Aleutian (U.S.) and Commander (Russia) Islands and adjacent land areas of Alaska, Kamchatka and Chukotka. Work under this Project also furthers the goals of several other Area V projects and activities.

Alaska Maritime National Wildlife Refuge and Commander Islands Nature Reserve will collaborate in shipboard and land-based studies of marine birds and marine mammals on and around Bering and Medny Islands. Specific work may include measuring physical oceanography parameters, conducting a census of red-legged kittiwakes, estimating rat distribution on Bering Island, surveying Steller sea lions and northern fur seals, and designing a future visitor center to be located at Nikolskoye (Bering Island). This work implements the intent and provisions of a Memorandum of Understanding signed in 2008 between the two protected areas, which form one continuous island chain. (FWS-Refuges; MNRE)



Photo Credit: USFWS

Staff members of Commander Islands Nature Reserve visit their counterparts at Alaska Maritime National Wildlife Refuge

Project 02.05-31 Cooperation in Wildlife Trade and Law Enforcement

PURPOSE: Encourage communication among law enforcement officials in both countries to address problems of international wildlife commerce, with particular attention to the (CITES) Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora.



Photo credit John + Karen Hollingsworth, FWS

Amur Tiger, *Panthera tigris altaica*

The two sides will continue to exchange information, and will hold a consultative meeting in Moscow in August 2016 on policy questions pertaining to wildlife trade. In 2017 the two sides will consider sponsoring a joint seminar on prevention of illegal trafficking. (FWS-Law Enforcement, FWS-Management Authority, FWS-Scientific Authority; Russian Federal Customs Service)

Project 02.05-41 Ecosystem Biodiversity

The work of this Project is carried out under four Activities:

Activity 02.05-4101 Biosphere Reserves

PURPOSE: Monitor natural processes in biosphere reserves of both countries and share data through established MABFauna, MABFlora, ACCESS and Biomass systems.



Photo Credit: Peter Ward/USFWS

Sikhote-Alin Biosphere Reserve, Primorsky Krai

Both sides will continue to exchange information on the role of biosphere reserves and other protected territories in the conservation of biodiversity and critical ecosystems. The possibility of exchanges of specialists for field work on specific topics will be considered. (IPEE; FWS)

Activity 02.05-4102 Arid Ecosystems

PURPOSE: Promote the study and conservation of arid land areas and their endemic fauna and flora; develop strategies for combating desertification and loss of water resources.

The two sides will continue to exchange information about the status of the endangered saiga antelope. In 2017 American specialists may visit Russia for consultations on biomedical evaluation, diagnostics, preventative medicine, provision of neonatal survival, and organization of effective systems for compiling laboratory and medical records for saigas in Astrakhan Oblast and Kalmykia. (IPEE; The Wilds, FWS)

Activity 02.05-4103 Mountain Ecosystems

PURPOSE: Promote the study and conservation of alpine systems and their unique biodiversity.

Work will continue on creation of a database on biodiversity and changes in ground cover in several Russian nature reserves and surrounding areas. Remote sensing, GIS and other contemporary technologies will be utilized in these studies. (IPEE; Univ. of Wisconsin)

Activity 02.05-4104 Wetland and River Ecosystems

PURPOSE: Promote the study and conservation of wetland and delta ecosystems, recognizing their importance in flood prevention, as habitat for fish and migratory birds, and as filters of pollutants and other harmful substances.



Taking water quality measurements at Barguzin Valley, Buryatia, Russia

In 2016-2017 Russian and American scientists will begin a five-year collaborative project to characterize the three major wetland habitats of Lake Baikal (Russia): the Selenga River delta, Barguzin wetlands, and northern Angara River region. Data will be collected through field studies and satellite imagery. (EPA; RAS/SIB, Irkutsk State University)

Project 02.05-51 Protected Natural Areas

The work of this Project is carried out under two Activities:

Activity 02.05-5101 Protected Areas Management

PURPOSE: Provide for comparative studies of refuges and nature reserves and the external factors affecting them, with emphasis on rare and endangered species of fauna and flora and their habitats.

1. Four American specialists will visit Bryansky Les Reserve and Ugra National Park, Russia for one week in July 2016 for a series of presentations on conservation and management of protected areas. (MNRE; FWS, EPA)
2. In conjunction with the Open World program, several Russian specialists will visit the U.S. for two weeks in June and in September 2016 for familiarization with conservation programs and community relations at U.S. national wildlife refuges and protected areas in Michigan, Alaska and other states. (FWS-Refuges; Zapovedniks)
3. As a follow-up to the September 2015 two-week visit of 14 Russian specialists to the U.S. (Iowa, Kansas, Nebraska, Oklahoma) for familiarization with conservation and management of prairie, steppe and grassland areas, an American delegation may visit analogous areas of Russia in 2016 or 2017. Possible locations include Kalmykia, Orenburg and Dauria. (FWS; MNRE)

4. In 2017 the two sides will schedule exchanges of specialists and other activities to commemorate and publicize the celebration of the 100th anniversary of the establishment of Russia's first nature reserve. (MNRE; FWS)

Activity 02.05-5102 Conservation Education

PURPOSE: Promote public awareness of and commitment to the need to conserve wild species of fauna and flora and their habitats.



Photo Credit: Steven Kohl/USFWS

Participants in August 2016 visitor education and facilities seminar at Khakassky Nature Reserve

1. Exchanges of information between American and Russia protected areas will continue. General subject areas may include: dissemination of information about the protected areas of the other country, increasing contact among young people and school groups in both countries, and collaboration on publications. (MNRE, Zapovedniks, Partnership for Zapovedniks; FWS-Refuges)

2. Three American specialists will visit Khakasia, Russia for one week in August 2016 to take part in a training seminar at Khakassky Reserve on conservation education, outreach and design of visitor facilities. (FWS-Refuges; MNRE)

Project 02.05-61 Marine Mammals

PURPOSE: Carry out cooperative studies and exchange scientific information to better manage and conserve marine mammal species shared by both countries.

GENERAL

The 23rd meeting of the U.S.-Russia Marine Mammal Working Group was held February 24-26, 2016 in Moscow, Russia of 27 Russian and 7 American specialists. The next (24th) meeting will take place in the U.S. in the second half of 2017.



Russian and American participants in the 23rd Marine Mammal Working Group meeting, Moscow.

The 9th International Holarctic Marine Mammal Conference will be held October 31-November 5, 2016 in Astrakhan, Russia. Up to 12 American specialists are invited to participate. (Russian Marine Mammal Council; NMFS, FWS, USGS, MMC)

I. PINNIPEDS

True Seals



Photo credit: Liz Labunski\USFWS

Bearded Seal, *Erignathus barbatus*

1. Three or four American scientists will visit Russia sometime during the period April-December 2016 or 2017 to participate in studies and modeling of seasonal movements, evaluation of the ice cover at pupping haul-outs, analyses of satellite tagging, and ecological research on true seals in the Bering, Chukchi and Okhotsk Seas. (IPEE; NMML, AFSC)
2. In response to potential human impact and significant reductions in ice cover, American and Russian specialists will conduct synchronized instrumental surveys of seals and other marine mammals in the Chukchi Sea in the spring of 2016. (NMML, AFSC; Giprorybflot, ChukotTINRO)
3. Two Russian specialists will visit the U.S. for collaboration with American colleagues at the National Marine Mammal Laboratory (Seattle) on methodologies for analyzing data from satellite telemetry of seal movements and haul-out behavior. (NMML, AFSC; IPEE)

4. One or two American specialists will visit Russia in July-August 2016 or 2017 to take part in ecological research on spotted and bearded seals in Tauiskaya Bay to clarify their role in marine ecosystems and development a program of photo identification. (MagadanNIRO; NMML, AFSC)
5. One Russian scientist will join American colleagues in conducting a joint analysis of the demography of ice-associated seals in the Okhotsk, Bering and Chukchi Seas. This represents the continuation of a research project begun in late 2015, and will extend through late 2017. (NMML, AFSC; IPEE)
6. At the invitation of the Giprorybflot Institute, 4-6 American specialists will visit St. Petersburg, Russia in 2017 to take part in a workshop on data processing methods for instrumental aerial surveys of marine mammals. (Giprorybflot, IPEE; NMML, AFSC, FWS)
7. Up to eight Russian specialists will visit the U.S. (Seattle) in 2017 to take part in a workshop to review the results of joint seal surveys in the Chukchi Sea. (NMML, AFSC; IPEE)
8. One or two American scientists are invited to take part in seal research projects in the Chukotka region. Goals and dates will be determined by correspondence. (ChukotTINRO; NMML, AFSC)

Eared Seals

1. One or two Russian scientists will visit Alaska in the summer of 2016 to assist with northern fur seal abundance counts on the Pribilof Islands. (NMML, AFSC; KBPIG, Kamchatka NIRO)
2. Two or three American scientists will visit the Russian Far East in May-July 2016 and/or 2017 for reproductive biology field studies on Steller sea lion rookeries. (KBPIG; NMML, AFSC)
3. One or two Russian specialists will visit the U.S. in 2016 or 2017 to assist with Steller sea lion surveys in the Gulf of Alaska and Aleutian Islands. (NMML, AFSC; KBPIG)
4. One or two American specialists will visit the Russian Far East for up to one month in May-July 2016 or 2017 to participate in field studies of foraging behavior in Steller sea lions, northern fur seals and killer whales. (KBPIG; NMML, AFSC)
5. One or two Russian scientists will visit the U.S. (Seattle) in 2016 or 2017 to take part in a statistical analysis of Western stock Steller sea lion demographic data collected range-wide over the past two decades. (NMML, AFSC; KBPIG, KamchatkaNIRO)

Pacific Walrus

1. To estimate abundance and demographic rates of Pacific walrus, up to four American and four Russian scientists will take part in jointly-sponsored research cruises in 2016 and 2017 to collect skin biopsy samples from a representative sample of Pacific walruses in Russian and American waters. (FWS, MMM-7; Chukotka TINRO)
2. Two or three American specialists are invited to take part in walrus research projects in the Chukotka region. Goals and dates will be determined by correspondence. (ChukotTINRO; FWS, MMM-7)



Pacific Walrus Bull, *Odobenus rosmarus*

Photo by Joel Garlich-Miller, USFWS

Sea Otters

One or two Russian scientists will take part in aerial and boat-based sea otter surveys in the Aleutian Islands in 2016 or 2017. The goal is to be able to estimate total sea otter population size throughout the Aleutian Islands. (FWS, MMM-7; KamchatNIOR, Sevvostrybvod)

II. CETACEANS

1. One or two American scientists will visit Russia for 1-3 months during March-November 2016 or 2017 to participate in joint research on census, analysis of historical data, and collection and analysis of genetic samples from large cetaceans, killer whales, and seals in Russian seas. (IPEE; AFSC, SWFC)
2. Two or three American scientists will visit Russia for 1-3 months during April-November 2016 or 2017 to take part in joint stationary coastal observations, toxicology studies, satellite tagging and health assessments of beluga whales, walrus, seals and other marine mammal species in the Sea of Okhotsk and other Russian seas. (IPEE; AFSC, SWFC)
3. One or two American scientists are invited to visit Russia in 2016 or 2017 to take part in investigations on the effect of anthropogenic noise on the physiological state of belugas, walruses and northern fur seals at the Academy of Sciences Utrish Marine Station at Anapa/Novorossiisk on the Black Sea. (IPEE; AFSC, SWFC)
4. In 2016 American and Russian scientists will meet to review data collected on bowhead whales in the region of the Shantar Islands of the Sea Okhotsk in the summers of 2011-2015, examine preliminary results of genetic analysis of collected samples, and plan future joint laboratory and field studies. Exchanges of specialists will be arranged as appropriate. (IPEE, Russian Marine Mammal Council; NMML, SWFC)
5. Two or three American scientists are invited to take part in cetacean research projects in the Chukotka region. Goals and dates will be determined by correspondence. (ChukotTINRO; NMML, AFSC)

Project 02.05-71 Animal and Plant Ecology



Photo Credit: Betty Withrow / Missouri Botanical Garden

Russian and American botanists visit Don Edwards National Wildlife Refuge Complex, California

The work of this Project is carried out under seven Activities:

Activity 02.05-7101 Conservation of Rare and Endangered Species of Plants and Comparative Studies of North American and Eurasian Flora

PURPOSE: Promote cooperation among botanical gardens and arboreta in both countries, including exchanges of seeds and other plant materials endemic to each country for propagation and growing, and organization of joint botanical research and collecting expeditions.

1. Three American specialists will visit Russia for two weeks in June 2016 for familiarization with the conservation and management of flora in nature reserves, national parks, botanical gardens and dendraria of Yaroslavl, Tula and Lipetsk Provinces. (RAS Main Bot. Garden; Missouri Bot. Garden)
2. Three Russian specialists will visit the Northwest U.S. for two weeks in August 2016 for familiarization with conservation and management of coastal forested areas in California and Oregon. The itinerary will include stops at national wildlife refuges, national parks, national forests, and botanical gardens and arboreta. (Missouri Bot. Garden, FWS-Refuges; RAS Main Bot.Garden, CSBG)
3. Joint botanical expeditions of 2-3 weeks' duration to collect plant materials and analyze floristic ties between Eurasia and North America will be conducted in 2017. The areas of each country to be visited will be determined through exchange of correspondence. (Missouri Bot. Garden, Nat. Arb.-USDA; RAS Main Bot. Garden, CSBG)

Activity 02.05-7102 Northern Migratory Waterfowl

PURPOSE: Determine nesting grounds, migratory routes, wintering areas, adaptation to environmental change, and productivity of geese, ducks and other waterfowl species.



Photo Credit: David Safine/USFWS

Georgy Kirtaev and Sonia Rozenfeld take part in water survival training in preparation for waterfowl aerial surveys in Alaska (August 2016)

1. Jointly-sponsored field studies of the breeding ecology of snow geese in Chukotka Autonomous Region, Russia, will continue. In the summers of 2016-2017 biologists of the staff of Wrangel Island Nature Reserve will conduct abundance and nesting surveys whose results will assist American biologists in estimating numbers of this species expected to migrate in the fall down the flyways of western North America. (MNRE; FWS).
2. Two Russian specialists will visit the U.S. for two weeks in August 2016 to take part in transect aerial surveys of waterfowl in Alaska, with associated mapping of flight lines, observations and density polygons. (MBM-7; BBRC)

Activity 02.05-7103 Holarctic Mammals

PURPOSE: Investigate the systematics, zoogeography and genetic variability of mammals of the Holarctic, with the goal of conserving gene pools of those species.

In 2016-2017 Russian and American scientists will continue to collaborate on joint research to study the factors which have led to increased abundance of brown bears in Russia, and conduct joint studies of the circumpolar population status of reindeer (caribou) and muskoxen. Exchanges of specialists will be scheduled as necessary for work to progress. (IPEE; Univ. of Wisconsin)



Photo by Tim Bowman / USFWS

Musk ox, *Ovibos moschatus*

Activity 02.05-7104 Chemical Senses and Communication in Animals

PURPOSE: Investigate mechanisms of chemical communication in mammals using physiological, biochemical, hormonal, immunological, ethological and genetic approaches, focusing on basic and applied aspects.

1. One Russian specialist will visit the U.S. for three weeks in April 2016 to continue studies at Monell Chemical Senses Center (Philadelphia) of chemosensory biology and genetics of pheromonal regulation of aggressive behavior in rodents. The visiting specialist will also present a seminar on olfactory bulb sensitivity in mice. (Monell; IPEE)
2. One American specialist will visit Russia for up to three weeks in 2017 to give a seminar on chemical communication research at the Monell Center, discuss ongoing collaborations and plans, and work on joint publications with scientists at the Severtsov Institute of Ecology and Evolution in Moscow. (IPEE; Monell)

Activity 02.05-7105 Application of Contemporary Technology in Ecological Studies of Large Mammals

PURPOSE: Develop joint methods to collect and process remotely-sensed microwave and optical data, integrate analyses of satellite data from telemetry and environmental remote sensing, and create database structures and models for ecological studies of large mammals in Arctic environments.

Collaborative research will continue on the effects of climate change and shrinking ice cover on the spatial and temporal distributions and physical characteristics of habitats used by Arctic marine and terrestrial mammals. Specific topics for 2016 will include: (1) photographing the ice coverage of polar bear habitat in the Chukchi

Sea, and (2) aerial visual observations of polar bear distribution with subsequent processing of obtained data to provide accurate estimates of abundance of the Alaska-Chukotka population.

Two Russian specialists will visit the U.S. (Alaska) for one month in the winter of 2017, with a follow-up visit to Russia of one American specialist to Russia in the summer of 2018, if funding permits. (IPEE; USGS)

Activity 02.05-7106 Wildlife Health and Disease

PURPOSE: Cooperate in the study, prevention, and treatment of wildlife diseases of microbial, parasitic and chemical origin common to both countries.

As the range of the Amur tiger expands northward, scientists from Russia and the U.S. will conduct a joint assessment of the physiological and health status of this species in those recently-occupied areas. The studies will enable specialists to predict limiting factors which may affect the tiger's adaptation to new habitat.

In the second half of 2016 two Russian specialists will visit the U.S. for two weeks for analysis of data on concentrations of steroid hormones in Amur tigers inhabiting the northernmost part of their range, and to discuss approaches to future field studies. In the winter of 2017 two American specialists will be invited to visit the Russian Far East for 2-4 weeks to collect samples from tigers there. (IPEE; Wildlife Conservation Society)

Activity 02.05-7107 Invasive Species of Fauna and Flora

PURPOSE: Mitigate the environmental damage caused by invasive species.

American specialists will be invited to attend the 5th International Symposium on Invasive Species of the Holarctic in Borok, Russia in September 2017. (IPEE, IBIW; USGS, FWS)

Project 02.05-81 Ichthyology and Aquaculture



Photo credit: Alex Giltjes/
Wikipedia Commons

Siberian Sturgeon, *Acipenser baerii*

The work of this project is carried out under four Activities:

Activity 02.05-8101 Fish Culture, Nutrition and Disease

PURPOSE: Improve fisheries management, increase productivity through fish culture, restore fishery resources, and exchange information on the physiology, nutrition, diseases, genetics and reproductive biology of species of mutual interest.

In 2016-2017 exchanges of information will continue. Visits of specialists may be arranged by mutual agreement of both sides. (USGS, FWS; IFF)

Activity 02.05-8102 Study and Conservation of Sturgeon

PURPOSE: Promote sound management of sturgeon populations in both countries. (Questions relating to international trade of caviar and other sturgeon products are addressed under Project 02.05-31.)

Exchanges of information, samples and sturgeon specialists in 2016-2017 will be arranged as the need arises. (IPEE, RNAFEE; FWS, USGS)

Activity 02.05-8103 Study and Conservation of Salmon

PURPOSE: Promote sound management of salmon populations in both countries.



Photo by Igor Shilenok

Sockeye Salmon, *Oncorhynchus nerka*

1. Work on assessment of the status of and development of measures for the conservation of local salmon populations in protected areas of Sakhalin, Khabarovsk Krai, the Commander Islands and Kamchatka, including Kronotsky, South Kamchatka, Kol River, Vostochny, and Koppi River Reserves, as well as others, will continue. In 2016 and 2017, expeditions are planned to those areas with the participation of the listed partner organizations, as well as students, graduate students and volunteers. (IPEE RAS, VNIRO, KamchatNIRO, SakhNIRO, Sakhalin University, MSU, KSTU, WSC, Kronotsky SNR, Russian Salmon Fund, Ecological Guardians of Sakhalin, Khabarovsk Wildlife Foundation; WSC)
2. Joint field research will be conducted to assess the status of salmonids listed in the Russian Federation Red Data Book of threatened and endangered species (Kamchatka steelhead, Sakhalin taimen). Particular attention will be focused on areas where salmon populations may be impacted by increased anthropogenic activity. During 2016-2018 field work will be carried out on the Nabil River (Sakhalin) and Utkholok and Kvachina Rivers (Kamchatka). (IPEE RAS, MSU, Sakhalin University, SakhNIRO, Association of Protected Areas of Kamchatka, Ecological Guardians of Sakhalin; WSC)
3. Monitoring of commercial and non-commercial salmon populations, including genetics of isolated island populations, will be conducted in non-protected areas of Kamchatka and Sakhalin. Results will lead to development of recommendations for their rational use. (IPEE, RAS, MSU, SakhNIRO, KamchatkaNIRO, Ecological Guardians of Sakhalin, other Russian partners; WSC, USGS)
4. Specialists from both countries will seek opportunities for participation in international meetings to share experience in the conservation and sustainable use of wild salmon populations, and to disseminate informations

on those topic via such events as International Salmon Migration Day. (WSC, USGS; several protected areas of the Russian Far East, other Russian partners)

Activity 02.05-8104 Comparative Studies of Fisheries in Large Lakes and Rivers of the U.S. and Russia

PURPOSE: Study the ecology of endemic fishes of the Great Lakes (U.S.), Lake Baikal (Russia) and other important lake and river systems of both countries, with emphasis on comparative parasitology.

Russian and American and specialists submitted the abstracts of two papers, “Maintaining the Integrity of Lake Baikal and the Selenga River Delta Wetland,” and “Asian Carp: an Invasive Species Threat to the U.S. Great Lakes” to the International Conference on Newly Developing Regions: Current Status and Conservation of Natural Ecosystems,” held in Khabarovsk in October 2015 (WWF-Russia; FWS, EPA)

Project 02.05-91 Ecology and Dynamics of Arctic Marine Ecosystems (BERPAC)

PURPOSE: Study the status and dynamics of the Bering and Chukchi Seas, including their assimilative capacity, bioindicators of ocean pollution, and effects of human-caused disturbances, to establish a scientific basis for predicting major ecological, geochemical and geophysical trends and processes.

The two sides will continue to exchange information on data obtained during oceanographic studies of the Bering and Chukchi Seas. (FWS, USGS; RAS)

List of Acronyms and Abbreviations

ADF&G	Alaska Department of Fish and Game
AFSC	Alaska Fisheries Science Center
ASC	Alaska Science Center , USGS, Anchorage
ASLC	Alaska SeaLife Center , Seward
BBRC	Bird Banding and Ringing Center , Russian Academy of Sciences, Moscow
Chukotka TINRO	Chukotka Branch, Pacific Research and Fisheries Center
CSBG	Central Siberian Botanical Garden , Russian Academy of Sciences, Novosibirsk
EPA	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
FWS	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
FWS-Refuges	FWS Division of Refuges
Giprorybflot	Federal Fleet Development and Research Institute , St. Petersburg
GlavOkhota	Department of State Policy and Regulation of Hunting and Conservation of Hunting Resources, MNRE
IBIW	Institute of the Biology of Inland Waters , Russian Academy of Sciences, Borok
ICF	International Crane Foundation , Baraboo, Wisconsin
IFF	All-Russian Federal Research Institute of Freshwater Fisheries , Dmitrov
IPEE	Institute of Ecology and Evolution , Russian Academy of Sciences, Moscow
Kamchatka NIRO	Kamchatka Research Institute of Fisheries and Oceanography
KBPIG	Kamchatka Branch, Pacific Institute of Geography , Academy of Sciences
Khabarovsk TINRO	Khabarovsk Branch , Pacific Research and Fisheries Center
Komarov	Komarov Botanical Institute/Garden , Russian Academy of Sciences, St. Petersburg
KSTU	Kamchatka State Technical University
Main Bot. Garden	Main Botanical Garden , Russian Academy of Sciences, Moscow
Magadan NIRO	Magadan Research Institute of Fisheries and Oceanography
MBM-7	Migratory Bird Management , FWS, Alaska
MMM-7	Marine Mammals Management , FWS, Alaska
MNRE	Russian Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment
Monell	Monell Chemical Senses Center , Philadelphia
MSU	Moscow State University
Nat. Arb.-USDA	National Arboretum , Department of Agriculture
NBBL	National Bird Banding Laboratory , USGS, Laurel, Maryland
NMML	National Marine Mammal Laboratory , NOAA/NMFS, Seattle
NMNH	National Museum of Natural History , Smithsonian Institution , Washington, D.C.
NOAA	National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NPS	U.S. National Park Service
NWHC	National Wildlife Health Center , USGS, Madison, Wisconsin
RAS	Russian Academy of Sciences
RAS/FEB	Far East Branch of Russian Academy of Sciences
RAS/SIB	Siberian Branch of Russian Academy of Sciences
RNAFEE	Russian National Association of Fishery Enterprises, Entrepreneurs and Exporters
Sevvostrybvod	Northeast Fisheries Agency , Kamchatka
SWFC	Southwest Fisheries Science Center , NOAA/NMFS, La Jolla, California
TINRO	Pacific Research and Fisheries Center , Vladivostok
USFS	U.S. Forest Service
USGS	U.S. Geological Survey
VNII Ekologia	Russian Federal Research Institute for Ecology , Moscow
VNIRO	Russian Federal Research Institute of Fisheries and Oceanography
WSC	Wild Salmon Center , Portland, Oregon
Zapovedniks	Zapovedniks Environmental Education Center , Moscow