

U.S.-Russia Cooperative Efforts for the Conservation of Wildlife and Wildlife Habitat



Activities for 2005-2006



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

Area V: Protection of Nature and the Organization of Reserves

“...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 Governments of the United States of America and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics on Cooperation in the Field of Environmental Protection of 23 May 1972.

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Cover photographs:

Left top: Pacific walrus at Togiak National Wildlife Refuge; FWS photograph by Bill Hickey
Left bottom: Kamchatka, Russia; photograph by Nikolai Maleshin
Right top: Spectacled eider; photograph by U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Right bottom: Bolonsky Nature Reserve, Khabarovsk Province, Russia; photograph © David Pitkin (2002)

WORK PLAN FOR 2005 - 2006

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 Moscow December 1-2, 2004 to review exchanges carried out in 2002-2004 and agree on activities for 2005 and much of 2006. The following Work Plan was adopted:

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

Project 02.05-11 Conservation of Wild Species of Fauna

The work of this Project is carried out under five 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.



Group photo taken at North Pacific Migratory Bird Conference; Vermont, U.S.A. September 2002; photo by FWS

1. A report of the results of the September 2002 North Pacific Migratory Bird Conference (Vermont) will be issued in the English and Russian languages in the first half of 2005. The report summarizes critical issues in migratory bird conservation as identified by the U.S., Russian, Canadian and Japanese conference participants, and lists priority topics and species for international cooperation in the next decade. (FWS; BBRC)

2. The two sides will compile information to be used in preparing a dual-language joint statement reporting on implementation of the Convention for the Years 1999-2004. This publication will be the fourth in a series of reports issued at five-year intervals (1981-1986; 1987-1992; 1993-1998). (FWS; MNR; NBBL)

3. Plans are underway to hold a U.S.-Russia Migratory Bird Conference in Yakutsk in 2006 as a follow-up to the 2002 North Pacific Migratory Bird Conference in Vermont. (RAS/SIB; FWS; USGS; ICF)

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

PURPOSE: Achieve and maintain stable reproducing wild avian populations by encouraging conservation of critical habitat, scientific collaboration and educational outreach.

1. A special project to assist the recovery of the western population of the Siberian crane was begun by the two sides in 2002. Work aimed at teaching the cranes to migrate between breeding grounds in the lower Ob River (Uvat) of Russia and wintering areas in southwestern Asia by following ultralight aircraft will continue. In 2005 or 2006 a test flight originating in Uvat will be conducted using hang gliders but no birds. (ICF; VNIIPrirody)

2. In the summer of 2005 or 2006 Russian and American specialists will deploy four Platform Terminal Transmitters (PTTs) on juvenile Siberian cranes breeding east of Kytalyk to obtain information about their migration route and identify their wintering areas. (ICF; VNIIPrirody)

Activity 02.05-1103 Study and Conservation of Polar Bears

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



photo: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

"The Contracting Parties shall cooperate with the goal of ensuring the conservation of the Alaska-Chukotka polar bear population, the conservation of its habitat, and the regulation of its use for subsistence purposes by native people."

AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
AND THE GOVERNMENT OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION
ON THE CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT
OF THE ALASKA-CHUKOTKA POLAR BEAR POPULATION

1. In 2005 both countries are expected to adopt legislation to implement the bilateral Agreement signed in 2000. When those actions occur, the Parties will meet to discuss establishment of the U.S.-Russia Polar Bear Commission stipulated by the Agreement, and also consult on biomonitoring and subsistence issues. (FWS; MMM7; MNR)
2. Representatives of the Alaska Nanuuq Commission and Chukotka Association of Marine Mammal Hunters will meet in 2005 for further discussion of a companion Native-to-Native subsistence use agreement to the 2000 intergovernmental Agreement.

(Activity 02.05-1104 “Protected Natural Areas,” has been redesignated 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.

1. In 2005 Russian and American zoos, in partnership with the Zoological Society of London and several North American zoos, will work to conserve the endangered Far Eastern Leopard. Information about measures necessary to save this very rare species will be disseminated, and a campaign undertaken to raise funds for habitat protection, anti-poaching, firefighting and public awareness activities.
2. The Moscow and Brookfield (Chicago) Zoos will cooperate in captive breeding of walrus, Pallas cats and Galapagos tortoises, and also exchange rodent species.
3. In the second quarter of 2005 the Moscow Zoo will send a team of seven zoo exhibit designers and builders to several U.S. zoos for familiarization with facilities for maintaining Antarctic penguins in captivity.
4. The Moscow Zoo will receive two tapirs from the Baton Rouge Zoo in 2005.
5. The Moscow Zoo will continue cooperation with the San Diego Zoo on captive maintenance and breeding of saiga antelope, and with the Omaha Zoo on design and construction of animal exhibits.
6. The Moscow Zoo will continue its participation in the following programs and organizations: International Species Information System (ISIS); Zoological Information Management System (ZIMS); American Association of Reptilian and Amphibian Veterinarians (AARAV).

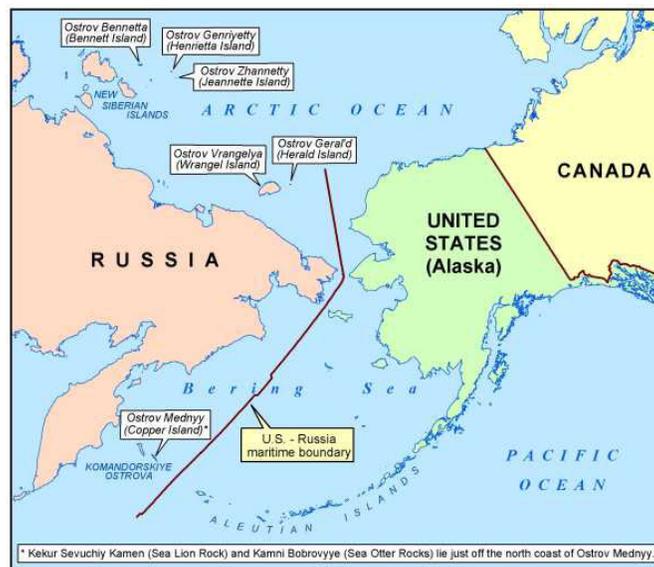
Activity 02.05-1106 Conservation and Management of Marine Birds

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

1. One Russian specialist will visit the U.S. for three months in the summer of 2005 to monitor activity patterns of parakeet auklets in nesting colonies on the Pribilof Islands (Alaska), and conduct a comparative study of the timing of molt in parakeet and least auklets. (MBM-7; BBRC)
2. One Russian specialist will visit the U.S. for ten weeks in May-July 2005 to take part in an inventory of montane-nesting birds in Katmai National Park, Alaska; help conduct a population assessment of nesting marbled godwits on the Alaska Peninsula; and complete a vegetation assessment needed to project breeding population numbers of rock sandpipers on St. George and St. Matthew Islands. (ASC; MSU)
3. The two sides will update and add new entries to the U.S.-Russia Seabird Colony Catalog database, containing information on the location, species composition and breeding population size for most of the estimated 1,000 seabird colonies in the Russian Far East. (MBM-7; RAS/FEB; IBPN)

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.



source: U.S. Department of State

1. Two Russian specialists will visit the U.S. for two weeks in March 2005 to work with colleagues in Anchorage and Homer, Alaska on formulation of a unified system of monitoring seabird populations in the Commander Islands, with special attention to the effects of subsistence take, the need to increase public education and outreach activities, and the impact of invasive species. These discussions will lead to the eventual development of an overall strategy for monitoring wildlife populations throughout the Aleutian-Commander Chain. (MBM-7; REF; MNR)

2. Alaska Maritime National Wildlife Refuge and Commander Islands Nature Reserve will collaborate to conduct a public education program and distribute prevention kits with the goal of reduction and eventual eradication of Norway rats on Bering, Medniy and outlying islands of the Commanders. (REF; MNR)
3. The two sides will continue cooperation under the Important Bird Areas (IBA) Program for the Bering Sea region, which has identified 133 IBAs in Alaska (92) and Russia (41) as critical habitat for waterfowl, seabirds, shorebirds, songbirds and raptors. (MBM-7; MNR; RAS/FEB; IBPN)

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 Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Fauna and Flora (CITES).



From left to right:

Aleksei Knizhnikov, NGO "Crude Accountability"
Igor Mikhno, Vice Chairman, Chukotka Fisheries Committee

Valeriy Paltsev, Director, Sturgeon Harvest and Production Association (APDVO)

Olga Sedykh, Principal Specialist, Russian National Association of Fisheries Enterprises and Exporters (VARPE)

Steven Kohl, FWS Division of International Conservation
Kevin Adams, FWS Assistant Director for Law Enforcement

December 3, 2004 Moscow

photo: Peter Ward, FWS

1. Consultations were held in Moscow in December 2004 on policy questions pertaining to shipment of Caspian sturgeon and caviar products to the U.S. Participants included the Assistant Director for Law Enforcement of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and representatives of the Russian Sturgeon Harvest and Production Association and Russian National Association of Fisheries Enterprises and Exporters. (LE; RNAFEE)
2. In 2005-2006 the two countries will direct efforts at establishing jointly acceptable methods of sturgeon species identification and adopting a mutually-agreed set of mitochondrial DNA test standards. (LE; RNAFEE)
3. A U.S.-Russia Conservation Law Workshop will be held in Moscow in the first half of 2006. Its purpose will be, through a series of lectures and round-table discussions, to familiarize participants with principles of conservation law in the U.S. and Russia, including their genesis, significance and enforcement. The target audience will be attorneys, as well as non-attorney administrators in positions requiring extensive knowledge of wildlife conservation laws and their interpretation. (FWS; MNR)

Project 02.05-41 Ecosystem Biodiversity

The work of this Project is carried out under three 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.

In 2005 the two sides will exchange information on the role of biosphere reserves and other protected lands in conserving biodiversity and helping ensure sustainable development in the basins of the Mississippi (U.S.) and Volga (Russia) Rivers. After familiarization with this information the sides will discuss exchanges of specialists for field studies on specific topics. (IPEE; FWS)

Activity 02.05-4102 Arid Ecosystems

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



saiga photograph © Richard Reading

1. One Russian specialist will visit the U.S. for ten days in the first half of 2005 for meetings with American colleagues on calibration and deployment of satellite transmitter collars to monitor the movements of endangered saiga antelope in Kalmykia, Russia. (IPEE)
2. Two American specialists will be invited to Russia for up to two months in 2005 or 2006 to take part in an expedition to study the factors of human impact and reduction of pasture-range areas on the multi-year dynamics of arid lands in the Kalmyk Republic. (IPEE)
2. Two Russian specialists will visit the Southwest U.S. for 1-3 months in the fourth quarter of 2005 or in 2006 for familiarization with mapping and monitoring ground cover in arid lands using GIS and remote sensing technology. (IPEE)

Activity 02.05-4103 Mountain Ecosystems

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



Muzhigit Akkiev of Kabardino-Balkarsky Nature Reserve in the Caucasus Mountains of Russia poses with a Pennsylvania State Parks ranger at Hickory Run State Park in Carbon County, in the western foothills of the Pocono Mountains.

August 8, 2004

FWS photo

In September 2005 a conference on the role of alpine biosphere reserves in the study of global climate change will be held at Kavkazskiy or Teberdinskiy Biosphere Reserve in the Caucasus Mountains of Russia. Two American specialists will be invited to participate. (IPEE; REF)

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. Two American specialists will visit Russia in the second half in 2005 to assist with an evaluation of Setun River Valley Nature Reserve, located within the city limits of Moscow, with the goal of improving water quality, mitigating the effects of pollution and restoring habitat quality. (IPEE)
2. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is considering organizing a training workshop in 2006 for up to 25 law enforcement staff from Russian zapovedniks and parks based on the physical and psychological training given to all U.S. refuge law enforcement personnel. In preparation, a 3-4 member American delegation may visit Russia in 2005 for discussions on the structure and content of this workshop. (REF; MNR; ZAPOVEDNIKS)
3. The 6th Call for Proposals under the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service program of small grants to Russian reserves and parks will be announced in late 2005 or early 2006. Previous grants have supported the work of these protected areas through purchase of equipment and supplies, facilities repair and maintenance, and public outreach activities. Review panels in Russia and the U.S. will evaluate all applications, and recipients will be announced in the spring of 2006. Awards will be a maximum of \$7,500 each. (FWS; MNR; ZAPOVEDNIKS)

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.



Young Ecologists competition at Sayano-Shushenskiy Nature Reserve, southern Siberia.
Photograph provided by Sayano-Shushenskiy Nature Reserve.

Two American specialists will visit Russia for two weeks in June 2005 to assist in designing a new visitor center at Sayano-Shushenskiy Reserve in southern Siberia. (FWS; MNR; ZAPOVEDNIKS)

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.

The 19th meeting of the U.S.-Russia Marine Mammal Working Group will be held in Russia in 2006, with the participation of 8-10 American specialists.

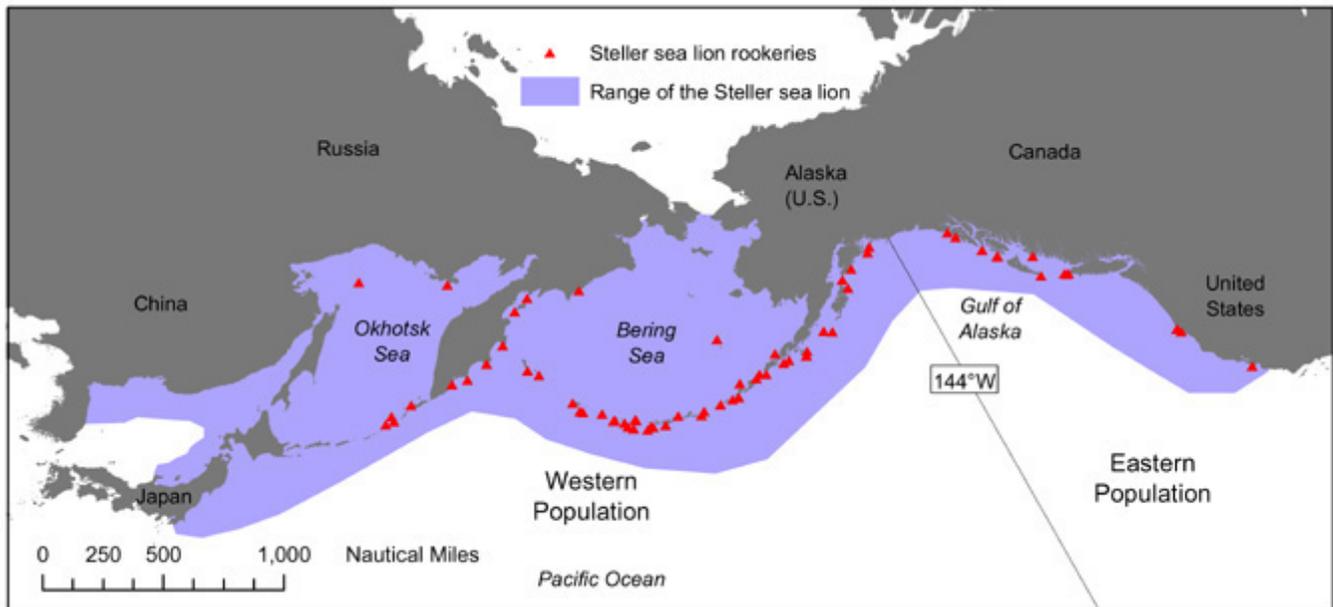
I. PINNIPEDS

True Seals

1. 2-3 American specialists will visit Russia in 2005 or 2006 (St. Petersburg and Moscow) for discussions on standardizing methods for analyzing results of aerial surveys of ringed seals. (GiproRybFlot; PINRO; NMML)
2. 2-3 American specialists will visit the Federal Fleet Development and Research Institute (GiproRybFlot) in St. Petersburg and the Polar Research Institute of Marine Fisheries and Oceanography (PINRO) in Murmansk in late 2005 or 2006 to work on standardization of methods for analyzing the results of aerial surveys of pinnipeds.
3. 1-2 Russian specialists will visit the U.S. to take part in ice seal field studies organized by the U.S. National Marine Mammal Laboratory in 2005-2006 in the marginal sea ice zone of the Bering Sea and in coastal areas of Alaska. (NMML; Kamchatka TINRO; PINRO)

4. One American specialist will visit Russia during the period August-November 2005 to monitor commercial and subsistence harvests of spotted and fur seals in the Commander Islands. (NMML; MNR)
5. 1-2 American specialists will visit Russia in 2005 and/or 2006 to capture and deploy satellite tags on ribbon seals together with colleagues from the Kamchatka Branch of the Pacific Institute of Geography. (NMML; KBPIG)

Eared Seals



source: U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

1. 1-2 Russian specialists will visit the U.S. for 2-3 weeks in 2005 to take part in studies of Steller sea lion foraging ecology in Alaska. (NMML; Kamchatka TINRO; KBPIG)
2. 1-2 Russian specialists will visit the U.S. for 3-4 weeks in 2005 to conduct northern fur seal population monitoring and foraging ecology studies in the Pribilof Islands, Alaska. (NMML; Kamchatka TINRO; KBPIG)
3. 4-5 American specialists will visit eastern Russia during the 2005 summer field season for Steller sea lion research along the Kamchatka Peninsula, Kuril Islands, Commander Islands and Tyuleniy Island. (NMML; ASLC; KBPIG)
4. One Russian specialist will visit the U.S. for 2-3 weeks in 2005 to work with colleagues at the Alaska SeaLife Center to work with Steller sea lion data collected from the remote monitoring system at Cape Kozlova. (ASLC; KBPIG)
5. 1-2 Russian specialists will visit the U.S. for up to one month in 2005 or 2006 for analysis of branded Steller sea lion resight data collected in 2001-2004 during joint cruises. (NMML; Kamchatka TINRO; KBPIG)

Pacific Walrus



Pacific walrus at Togiak National Wildlife Refuge, Alaska

photo: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Bill Hickey

1. One Russian specialist will visit the U.S. in March 2005 to take part in a cruise in the Bering Sea to deploy satellite tags on Pacific walrus. (ASC; Chukotka TINRO)
2. Five Russian walrus subsistence harvest coordinators will visit the U.S. in the spring of 2005 for a workshop in Nome, Alaska on harvest monitoring methods and to exchange data and reports from the previous year's take. (MMM-7; Chukotka TINRO)
3. The U.S. and Russia will conduct a comprehensive aerial survey of Pacific walrus in the Bering Sea in the spring of 2006 using U.S. and Russian aircraft equipped with thermal imaging systems. Specialists from each country will be invited to join the other side's survey team, and the participants in the survey will subsequently meet to analyze the data obtained. (MMM-7; ASC; PINRO; GiproRybFlot)

Sea Otters



Sea otter

photo: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, David Menke

1. Three American specialists will visit Russia in March 2005 for studies of sea otter mortality, epidemic diseases, changes in abundance and feeding on the Commander Islands, and to develop methods for capture and tagging using advanced technology. (MMM-7; KBPIG)
2. One Russian specialist will visit the U.S. in February 2005 to take part in a workshop in Seward, Alaska on designing long-term sea otter monitoring strategies. (ASLC; MMM-7; KBPIG)
3. One Russian specialist will visit the U.S. (Alaska) in 2005 or 2006 for research on sea otter tooth sections with the goal of developing standardized methods of determining age. (ASLC; KBPIG)
4. One Russian specialist will visit the U.S. in late 2005 or early 2006 for training in radio tagging procedures in California and standardization of data collection methods. (ASLC; KBPIG)
5. One American specialist will visit Russia for 3-4 weeks in June 2006 to standardize methodologies of shipboard surveys of sea otters in the Commander Islands. (SevVostRybVod; MMM-7)

II. CETACEANS

1. 3-5 American specialists visit Russia (Kamchatka) during the summer of 2005 or 2006 to take part in joint research on the abundance, distribution and impact of transient killer whales on marine mammals in the northwest Pacific Ocean. (KBPIG; NMML; SWFC)
2. 3-5 American specialists will visit Russia during July-August 2005 for abundance surveys, photo identification and biopsy sampling of humpback whales along Kamchatka and in the Commander Islands. (KBPIG; SWFC; NMML)
3. Three American specialists will visit Russia in August 2005 for research on bowhead whales in the western part of the Sea of Okhotsk. (KBPIG; SWFC; NMML)
4. 1-2 Russian specialists will visit the U.S. for 2-3 weeks in 2005 or 2006 for analysis of whale sightings and photo identification data collected during joint cruises in 2001-2004. (NMML; KBPIG; Kamchatka TINRO)
5. 1-2 American specialists will visit Russia for 1-2 weeks in 2005 or 2006 to participate in biopsy sampling of live bowhead whales of the Bering-Chukotka-Beaufort stock sponsored by the Chukotka Association of Marine Mammal Hunters. (NMML; SWFC)
6. 3-4 American specialists will visit Russia during the period June-September 2005 or 2006 for research on the western population of gray whales northeast of Sakhalin Island. (KBPIG; SWFC)
7. 1-2 American specialists will visit Russia in 2005 or 2006 to take part in a cruise to study the impact of killer whales on halibut fisheries in the central part of the Sea of Okhotsk. (SevVostRybVod; SWFC)
8. One American specialist will visit Russia for one month in 2006 for research on bowhead whales as part of the Shantar Islands ecosystem monitoring program. (RAS/FEB; SWFC)

Project 02.05-71 Animal and Plant Ecology

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.

A U.S.-Russia Botanical Conference “New Roots for the 21st Century” will be held the week of September 19-23, 2005 in Pennsylvania, U.S., with the participation of approximately 30 specialists from each country. The goal of the conference is to review 30 years of botanical cooperation under Activity 02.05-7101, and also to set priorities for joint botanical work through 2010. (USDA; FWS; RAS; RAS/SIB; RAS/FEB)

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 to better conserve and manage them.



spectacled eider

photograph: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

1. Specialists from both countries will collaborate on spectacled eider field studies in June 2005 in the Chaun Bay area of western Chukotka, Russia. Work will include monitoring of nesting chronology and productivity, capture and marking of adult females to estimate annual survival, and collection of blood samples for lead contaminant analyses. (R7; MNR)
2. Several American specialists will take part in the Third International Symposium on Waterfowl of Northern Eurasia, to be held October 6-10, 2005 in St. Petersburg, Russia.
3. One Russian specialist will visit the U.S. for 2-3 weeks in November 2005 to present a paper at the Second North American Sea Duck Conference in Annapolis, Maryland and take part in a working group meeting of the U.S. Eider Recovery team in Anchorage, Alaska. (USGS-BRD; MBM-7)
4. Hunting plays an important role in the formulation of management strategies for migratory waterfowl, and hunter education programs are a key component. Such programs are common in the U.S., but less so in Russia. With this in mind, several governmental and non-governmental agencies in Russia, including the Russian Hunting and Fishing Association, propose collaborating with American counterparts in outreach to waterfowl hunters and organization of training workshops geared to specific topics. As a beginning, the Russian side will organize a conference in late 2005 or 2006 to which American participants from Ducks Unlimited and other organizations will be invited. (IPEE; FWS; others)

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.

1. In 2005 up to three Russian specialists will visit the U.S. for 3-4 weeks each to conduct literature searches and work in the collections of small carnivores, argali sheep and other mammals in the National Museum of Natural History in Washington, D.C. (IPEE; Smithsonian Institution)

2. Work will continue on developing an electronic database in support of a joint U.S.-Russia Atlas of Mammals of the Holarctic. (IPEE; Smithsonian Institution)
3. Ongoing comparative studies of the impact of beaver activity on fish abundance and aquatic habitat quality will continue. Exchanges of American and Russian scientists will be scheduled for the 2005-2006 field season. (IPEE; University of North Dakota).
4. The Russian side will consider holding an international symposium in late 2005 on the molecular and genetic bases for biodiversity conservation in animals, to which American specialists will be invited. Topics include: evolution of intraspecies taxonomic and population structures; genome databases for rare and endangered species; and processes of species formation, including hybrids. (IPEE; FWS; USGS-BRD)

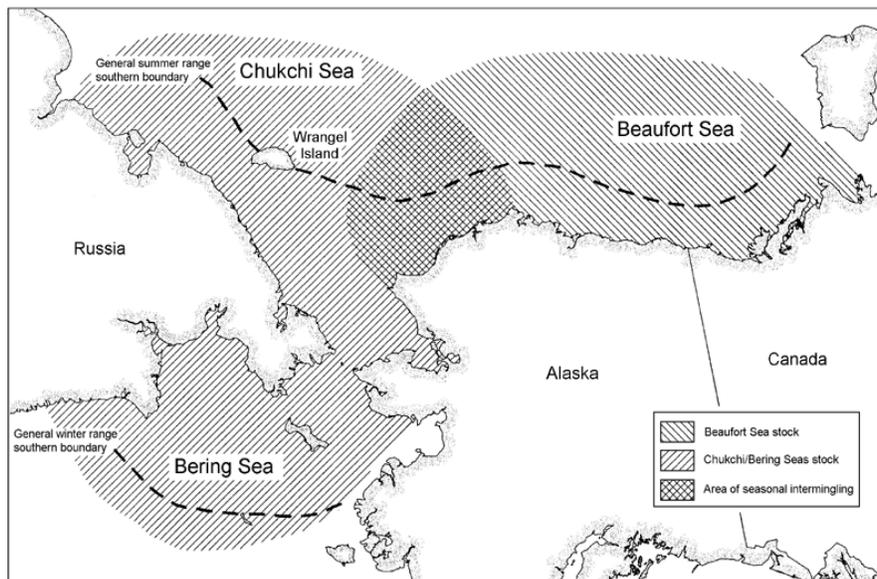
Activity 02.05-7104 Chemical Senses and Communication in Animals

PURPOSE: Investigate the functions and mechanisms of taste and smell as related to the disciplines of physiology, biochemistry, endocrinology, immunology, nutrition, behavior and genetics.

One Russian specialist will visit the U.S. for one month in April 2005 to attend the annual meeting of the Association for Chemoreceptor Sciences (Sarasota, Florida) and continue studies of animal sensitivity to environmental chemicals at Monell Chemical Senses Center in Philadelphia. (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.



polar bear distribution graphic by U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Marine Mammals Management, Anchorage, Alaska

In 2005 and 2006, collaborative research between and exchanges of American and Russian specialists will be carried out to investigate: (1) variability in age structure and thickness distributions of Arctic perennial sea ice; (2) mechanisms associated with interannual sea ice area fluctuations; and (3) interannual variability of sea ice conditions in the Beaufort and Chukchi Seas and its influence on Arctic marine mammals in conditions of global climate change. (ASC; IPEE)

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.

The Second U.S.-Russia Workshop on Avian and Mammal Diseases, with the participation of 50-60 wildlife disease specialists, will be held in Moscow in the first half of 2006. (NWHC; FWS; VNIIPrirody; MNR)

Activity 02.05-7107 Invasive Species of Fauna and Flora

PURPOSE: Mitigate the environmental damage caused by invasive species.



Dmitry F. Pavlov, Papanin Institute of the Biology of Domestic Water Bodies, Russian Academy of Sciences and

Sharon Gross, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service at the Rybinsk Reservoir in Yaroslavl Province, Russia.

Borok, Russia August, 2001

photo: Peter Ward, FWS

1. The Second International Symposium on Invasive Species of the Holarctic will be held in Borok, Russia in September 2005. 4-5 American specialists are invited to take part. (FWS; USGS-BRD; IPEE)
2. In 2005 and 2006 individual exchanges of American and Russian specialists will be carried out under such topics as: predicting the impact of invaders on aquatic communities; risk assessment when invasives are introduced in freshwater bodies; affect of introduction of invasives on genetic and evolutionary characteristics of native species; rat eradication on the Commander Islands of Far Eastern Russia (also see Project 02.05-21 on rats). (IEE; FWS; USGS-BRD)

Project 02.05-81 Ichthyology and Aquaculture

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.

1. The Proceedings of the Second U.S.-Russia Symposium on Aquaculture and Fish Health, held in Shepherdstown, West Virginia in September 2003, will be published in 2005 in English and Russian. (USGS-BRD; IFF)
2. One Russian specialist will visit the U.S. for ten days in June 2005 to present a paper on spring viremia of carp virus (SVCV) and discuss the impact of this disease on wild and cultured fishes of Eastern Europe at a fish health workshop in Shepherdstown. (USGS-BRD; IFF)

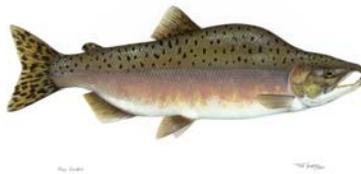
Activity 02.05-8102 The Study and Conservation of Sturgeon

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

1. As a follow-up to the October 2002 Russia-China-U.S. Workshop on the Conservation of the Kaluga Sturgeon and other Fish Species of the Amur River, a second workshop will be held in 2006 in Harbin, China. (Khabarovsk TINRO; FWS)
2. Exchanges of information and sturgeon specialists will take place in 2005-2006 as the need arises. (IPEE; RNAFEE; FWS; USGS-BRD)

Activity 02.05-8103 The Study and Conservation of Salmon

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



pink salmon

artwork by Timothy Knepp; published by U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

1. Under an ongoing project to study and conserve steelhead salmon and other native fish species and their habitats on the Kamchatka Peninsula, scientists from the Wild Salmon Center (Oregon) and Moscow State University will continue expeditionary field work in Kamchatka during the summer and fall of 2005 to collect samples and analyze data. (WSS; MSU)

In addition, the Wild Salmon Center will convene a North Pacific “State of the Salmon” conference in Anchorage, Alaska in April 2005, to which Russian salmon specialists will be invited. (WSS)

2. The U.S. side will prepare a proposal for continuation of cooperation with fishery biologists in the Russian Far East, begun in the mid-1990s, on integration of salmon hatchery programs with overall salmon management strategies, including reduction or elimination of adverse genetic and competitive interactions between hatchery-produced fish and wild stocks. The proposal will provide for exchanges of American and Russian specialists in 2006 and beyond. (R1; SevVostRybVod and others)

Activity 02.05-8104 Comparative Studies of Fisheries in Large Lakes 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 systems of both countries, with emphasis on comparative parasitology.

1. There will be an exchange of American and Russian specialists for 2-3 week periods in 2005 or 2006 to determine reasons for the decline of the Eurasian ruffe in the Rybinsk Reservoir and the implications for the control of this species in the U.S. Great Lakes, where it is invasive. (IPEE; USGS-BRD; R3)
2. American and Russian specialists will work together to develop a computer model, based on similar models for age composition and amount of catch for lake whitefish and lake trout in the Great Lakes, for predicting sustainable harvest levels and developing a long-range management plan for omul in Lake Baikal. (R3; RAS/SIB)

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.



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Project 02.05-91

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photo: Steven Kohl, FWS

1. In 2005 the American side will publish the English language edition of a joint monograph presenting the long-range scientific results of the September 1993 BERPAC expedition. (The Russian language edition was published in 2000.) (RAS; FWS)
2. As the 30th anniversary of the first U.S.-Soviet expedition to the Bering Sea (1977) approaches, the two sides will consider holding a symposium to review multi-year data and agree on research priorities for the coming five years. (RAS; FWS)

List of Acronyms and Abbreviations

ADF&G	Alaska Department of Fish and Game
ASC	USGS Alaska Science Center, Anchorage
ASLC	Alaska SeaLife Center, Seward
BBRC	Russian Bird Banding and Ringing Center, Academy of Sciences, Moscow
Chukotka TINRO	Chukotka Federal Fisheries Research Institute, Anadyr
FWS	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
GiproRybFlot	Federal Fleet Development and Research Institute, St. Petersburg
IBPN	Institute of the Biological Problems of the North, Magadan
ICF	International Crane Foundation, Baraboo, WI
IFF	All-Russian Institute of Freshwater Fisheries, Dmitrov
IPEE	Institute of Ecology and Evolution, Russian Academy of Sciences, Moscow
Kamchatka TINRO	Kamchatka Federal Fisheries Research Institute
KBPIG	Kamchatka Branch, Pacific Institute of Geography
Khabarovsk TINRO	Khabarovsk Federal Fisheries Research Institute
LE	FWS Division of Law Enforcement
Magadan TINRO	Okhotsk Federal Fisheries Research Institute
MBM-7	Region 7 FWS Migratory Bird Management (Alaska)
MMM-7	Region 7 FWS Marine Mammals Management (Alaska)
MNR	Russian Ministry of Natural Resources
Monell	Monell Chemical Senses Center, Philadelphia
MSU	Moscow State University
NBBL	USGS National Bird Banding Laboratory, Laurel, MD
NMML	NMFS National Marine Mammal Laboratory, Seattle
NMNH	Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History, Washington, DC
NWHC	USGS National Wildlife Health Center, Madison, WI
OKHOTSKRYBVOD	Okhotsk Sea Fisheries Agency, Magadan
PINRO	Polar Research Institute of Marine Fisheries & Oceanography, Murmansk
R1	FWS Region 1 (CA, ID, WA, OR, NV, HI)
R3	FWS Region 3 (Great Lakes & Upper Midwest)
R7	FWS Region 7 (AK)
RAS	Russian Academy of Sciences
RAS/FEB	Far East Branch of Russian Academy of Sciences
RAS/SIB	Siberian Branch of Russian Academy of Sciences
REF	FWS Division of Refuges
RNAFEE	Russian National Association of Fisheries Enterprises and Exporters
SevVostRybVod	Kamchatka Fisheries Agency
SWFC	NMFS Southwest Fisheries Center, La Jolla
TINRO	Russian Pacific Federal Fisheries Research Institute, Vladivostok
USDA	U.S. Department of Agriculture
USGS-BRD	Biological Resources Division of U.S. Geological Survey
VNIIPrirody	Russian Federal Wildlife Research Institute, Moscow
VNIRO	Russian Federal Fisheries Research Institute, Moscow
WSS	Wild Salmon Center (Portland, OR)
ZAPOVEDNIKS	Zapovedniks Environmental Education Center, Moscow