

NIBIO RAPPORT | NIBIO REPORT

Monitoring of the Pasvik-Inari-Pechenga brown bear population in 2015 using hair-trapping

VOL.: 1, NR.: 69, 2015



Siv Grethe Aarnes¹, Alexander Kopatz¹, Hans Geir Eiken¹, Julia Schregel¹, Paul E. Aspholm¹, Tuomo Ollila², Olga Makarova³, Natalia Polikarpova³, Vladimir Chizhov³, Sergey Ogurtcov³ and Snorre B. Hagen¹

¹ NIBIO — Norwegian Institute of Bioeconomy Research, Svanhovd, Svanvik, Norway

² Metsähallitus, Rovaniemi, Finland

³ Pasvik Strict Nature Reserve, Rajakoski, Russia

TITTEL/TITLE

MONITORING OF THE PASVIK-INARI-PECHENGA BROWN BEAR POPULATION IN 2015 USING HAIR-TRAPPING

FORFATTER(E)/AUTHOR(S)

Siv Grethe Aarnes¹, Alexander Kopatz¹, Hans Geir Eiken¹, Julia Schregel¹, Paul E. Aspholm¹, Tuomo Ollila², Olga Makarova³, Natalia Polikarpova³, Vladimir Chizhov³, Sergey Ogurtcov³ and Snorre B. Hagen¹

| DATO/DATE: | RAPPORT NR./ REPORT NO.: | TILGJENGELIGHET/AVAILABILITY: | | PROSJEKT NR./PROJECT NO.: | | SAK | SAKSNR./ARCHIVE NO.: | |
|--|-----------------------------|--|--|---------------------------|--------------------------------|---------|---------------------------------------|--|
| 22.01.2016 | 1/69/2015 | Åpen | | 8941 | | Arkivnr | | |
| ISBN-NR./ISBN-NO: | | ISBN DIGITAL VERSION/ ISBN DIGITAL VERSION: | ISSN-NR./ISSN-NO: | | ANTALL SIDER/ NO. OF PAGES: | | ANTALL VEDLEGG/ NO. OF APPENDICES: | |
| 978-82-17-0 | 01531-4 | 1 | ISSN 2464-11 | .62 | 32 | | 2 | |
| | | | | | | | | |
| oppdragsgiver/employer: Fylkesmannen i Finnmark (Norway), Metsähallitus (Finland) | | | kontaktperson/contact person: Alexander Kopatz | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | | |
| STIKKORD/KEYWOR | DS: | | FAGOMRÅDE/FIELD OF WORK: | | | | | |
| Brunbjørn; <i>Ursus arctos</i> ; hårfeller; DNA; non-Invasive; ikke forstyrende; Norway; Finland; Russia | | | Bestandsovervåkning; molekylær økologi | | | | | |
| Brown bear; <i>Ursus arctos</i> ; hair snares; DNA; non-Invasive; Norway; Finland; Russia | | | Population monitoring; molecular ecology | | | | ogy | |

SAMMENDRAG/SUMMARY:

SUMMARY: The trans-border brown bear population of Pasvik-Inari-Pechenga (Norway-Finland-Russia) has been monitored using genetic analyses of feces collection since 2005. In addition, in 2007 and 2011, hair traps were systematically placed out in the area to collect hairs for genetic analysis, to more precisely determine the minimum numbers of bears in the area. In 2015, we repeated this hair trap study, using the exact same methodology as in 2007 and 2011, to make a direct comparison of the results from all the 3 study years. Brown bear DNA was detected in 158 of 209 hair samples (76%) obtained from hair traps in 2015 and for 136 of these samples, a complete DNA profile could be determined. We identified 26 different bears in 2015, 17 females and 9 males. We detected 16 bears in Norway, 5 bears in Finland and 9 bears in Russia. Thirteen of these 26 bears were previously unknown, 7 were detected in Norway, 2 in Finland and 4 in Russia. A comparison to the results from 2007 and 2011 showed that we detected more bears in hair traps in 2015 (26 bears) than in 2007 (24 bears) and 2011 (20



bears). We observed an increase in the total yield of hair samples in the traps in 2015 (209 samples) compared to 2007 (196 samples) and 2011 (88 samples). Four (16%) and seven (35%) of the bears caught in hair traps in 2007 and in 2011, respectively, were also recaptured in 2015. Additional samples (scats and hair) collected opportunistically in the field within the Russian and Finnish parts of the study area in 2015 detected 4 male bears and 1 female bear in the Russian part leading to a total of 14 bears identified in Russia, of which 8 bears were detected for the first time. Additional scat and hair samples from the field in Norway were not included in our study and comparisons between the systematic hair-trapping and opportunistic sampling in the field were not performed. However, the results indicate that both methods combined are currently the optimal approach to monitor brown bear numbers in an area.

SAMMENDRAG: Den grenseoverskridende brunbjørnbestanden i Pasvik-Inari-Pechenga (Norge-Finland-Russland) har vært overvåket ved hjelp av genetiske analyser av ekskrementprøver innsamlet i felten siden 2005. Videre, i 2007 og i 2011, ble hårfeller systematisk plassert ut i området for å samle hår til genetiske analyser, for mer presist å bestemme minimum antall brunbjørn. I 2015 gjentok vi denne hårfelle-studien med nøyaktig samme metodikk som i 2007 og 2011, for å gjøre en direkte sammenligning av resultatene fra disse årene. I 2015 ble brunbjørn-DNA påvist i 158 av 209 hårprøver (76%), og for 136 prøver kunne en fullstendig DNA-profil bestemmes. Vi identifiserte 26 ulike bjørner, 17 hunner og 9 hanner. Vi påviste 16 individer i Norge, 5 individer i Finland, og 9 individer i Russland. Tretten av disse 26 bjørnene var tidligere ukjente, 7 fra Norge, 2 fra Finland og 4 fra Russland. En sammenligning fra resultatene fra 2007 og 2011 viste at vi fant flere bjørner i 2015 (26 bjørner) enn i 2007 (24 bjørner) og 2011 (20 bjørner). Vi observert en økning av antall hårprøver i fellene i 2015 (209 prøver) sammenlignet med 2007 (196 prøver) og 2011 (88 prøver). Fire (16%) og 7 (35%) av bjørnene fanget i hårfeller i henholdsvis 20017 og 2011 gav gjenfangst i 2015. Ytterligere prøver (hår og ekskrementer) samlet opportunistisk i terrenget innenfor de russiske og finske delene av studieområdet i 2015 identifiserte 4 hannbjørner og en hunnbjørn i den russiske delen som ikke ble påvist i hårfellene (14 bjørner totalt i Russisk område; 8 nye individer). Tilleggsprøver samlet i felten (ekskrementer og hår) fra Norge ble ikke inkludert i dette studiet og sammenligninger mellom systematisk hårfellefangst og opportunistisk innsamling av prøver i felten er ikke utført. I midlertidig kan resultatene tyde på at en kombinasjon av begge metodene er for tiden den optimale fremgangsmåten for å overvåke brunbjørn i et område.

Norway/Norway, Finland/Finland, Russia/Russia

FYLKE/COUNTY: Finnmark (NO), Lappland (FI), Murmansk (RUS)

KOMMUNE/MUNICIPALITY: Sør-Varanger (NO), Inari (FI), Pechenga (RUS)

STED/LOKALITET: Øvre Pasvik (NO), Inari (FI), Pechenga (RUS)

SNORRE HAGEN

PROSJEKTLEDER / PROJECT LEADER

ALEXANDER KOPATZ



ABSTRACT

The trans-border brown bear population of Pasvik-Inari-Pechenga (Norway-Finland-Russia) has been monitored using genetic analyses of feces collection since 2005. In addition, in 2007 and 2011, hair traps were systematically placed out in the area to collect hairs for genetic analysis, to more precisely determine the minimum numbers of bears in the area. In 2015, we repeated this hair trap study, using the exact same methodology as in 2007 and 2011, to make a direct comparison of the results from all the 3 study years. Brown bear DNA was detected in 158 of 209 hair samples (76%) obtained from hair traps in 2015 and for 136 of these samples, a complete DNA profile could be determined. We identified 26 different bears in 2015, 17 females and 9 males. We detected 16 bears in Norway, 5 bears in Finland and 9 bears in Russia. Thirteen of these 26 bears were previously unknown, 7 were detected in Norway, 2 in Finland and 4 in Russia. A comparison to the results from 2007 and 2011 showed that we detected more bears in hair traps in 2015 (26 bears) than in 2007 (24 bears) and 2011 (20 bears). We observed an increase in the total yield of hair samples in the traps in 2015 (209 samples) compared to 2007 (196 samples) and 2011 (88 samples). Four (16%) and seven (35%) of the bears caught in hair traps in 2007 and in 2011, respectively, were also recaptured in 2015. Additional samples (scats and hair) collected opportunistically in the field within the Russian and Finnish parts of the study area in 2015 detected 4 male bears and 1 female bear in the Russian part leading to a total of 14 bears identified in Russia, of which 8 bears were detected for the first time. Additional scat and hair samples from the field in Norway were not included in our study and comparisons between the systematic hairtrapping and opportunistic sampling in the field were not performed. However, the results indicate that both methods combined are currently the optimal approach to monitor brown bear numbers in an area.

Svanvik, 22.01.16 Siv Grethe Aarnes and Alexander Kopatz

Cover photo taken with a wildlife camera at a hair-trap in Pechenga, Russia; Pasvik Strict Nature Reserve, Rajakoski, Russia.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

| INTRODUCTION | 6 |
|--|----|
| MATERIALS AND METHODS | 7 |
| Permissions | 7 |
| Study Area | 7 |
| Sample collection | |
| Additional samples | 9 |
| Remote wildlife cameras | |
| DNA-extraction | 10 |
| Analysis of DNA profiles and gender | 10 |
| RESULTS AND DISCUSSION | 11 |
| Hair samples collected at hair-traps | 11 |
| DNA analysis of the hair samples collected at hair-traps | |
| Comparison of hair-trapping results from 2007, 2011 and 2015 | |
| Collection and analysis of additional samples from the field | |
| Remote wildlife cameras | |
| CONCLUDING REMARKS | 19 |
| ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS | 20 |
| REFERENCES | 21 |
| APPENDIX 1 | 23 |
| APPENDIX 2 | 27 |

INTRODUCTION

Estimation of the number of brown bear in an area is notoriously difficult, since this animal is elusive and observations can lead to biased estimates. Therefore, genetic methods based on non-invasive genetic sampling of hairs and feces have been established to estimate bear abundance and numbers in both restricted and larger areas. In the recent past, so called hair-traps or hair-snares have shown their effectiveness in systematic collection of biological samples. Evenly distributed over a research area, hair-traps are successful in sampling more elusive and shy individuals, such as female bears (see e.g. Woods et al. 1999; Mowat and Strobeck 2000; Romain-Bondi et al. 2004, Kendall 1999; Bellemain et al. 2005; Thompson 2004, Waits & Paetkau 2005; Kendall et al. 2005, 2008a, 2008b; Kendall et al. 2009). Since 2005, NIBIO Svanhovd (formerly Bioforsk Svanhovd) has applied these methods in monitoring of brown bear populations in Norway, Finland, Russia and Sweden (see e.g. Smith et al. 2007; Smith et al. 2008; Wartiainen et al. 2008; Eiken et al. 2009a, 2009b, 2011, Kopatz et al. 2011, Kopatz et al. 2012a).

In 2007 and 2011, a tri-lateral project on monitoring and estimation of the minimum size of the brown bear population inhabiting the area of Pasvik (Norway), Inari (Finland) and Pechenga (Russia) was conducted. Samples were collected systematically over a two month period using hair-traps in a study area of 1400 km² divided into a grid of 56 squares. One square had the size of 5 km x 5 km and one hair trap was placed in each square (see Fig. 1). The hair-trap study in 2007 resulted in 196 hair samples that lead to the detection of 24 different bears (10 females, 14 males) (Smith et al. 2007). The study in 2011 resulted 88 samples and identification of 20 different bears (12 females and 8 males; Kopatz et al. 2011).

In this study in 2015, we have conducted an exact repetition of the monitoring action in 2007 and 2011. The objectives of this third hair trap project were to obtain a new estimate the minimum number of brown bears in the trans-border area of Pasvik-Inari-Pechenga and to identify possible changes in bear numbers and bear activity during a new four year period. The use of the same methodology facilitated a direct comparison of the results from these three projects, thus allowing for more reliable assessment of possible changes and their biological significance. This hair trap project represents the continuing and international collaboration of monitoring and research of the trans-border population of brown bears by Norwegian, Finnish and Russian managers and scientists.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Permissions

For Norway, permissions for this experiment were obtained from the National Animal Research Authority (Forsøksdyrutvalget), The Finnmark County Governor (Fylkesmannen i Finnmark), Finnmarkseiendommen (FeFo, public land administrators) and the leading board of the Øvre Pasvik National Park (Øvre Pasvik nasjonalparkstyre). No special permissions were needed in Finland and Russia.

Study Area

The study area was located in the border areas of Norway, Finland and Russia at approximately 69.4° North and 29.8° East. The study area in consisted of 53 squares à 5 km x 5 km (with one hair-trap in each square, see 2.3 Sample collection for details) that were located as follows: 23 squares were in Finnish jurisdiction (Lapland, Inari municipality), 20 in Norwegian jurisdiction (Finnmark, Sør-Varanger) and 10 squares within Russian jurisdiction (Murmansk, Pechenga) (Fig. 1). The study area is dominated by both arctic and northern boreal ecosystems, represented by a mosaic of peat land and forest. Areas without forest can be described as low arctic and sub-arctic, while areas with tree growth belong to the north boreal forest type, characterized by large areas of downy birch (*Betula pubescens*) and Scots pine (*Pinus silvestris*).

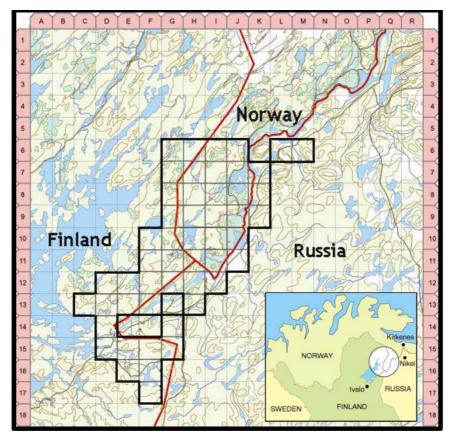


Figure 1: Study area in the trans-border area around Pasvik and the Øvre Pasvik National park in Norway (Sør-Varanger) including areas in Finland (Inari) and Russia (Pechenga). The study area was divided in 53 squares a 5 km x 5 km with one hair-trap in each (grid square nr. G6, G7 and G8 were excluded in 2015). Hair-traps were moved to a second location within the same square half-way through the collection period (after four weeks). The squares in the grid are marked from C13 in the west to M6 in the east.

Sample collection

On June 14th 2015 we started by placing one hair-trap in each grid square, except grid square nr. G6, G7 and G8 in Finland, which were excluded from the 2015 survey due to logistical constraints. A hair-trap or snare consisted of barbed-wire stretched approximately 40 cm above the ground among several trees encircling a strong smelling scent-lure (1.5 liters). The scent-lure was made of ground fish waste, mostly heads, which was mixed with cattle blood in about equal volumes of each section. The mixture was allowed to ferment for several months until the mixture was liquefied. Then it was stored in airtight containers until usage. It was important that the scent-lure was in the thin liquid form, to ensure that the bears were attracted without food and protein reward. Bears are attracted to the scent-lure and when they investigate the source they must climb over or under the barbed wire. The result is that the bears will leave hair on the wire when entering the hair snare (Fig. 2). The bear's thick hide will not be damaged by the barbed wire and in other hair trap studies injuries have never been reported or documented (see e.g. Woods et al. 1999, Mowat and Strobeck 2000; Kopatz et al. 2011 & 2012a).

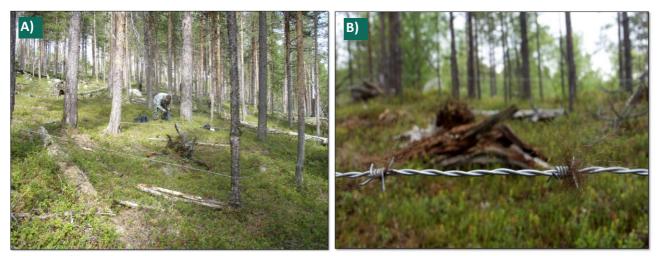


Figure 2: A) A typical hair snare with scent lure in the center ringed by a single barbed wire strung between trees at 40-50 cm from the ground. B) Hairsample on a wire. Photos: Sari Magga (left), Alexander Kopatz (right).

Every second week between Mid-June and Mid-August, each hair snare was inspected for hairs (see Table 1 and Figure 2) and supplied again with 1.5 liters of lure to maintain the same level of attraction throughout the sampling period. Half-way through the collection period (after four weeks), the hair-traps were moved to a second location within the same square (Table 1). Experience and other studies have shown that translocation of hair-traps during the season increases the probability of detecting more brown bears in an area (Mowat and Strobeck 2000; Boulanger et al. 2006). After two months, in Mid-August, the traps were taken down and removed from the forest (Table 1), which concluded the field part of the project.

Table 1: Schedule and sessions of the hair-trapping project in the area of Pasvik-Inari-Pechenga in 2015.

| Day 1 | Set-up | scent lure |
|--------|-----------|--------------------------|
| Day 14 | 1st check | scent lure |
| Day 28 | 2nd check | translocation/scent lure |
| Day 42 | 1st check | scent lure |
| Day 70 | 2nd check | removal |

Additional samples

In the Russian and Finnish parts of the study area, fecal and hair samples were also collected opportunistically in the field throughout the study period. The location and date were recorded for these additional samples before they were subjected to DNA analysis. In the Norwegian part of the research area, a similar, opportunistic field sampling was conducted as part of the national monitoring project of brown bears in Norway, but these samples were not included in this work, as they will be first published in a national report next year.

Remote wildlife cameras

In order to learn more on the activities of brown bears and other species at the hair-traps, motion-triggered wildlife cameras (mainly Scout Guard SG550M MMS camera) were mounted in several square grids. Additional remote photo cameras were provided by the Øvre Pasvik National Park, which were mounted at hair traps within the national park.

DNA-extraction

DNA was extracted from the hair samples using reagents from Qiagen (DNeasy Tissue Kit). The root tip from 5 to 10 hairs were cut and transferred to a 1.5 ml test tube together with a lysis-buffer (180 μ l ATL buffer and 20 μ l Proteinase K) and incubated for one hour at 55 degree centigrade. Extraction of DNA then follows the procedure described by the manufacturer. We also used the same techniques to analyze samples composed of fewer than 5 hairs. When the hair samples obtained were very small or matted together the extraction was conducted on 0.3 to 0.5 cm wide section of the matted hair or the entire hair straw. DNA was eluted in 100 μ l of buffer solution. In some cases, when only a few or even a single hair was available in the sample, the volume of elution buffer was reduced to 30 μ l (1 to 2 hair) or 50 μ l (3 to 4 hairs). DNA extraction is further described in Eiken et al. 2009 as well as Smith et al. 2007 and DNA isolation from feces were as previously described (Tobiassen et al. 2011).

Analysis of DNA profiles and gender

Genetic analysis of STRs (short tandem repeats) on the brown bear followed a modified protocol from Taberlet et al. (1997). We have used eight different genetic markers Muo5, Muo9, G1oL, Mu10, Mu23, Mu50, Mu51 and Mu59, to construct DNA profiles (Paetkau and Strobeck 1994, 1995; Paetkau et al. 1995; Taberlet et al. 1997; see Eiken et al. 2009 and Andreassen et al. 2012). Sex determination was based on the X-and Y-specific DNA sequences of the amelogenine gene (Yamamoto et al. 2002). The PCR protocol, capillary electrophoresis and the determination of DNA profiles and comparisons with DNA profiles in Svanhovd Genetic database have been described (Tobiassen et al., 2011). All procedures were done under the strict conditions of the ISO/IEC 17025 accreditation of our laboratory and in accordance to the guidelines of the analysis of forensic animal material, recently published by Linacre et al. (2011).

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Hair samples collected at hair-traps

We obtained 209 hair samples by hair-trapping: 142 hair samples originated from Norway, 20 from Finland and 47 samples from Russia. Out of 20 squares in Norway, we obtained hair samples with identification in 15 grid squares; in Finland 9 out of 23; and in Russia 7 out of 10 (Figs. 4 and 5). In summary, we sampled hairs from more than half of the grid squares (31 of the 53, see also Appendix 1). The yield of samples showed that the hair-traps captured an average of 1.97 samples per trap per month.

DNA analysis of the hair samples collected at hair-traps

The following DNA analysis detected brown bear DNA in 158 of 209 hair samples (76%). For 136 of samples (65%) we were able to determine a complete DNA profile and identity (Appendix 2). These successfully genotyped samples identified 26 different brown bears, 17 females and 9 males (Table 2).

We detected 16 different individuals in Norway, 5 different individuals in Finland and 9 different individuals in Russia. Two individuals (MO08/LL44/FI177 and FI123/LL43/MO50) were detected in two countries. One individual (FI116/LL49/MO48) was detected in grids in all three countries (see Table 2 and Figure 5).

Hair-trapping detected 12 (46.1%) individuals twice or more times and 14 (53.9%) bears once (Table 2).

Thirteen (50%) of the 26 bears detected by hair-trapping were previously unknown (Table 2).

Identity and gender for the 27 different brown bears documented by hair-trapping in 2015 are shown in Table 2 and the distribution of samples over the research area in Figure 5.

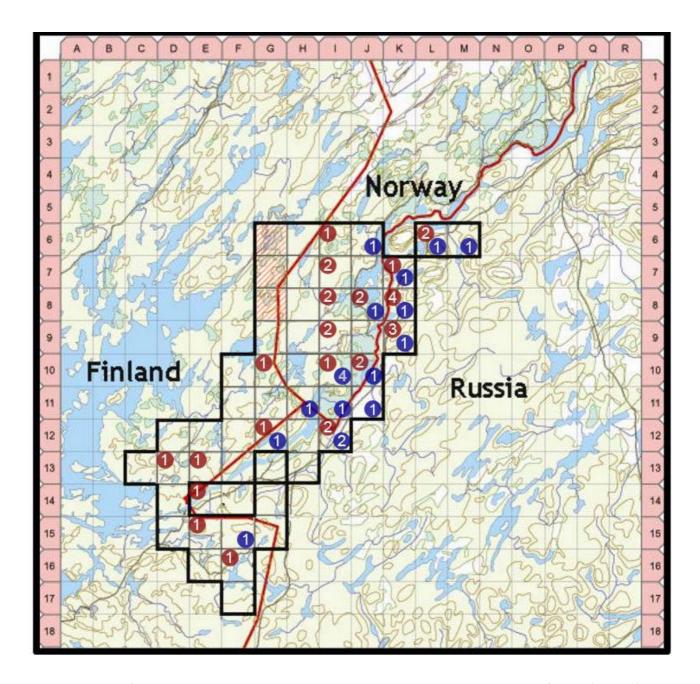


Figure 4: Results of the hair-trapping project to monitor brown bears in the trans-border area of Pasvik (Norway), Inari (Finland) and Pechenga in 2015, divided into a 5 km x 5 km grid. The red shaded grid squares indicate the grids, in which no hair traps were set-up in 2015 (see Materials and Methods). The number represents the number of individual bears identified and the gender is indicated by the colored dot (red = females, blue = males). The figure includes only individuals that have been identified by a full DNA-profile.

Table 2: Identity and gender for the 26 different brown bears documented by hair-trapping 2015 in Pasvik-Inari-Pechenga (Norway, Finland and Russia), country of registration, and the years of previous registration; F = females, M = males.

| ID | Gender | Country | Detected in grid | Previous detection |
|-----------------|--------|---------------|--------------------|-------------------------------|
| FI111 | F | NOR | 17, 18, 19 | 2010, 2011 |
| FI116/LL49/MO48 | F | NOR, FIN, RUS | G10, I10, I12, G12 | 2010 |
| FI123/LL43/MO50 | М | NOR, RUS | I11, J10, K7, J11 | 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014 |
| FI160 | F | NOR | J8, K8 | 2013 |
| FI166 | М | NOR | 18 | 2007, 2008 |
| FI167 | F | NOR | 16, 17 | 2014 |
| FI180 | F | NOR | l12 | NEW |
| FI181 | F | NOR | J10 | NEW |
| FI182 | М | NOR | l12 | NEW |
| FI183 | М | NOR | I10, H11 | NEW |
| FI184 | М | NOR | l12 | NEW |
| FI185 | F | NOR | 19 | NEW |
| FI186 | F | NOR | 18 | NEW |
| FI38/MO18 | F | RUS | K8, L6 | 2005, 2007, 2011 |
| FI43/MO3 | F | NOR | J8, K7, K8, | 2005, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, |
| F169 | M | NOR | l10 | 2011 2007, 2011 |
| FI70 | M | NOR | I10, I8, J6, J8 | 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011 |
| LL37 | F | FIN | E15 | 2011 |
| LL47 | F | FIN | D13, E13, E14 | NEW |
| LL48 | F | FIN | F16 | NEW |
| MO41 | М | RUS | K8, K9, L6, M6 | NEW |
| MO46 | F | RUS | K9 | NEW |
| MO47 | F | RUS | К9 | NEW |
| MO49 | F | RUS | L6 | NEW |
| MO8/LL44/FI177 | M | RUS, FIN | F15, G12 | 2007, 2011 |
| MO9 | F | RUS | K8 | 2007, 2008 |
| | | | | • |

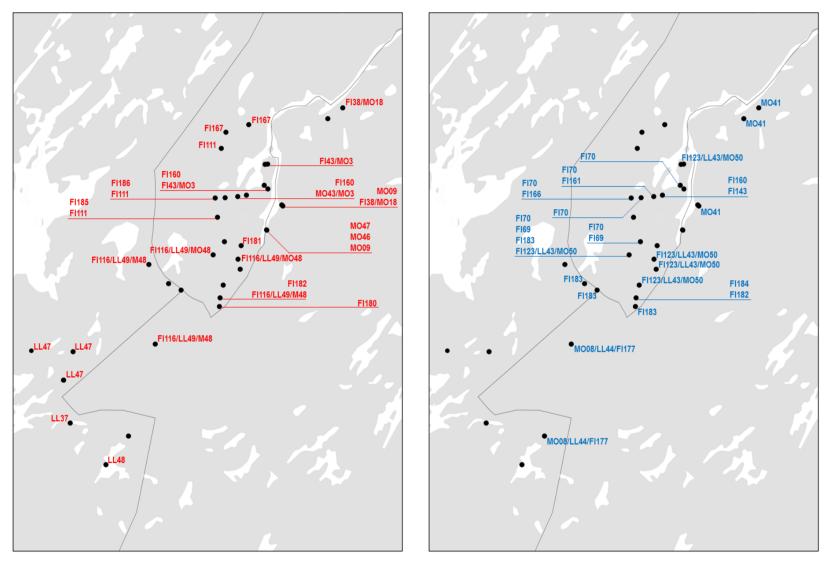


Figure 5: Identity and gender for the 26 different brown bears documented by hair-trapping 2015 in Pasvik-Inari-Pechenga (Norway, Finland and Russia), country of registration, and the years of previous registration; Every dot represents a sample collected and the ID of the bear. Both maps are similar but highlight the females (red, A) and males (blue, B).

Comparison of hair-trapping results from 2007, 2011 and 2015

This monitoring effort was performed as an identical repetition of the hair trap studies in 2007 and 2011, except for the exclusion of three hair traps/sampling grid squares in Finland. In 2007, 196 samples were captured in the hair traps and 129 (66%) of these samples were successfully genotyped, resulting in the identification of 24 individuals (10 females, 14 males; Smith et al. 2007). In 2011, we obtained 88 hair samples, of which 56 (64%) were successfully genotyped, and identified 20 individuals (12 females and 8 males; Kopatz et al. 2011). In 2015, we therefore collected more samples and identified slightly more bears (209 samples, 26 bears) than in the two previous surveys (see Table 3).

Table 3: Number of samples collected and induviduals identified from hair-trapping in 2007, 2011 and 2015 in Pasvik-Inari-Pechenga (Norway, Finland and Russia).

| Year | Country | Number of grids | Number of samples collected | Number of individuals identified |
|------|---------|-----------------|-----------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| | Norway | 23 | 124 | 9 |
| 2007 | Finland | 23 | 56 | 9 |
| 2007 | Russia | 10 | 16 | 6 |
| | Total | 56 | 196 | 24* |
| | Norway | 20 | 66 | 11 |
| 2011 | Finland | 26 | 14 | 7 |
| 2011 | Russia | 10 | 8 | 6 |
| | Total | 56 | 88 | 20* |
| | Norway | 20 | 147 | 16 |
| 2015 | Finland | 23 | 20 | 5 |
| 2015 | Russia | 10 | 42 | 9 |
| | Total | 53 | 209 | 26* |

^{*} Unique profiles, which do not include individuals registered in more than one country.

Seven (35%) of the 20 identified bears in 2011 were resampled in 2015 (see Table 2), which is an increase compared to the resampling in 2011 (21%). Four (16.7%) of the 24 identified bears in 2007 were resampled in 2015 (FI38/MO18, FI43/MO3, MO8, MO9). While overall we newly detected 4 bears in 2011, we identified 13 (50%) new bears in 2015, which were not detected previously by hair-trapping as well as feces collection. This demonstrates that the systematic sampling approach of hair-trapping is crucial for the sampling and identification of all bears in an area, which would remain difficult with opportunistic sampling of feces alone.

A total of 14 bears (53.8%) were identified once only, while 4 bears (15.4%) were recaptured twice, 3 (11.5%) were recaptured three times and 4 bears (19.3%) were recaptured four times. Overall recapture rates were lower than in 2007 and in 2011 (see Kopatz et al. 2012b).

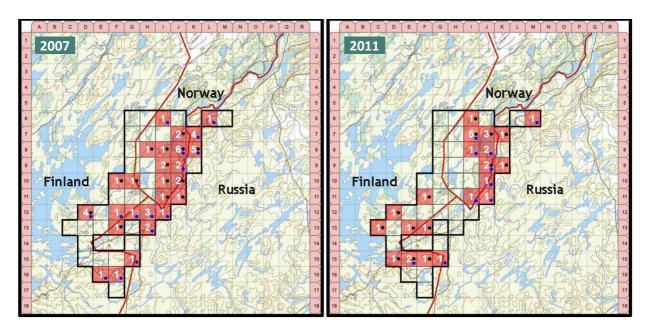


Figure 5: Monitoring of brown bears in the trans-border area of Pasvik-Inari-Pechenga in Norway, Finland and Russia in 2007 (left) and 2011 (right). Red squares represent bear activity detected by hair-traps. The number are the identified individuals and the gender is indicated by the colored dot (black = female, blue = male).

Collection and analysis of additional samples from the field

A total of 18 samples (11 feces and 7 hair samples) were collected in the terrain within and around the study area during the same period in Finland and Russia. Out of these 18 samples, 1 fecal sample was collected in Finland and 17 (7 hair samples and 10 feces) in Russia. The hair samples were collected by the Russian border authority.

The feces found in Norway during this field work were not included into this study and report, since they will be analyzed under the national monitoring project of brown bears in Norway.

From the 18 additional samples, 9 samples (50 %) could be successfully genotyped with the eight genetic markers to determine the bear identity. For 3 samples we could confirm that they were from bears, but no identity could be assigned due to low sample quality. All these samples were from Russia.

The DNA analysis of the additional samples detected 5 other brown bears (4 males and one female) within the Russian part of the research area, which were not detected by hair-trapping (Fig. 6). FI38/MO18 and FI43/MO3 were captured both in hair-trapping and additional samples.

Results from the additional samples are shown in Appendix 2.

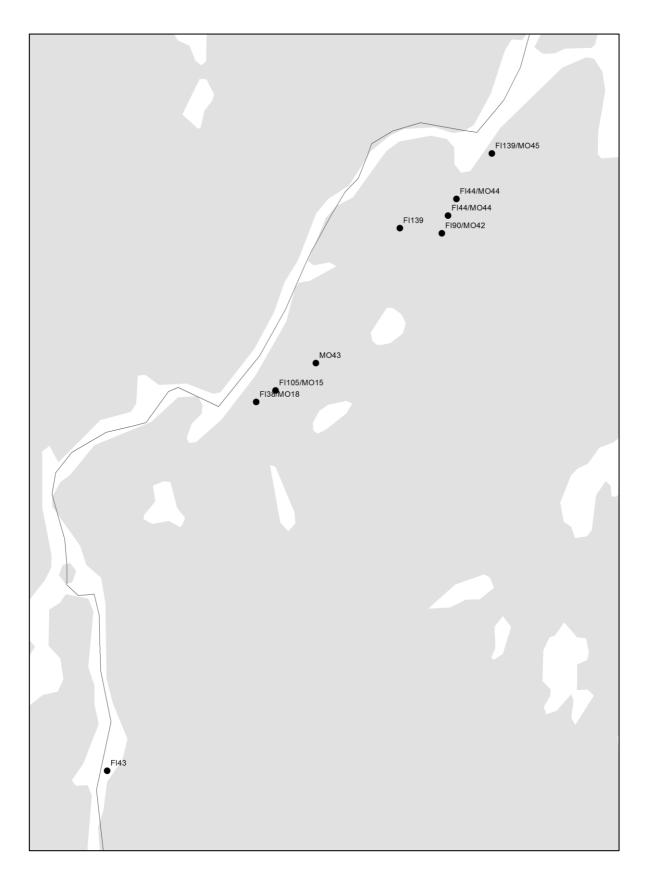


Figure 6: Brown bears identified from the additional samples collected in this project in the Russian part, and the geographical location.

Remote wildlife cameras

Remote wildlife cameras have been mounted in 13 different grids to observe bears and other wildlife approaching or entering the hair trap. In the event a bear has been sampled the camera recorded the visit, however, again, as described in previous projects, the cameras seem not fully suitable to be triggered by brown bears. It may, that some bears enter the trap just too gentle and therefore with too slow motion in order to switch on the camera. On multiple occasions hair has been sampled but the camera failed to record, although all camera settings were the same and the batteries were fully loaded. We did not observe any notable, different behavior than expected and no harm or danger to wildlife could have been observed. Rather the opposite occurred and several cameras observed playing behavior of bears at the trap as well as rubbing on the spot with the scent lure. All footage has been compiled and can be viewed here: http://vimeo.com/144482693. See also Figure 7 for a collection of stills as well as the photo on the cover of this report.



Figure 7: Selection of stills of brown bears filmed at the hair-traps during the period mid-June to mid-August in 2015.

CONCLUDING REMARKS

During the last years and projects, hair-traps have shown their power in detecting bear abundance and individuals. This monitoring effort was performed as a nearly identical repetition of the hair trap studies in 2007 and 2011. In 2015, we detected 26 different brown bears by hair-trapping in a study area of 1400 km² at the trans-border area of Pasvik, Norway (16 bears), Inari in Finland (5 bears) and Pechenga in Russia (9 bears). In accordance to our results we can conclude:

Hair-trapping:

- Compared to 2007 and 2011, the total number of identified individuals in 2015 increased, respectively with 3 and 7 individuals.
- Seven (35%) individuals, detected in 2011, were recaptured in 2015. Four (16.7%) bears, detected in 2007, were recaptured in 2015.
- Two individuals were detected in two countries, and one individual were detected in grids in all three countries.
- The higher number of samples and detected brown bears in 2015 may be caused by more bear activity within the study area, compared to 2007 and 2011.
- A total of 13 new bears were identified in 2015 as compared to 4 in 2011. Hair-trapping can lead to a substantial increase in the number of detected bears in the area.
- As is previous studies, no harm to wildlife was documented or observed.

Additional sampling in the terrain in Finland and Russia:

- With the help of additional, opportunistic collected samples we detected 4 male and 1 female bears within the Russia part of the research area, which were not sampled by hair-trapping.
- No additional samples from Norway were included into this analysis and therefore the
 interpretation will be done later, when the results of the national monitoring in Norway are
 published.

Considering all identifications by hair-trapping and feces collection together we can conclude:

- Overall, two bears identified in 2005 were recaptured in 2015. Seven bears detected in 2007 were recaptured in 2015. Also seven bears detected in 2011 were recaptured in 2015.
- Within the Norwegian part of our study area we identified a total of 16 different individuals, of which 7 were detected for the first time and 9 were captured previously.
- Within the Russian part of our study area we identified a total of 14 different individuals, of which 8 were detected for the first time in Russia and 6 have been detected previously.
- Within the Finnish part of our study area we identified a total of 5 different individuals, of which 2 were newly identified and 3 were previously known.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We thank Magne Asheim and Jørn Monsen (Statens naturoppsyn), Pyry Saarinen and Petteri Polojärvi (Metsähallitus), Anne Wikan and Egon Sotkajærvi (NIBIO Svanhovd), Tiia-Henrika Kalske (Finnmark County Governor's Office) and Rolf Kollstrøm (Øvre Pasvik Nationalpark) for their useful advice, collaboration, logistics and work in the field building hair-traps and collecting samples. Also we would like to thank Geir Østereng and Tore Johan Olsen from the Finnmark County Governor's office for the good and fruitful collaboration.

We also thank all the laboratory workers that have participated in the project. The project was funded by

- Finnmark County Governor's Office, Environmental Department, Norway
- Metsähallitus, Finland

REFERENCES

- Bellemain E., Swenson J.E., Tallmon O., Brunberg S., Taberlet, P. (2005) Estimating population size of elusive animals with DNA from hunter-collected feces: Four methods for brown bears. Conserv Biol 19: 150-161.
- Boulanger J., Proctor M., Himmer, S., Stenhouse, G., Paetkau, D., Cranston, J. (2006) An empirical test of DNA mark-recapture sampling strategies for grizzly bears. Ursus 17: 149-158.
- Eiken H.G., Andreassen R.J., Kopatz A., Bjervamoen S.G., Wartiainen I., Tobiassen C., Knappskog P.M., Aspholm P.E., Smith M.E., and Aspi, J. 2009. Population data for 12 STR loci in Northern European brown bear (*Ursus arctos*) and application of DNA profiles for forensic casework. Forensic Sci Int Gene Suppl Series 2: 273-274.
- Eiken H.G., Ollila L. E., Aspholm P. E., Ollila T., Bergsvåg M., Smith M. E., Kopatz A., Magga S., Sulkava P., Aspi J. and Wartiainen I. 2009b. Hair snares applied to detect brown bears in Øvre Anárjochka and Lemmenjoki National Parks. Bioforsk Report. 190:1-25.
- Eiken H.G., Kopatz A., Aspholm P.E., Tobiassen C., Bakke B.B., Knappskog P.M, Ollila L., Bjørn T.A., Hagen S.B. 2011. Hårfeller og DNA-analyse brukt som metoder for å påvise bjørn i Hattfjelldal i Nordland i 2011. Bioforsk Report 140: 1-24.
- Kendall, K.C. 1999. Sampling grizzlies with noninvasive techniques. In: Selleck, J. Natural resource year in review: 1998. Lakewood, CO: National Park Service. p. 20-22.
- Kendall, K.C. 2005. Northern Divide Grizzly Bear Project, Northern Rocky Mountain Science Center Webpage: http://www.nrmsc.usgs.gov/research/NCDEbeardna.htm.
- Kendall, K.C., J. B. Stetz, D. A. Roon, L. P. Waits, J. B. Boulanger and Paetkau D. 2008a. Grizzly Bear Density in Glacier National Park, Montana. J Wildl Manage 72:1693–1705.
- Kendall, K C., Stetz J. B., Boulanger J., Macleod A., Paetkau D. and Whithe G.C. 2008b. Demography and genetic structure of a recovering grizzly bear population. J Wildl Manage 73:3-17.
- Kendall K.C., Stetz J.B., Boulanger J. et al (2009) Demography and Genetic Structure of a Recovering Grizzly Bear Population. J Wildl Manage 73: 3-17.
- Kopatz A., Eiken H. G., Aspholm P. E., Tobiassen C., Bakke B.B., Schregel J., Ollila T., Makarova O., Polikarpova N., Chichov V., Hagen S.B. 2011. Monitoring of the Pasvik Pasvik-Inari brown bear population in 2007 and 2011 using hair-trapping. Bioforsk Report 148: 1-27.
- Kopatz A., Aspholm P.E., Eiken H.G., Hagen S.B. (2012a) Hair trapping of brown bears for management purposes in Neiden and Pasvik in 2012 application of hair traps in a sheep grazing area and around sheep and moose carcasses. Bioforsk Report (7) 189: 1-19.
- Kopatz A, Eiken HG, Aspholm PE, Hagen SB (2012b) Hair trapping versus field sampling of feces and hair a comparison of two strategies to collect brown bear samples in 2007 and 2011 at the Pasvik Valley, Norway. Bioforsk Report (7) 128: 1-23.
- Linacre A., Gusmão, Hecht W. et al. (2011) ISFG: Recommendations regarding the use of non-human (animal) DNA in forensic genetic investigations. Forensic Sci Int Gen 5: 501-505.
- Murphy M. A., K. C. Kendall, A. Robinson and Waits L.P.. 2007. The impact of time and field conditions on brown bear (*Ursus arctos*) faecal DNA amplification. Conserv Genet 8:1219–1224.
- Mowat G., and Strobeck C. 2000. Estimating population size of grizzly bears using hair capture, DNA profiling, and mark–recapture analysis. J Wildl Manage 64:183–193.

- Paetkau D., Strobeck C. (1994) Microsatellite Analysis of Genetic-Variation in Black Bear Populations. Mol Ecol 3: 489-495.
- Paetkau D., Strobeck C. (1995) Microsatellite Analysis of Genetic-Variation in Black-Bear Populations (Vol 3, Pg 489, 1994). Mol Ecol 4: 133-133.
- Paetkau D., Calvert W., Stirling I. et al (1995) Microsatellite Analysis of Population-Structure in Canadian Polar Bears. Mol Ecol 4: 347-354.
- Romain-Bondi K. A., Wielgus R.B. Waits L., Kasworm W.F., Austin M. and Wakkinen W. 2004. Density and population size estimates for North Cascade grizzly bears using DNA hair-sampling techniques. Biol Cons 117: 417-428.
- Smith M. E., Ollila L., Bjervamoen S. G., Eiken H. G., Aspholm P. E., Kopatz A., Aspi J., Kyykkä T., Ollila T., Sulkava P., Makarova O., Polikarpova N., and Kojola I. 2007. Monitoring of the Pasvik Pasvik-Inari brown bear population using hair snares. In the Interreg-report: "Development of monitoring and research of brown bear population in north calotte area.": 1-9. Bioforsk Svanhovd. see www.barentswatch.com
- Smith M.E., Eiken H.G., Ollila L.E., Tobiassen C., Bjervamoen S.G., Aspholm P.E. and Wartiainen I. 2008. Hair snares applied to detect brown bears in the vicinity of farms in the Pasvik Valley 2008. Bioforsk Report 3 (169): 1-22.
- Solberg K. H., Bellemain E., Drageset O.M., Taberlet P. and Swenson J.E. 2006. An evaluation of field and non-invasive genetic methods to estimate brown bear (*Ursus arctos*) population size. Biol Conserv 128: 158-168.
- Taberlet P., Camerra J.J, Griffin S., Uhres E., Hanotte O., Waits L.P., Dubois-Paganon C., Burke T. and Bouvet J. 1997. Noninvasive genetic tracking of the endangered Pyrenean brown bear population. Mol Ecol 6: 869-876.
- Thompson W. L., editor. 2004. "Sampling Rare or Elusive Species." Island Press, Washington D.C. 429 pages.
- Tobiassen C., Brøseth H., Bergsvåg M., Aarnes S. G., Bakke B. B., Hagen S., Eiken H. G. (2011) Populasjonsovervåkning av brunbjørn 2009-2012: DNA analyse av prøver samlet i Norge i 2010. Bioforsk Rapport 49: 1-51.
- Wartiainen I., Tobiassen C, Bjervamoen S.G., Smith M.E., Wikan S. and Eiken H.G. 2008. DNA analyse av sporprøver fra brunbjørn, Øst-Finnmark 2007. Bioforsk Rapport 3 (127): 1-28.
- Wartiainen, I., Tobiassen C., Brøseth H., Bjervamoen, S.G. and Eiken, H.G. 2009. Populasjonsovervåkning av brunbjørn 2005-2008: DNA analyse av prøver samlet i Norway i 2008. Bioforsk Rapport 4 (58): 1-34.
- Wartiainen I., Tobiassen C., Brøseth H., Bergsvåg M., Aarnes S. G., Eiken H. G. 2010. Populasjonsovervåkning av brunbjørn 2009-2012: DNA analyse av prøver samlet i Norway i 2009. Bioforsk rapport 72: 1-51.
- Waits L. and Paetkau D. 2005. Noninvasive genetic sampling tools for wildlife biologists: A review of applications and recommendations for accurate data collection. J Wildl Manage 69: 1419–1433.
- Woods J. G., Paetkau D., Lewis D., McLellan B.N., Proctor M. and Strobeck C. 1999. Genetic tagging of free-ranging black and brown bears. Wildl Soc Bull 27: 616–627.
- Yamamoto K., T. Tsubota, T. Komatsu, A. Katayama, T. Murase, I. Kita and Kudo, T. 2002. Sex identification of Japanese black bear, *Ursus thibetanus japonicus*, by PCR based on amelogenin gene. J Vet Med Sci 64: 505-508.

APPENDIX 1

Locations and results from hair-trap inspections of 53 grid squares within trans-border area of Pasvik-Inari-Pechenga in Norway, Finland and Russia in 2015. Hair-traps were relocated within each 5 x 5 km squares in the grid after the second inspection; I6-F15 = grid numbers; Y = samples collected, NS = no samples collected. The total number of collected samples at hair-traps was 209.

| Grid | Location | UTM | X | Υ | 1st check | 2nd check | Country |
|--------------|----------|-----|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|---------|
| H07 | 1 | | 28,95431 | 69,24699 | No | No | Norway |
| | 2 | | 28,960782 | 69,259885 | No | No | Norway |
| H08 | 1 | | 28,53931 | 69,13022 | No | No | Norway |
| | 2 | | 28,898151 | 69,22537 | No | No | Norway |
| H09 | 1 | | 28,934341 | 69,151749 | No | No | Norway |
| | 2 | | 28,943554 | 69,159047 | No | No | Norway |
| H10 | 1 | | 28,936413 | 69,131099 | No | No | Norway |
| | 2 | | 28,868444 | 69,112239 | No | No | Norway |
| H11 | 1 | | 28,92013 | 69,057165 | No | Yes | Norway |
| | 2 | | 28,873503 | 69,085592 | No | No | Norway |
| 106 | 1 | | 29,02472 | 69,27774 | No | No | Norway |
| | 2 | | 29,120085 | 69,281628 | No | Yes | Norway |
| 107 | 1 | | 29,06249 | 69,25901 | No | No | Norway |
| | 2 | | 29,099079 | 69,258619 | Yes | Yes | Norway |
| 108 | 1 | | 29,068282 | 69,187768 | No | Yes | Norway |
| | 2 | | 29,10824 | 69,187678 | Yes | Yes | Norway |
| 109 | 1 | | 29,07517 | 69,159951 | No | Yes | Norway |
| | 2 | | 29,03551 | 69,146742 | No | No | Norway |
| I10 | 1 | | 29,05299 | 69,106329 | Yes | Yes | Norway |
| | 2 | | 29,09992 | 69,12464 | Yes | No | Norway |
| I11 | 1 | | 29,089509 | 69,062559 | No | Yes | Norway |
| | 2 | | 29,081931 | 69,084482 | No | No | Norway |
| l12 | 1 | | 29,075527 | 69,044443 | Yes | Yes | Norway |
| | 2 | | 29,07159 | 69,031947 | Yes | Yes | Norway |
| J06 | 1 | | 29,17667 | 69,29032 | No | No | Norway |
| | 2 | | 29,213459 | 69,291468 | Yes | No | Norway |
| J07 | 1 | | 29,150934 | 69,239829 | No | No | Norway |
| | 2 | | 29,152919 | 69,26369 | No | No | Norway |
| J08 | 1 | | 29,194446 | 69,190316 | No | Yes | Norway |
| | 2 | | 29,159027 | 69,188906 | Yes | Yes | Norway |
| J 0 9 | 1 | | 29,181415 | 69,156196 | No | No | Norway |
| | 2 | | 29,162906 | 69,163931 | No | No | Norway |
| J10 | 1 | | 29,151817 | 69,099017 | Yes | Yes | Norway |
| | 2 | | 29,166502 | 69,118411 | Yes | No | Norway |
| J11 | 1 | | 29,14188 | 69,08273 | No | No | Norway |
| | 2 | | 29,159283 | 69,084522 | Yes | Yes | Norway |

| Grid | Location | UTM | X | Y | 1st check | 2nd check | Country |
|------|----------|-----|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|---------|
| К07 | 1 | | 29,284065 | 69,23392 | No | Yes | Norway |
| | 2 | | 29,273644 | 69,233653 | Yes | Yes | Norway |
| К08 | 1 | | 29,281533 | 69,198239 | No | Yes | Norway |
| | 2 | | 29,267359 | 69,203712 | Yes | Yes | Norway |
| C13 | 1 | | 28,1878 | 68,974324 | No | No | Finland |
| | 2 | | 28,258098 | 68,964331 | No | No | Finland |
| | 3 | | 28,216355 | 68,962209 | No | No | Finland |
| D12 | 1 | | 28,429875 | 68,997649 | No | No | Finland |
| | 2 | | 28,396431 | 68,990927 | No | No | Finland |
| | 3 | | 28,413143 | 68,992712 | No | No | Finland |
| D13 | 1 | | 28,353232 | 68,953036 | No | No | Finland |
| | 2 | | 28,316333 | 68,975167 | Yes | No | Finland |
| | 3 | | 28,424712 | 68,943705 | No | No | Finland |
| D14 | 1 | | 28,377269 | 68,917842 | No | No | Finland |
| | 2 | | 28,339592 | 68,91016 | No | No | Finland |
| | 3 | | 28,378261 | 68,931278 | No | No | Finland |
| D15 | 1 | | 28,403026 | 68,877728 | No | No | Finland |
| | 2 | | 28,333719 | 68,856524 | No | No | Finland |
| | 3 | | 28,401024 | 68,865647 | No | No | Finland |
| E12 | 1 | | 28,568072 | 68,988656 | No | No | Finland |
| | 2 | | 28,539512 | 69,001626 | No | No | Finland |
| | 3 | | 28,53626 | 68,988564 | No | No | Finland |
| E13 | 1 | | 28,471522 | 68,949782 | No | No | Finland |
| | 2 | | 28,441481 | 68,957796 | No | No | Finland |
| | 3 | | 28,482632 | 68,972775 | Yes | No | Finland |
| E14 | 1 | | 28,437344 | 68,925241 | No | No | Finland |
| | 2 | | 28,422978 | 68,923475 | No | No | Finland |
| | 3 | | 28,424415 | 68,898298 | Yes | No | Finland |
| E15 | 1 | | 28,46553 | 68,870378 | Yes | No | Finland |
| | 2 | | 28,419083 | 68,869021 | No | No | Finland |
| | 3 | | 28,521558 | 68,864031 | No | No | Finland |
| E16 | 1 | | 28,452936 | 68,811989 | No | No | Finland |
| | 2 | | 28,451956 | 68,829776 | Yes | No | Finland |
| | 3 | | 28,529842 | 68,803312 | No | No | Finland |
| F10 | 1 | | 28,722976 | 69,111896 | No | No | Finland |
| | 2 | | 28,683546 | 69,102082 | No | No | Finland |
| | 3 | | 28,666549 | 69,082761 | No | No | Finland |
| F11 | 1 | | 28,704697 | 69,049844 | No | No | Finland |
| | 2 | | 28,619026 | 69,057473 | No | No | Finland |
| | 3 | | 28,586656 | 69,034899 | No | No | Finland |
| F12 | 1 | | 28,644608 | 68,98696 | Yes | No | Finland |
| | 2 | | 28,670711 | 69,01221 | No | No | Finland |

| Grid | Location | UTM | X | Y | 1st check | 2nd check | Country |
|------|----------|-----|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|---------|
| F15 | 1 | | 28,695233 | 68,869408 | No | No | Finland |
| | 2 | | 28,616932 | 68,838678 | No | No | Finland |
| | 3 | | 28,69551 | 68,849939 | Yes | No | Finland |
| F16 | 1 | | 28,668649 | 68,83628 | No | No | Finland |
| | 2 | | 28,603255 | 68,809686 | No | No | Finland |
| | 3 | | 28,608228 | 68,828458 | No | No | Finland |
| F17 | 1 | | 28,610803 | 68,749447 | No | No | Finland |
| | 2 | | 28,6018 | 68,772023 | No | No | Finland |
| | 3 | | 28,68533 | 68,770204 | No | No | Finland |
| G10 | 1 | | 28,794153 | 69,095151 | Yes | No | Finland |
| | 2 | | 28,801473 | 69,123376 | No | No | Finland |
| | 3 | | 28,830126 | 69,085366 | No | No | Finland |
| | 4 | | 28,75046 | 69,111215 | No | No | Finland |
| | 5 | | 28,749096 | 69,112157 | No | No | Finland |
| | 6 | | 28,731394 | 69,119191 | No | No | Finland |
| G11 | 1 | | 28,727315 | 69,035386 | No | No | Finland |
| | 2 | | 28,728177 | 69,047962 | No | No | Finland |
| | 3 | | 28,836555 | 69,038562 | No | No | Finland |
| | 4 | | 28,832397 | 69,035925 | No | No | Finland |
| G12 | 1 | | 28,739295 | 69,006729 | Yes | No | Finland |
| | 2 | | 28,722363 | 69,007044 | No | No | Finland |
| | 3 | | 28,754088 | 69,007246 | No | No | Finland |
| G15 | 1 | | 28,773837 | 68,866817 | No | No | Finland |
| | 2 | | 28,727431 | 68,864129 | No | No | Finland |
| | 3 | | 28,740631 | 68,862758 | No | No | Finland |
| G9 | 1 | | 28,78945 | 69,1355 | No | No | Finland |
| | 2 | | 28,74238 | 69,12604 | No | No | Finland |
| H11 | 1 | | 28,870877 | 69,067024 | No | No | Finland |
| | 2 | | 28,907332 | 69,055645 | No | No | Finland |
| | 3 | | 28,877827 | 69,057754 | No | No | Finland |
| М6 | 1 | | 29,591374 | 69,310821 | Yes | No | Russia |
| | 2 | | 29,59577 | 69,310539 | Yes | No | Russia |
| L6 | 1 | | 29,533628 | 69,295866 | No | No | Russia |
| | 2 | | 29,540498 | 69,296556 | Yes | No | Russia |
| К7 | 1 | | 29,35867 | 69,227002 | Yes | No | Russia |
| | 2 | | 29,359214 | 69,226463 | Yes | No | Russia |
| К8 | 1 | | 29,334929 | 69,174691 | Yes | No | Russia |
| | 2 | | 29,339544 | 69,17309 | Yes | No | Russia |
| К9 | 1 | | 29,27033 | 69,139715 | Yes | No | Russia |
| | 2 | | 29,271324 | 69,139218 | Yes | No | Russia |
| H13 | 1 | | 28,868909 | 68,948295 | No | No | Russia |
| | 2 | | 28,822579 | 68,944024 | No | No | Russia |
| | | | 1 | I | I. | | 1 |

| Grid | Location | UTM | Х | Y | 1st check | 2nd check | Country |
|------|----------|-----|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|---------|
| G14 | 1 | | 28,750535 | 68,941472 | No | No | Russia |
| | 2 | | 28,751532 | 68,942917 | No | No | Russia |
| F13 | 1 | | 28,676249 | 68,935738 | No | No | Russia |
| | 2 | | 28,67808 | 68,93432 | No | No | Russia |
| G12 | 1 | | 28,811011 | 68,980723 | No | No | Russia |
| | 2 | | 28,806216 | 68,97853 | No | No | Russia |
| H12 | 1 | | 28,845704 | 68,992796 | No | No | Russia |
| | 2 | | 28,855477 | 68,995096 | No | No | Russia |

APPENDIX 2

Overview of all samples collected in this project, the results of DNA analysis and individual determination.

| Svanhovd | Country | Date of | Material | Grid | P/N | Gender** | Identity |
|----------|---------|------------|------------|------|------|----------|----------------|
| Number* | Country | sampling | iviateriai | Gila | P/IN | Gender | identity |
| 15FF001 | Finland | 06.08.2015 | Feces | - | N | | |
| 15FH001 | Finland | 24.08.2015 | Hair | F11 | N | | |
| 15FH002 | Finland | 07.07.2015 | Hair | D13 | Р | F | LL47 |
| 15FH003 | Finland | 07.07.2015 | Hair | D13 | Р | F | LL47 |
| 15FH004 | Finland | 07.07.2015 | Hair | D13 | Р | F | LL47 |
| 15FH005 | Finland | 07.07.2015 | Hair | D13 | Р | F | LL47 |
| 15FH006 | Finland | 06.07.2015 | Hair | F16 | Р | F | LL48 |
| 15FH007 | Finland | 06.07.2015 | Hair | F16 | Р | F | LL48 |
| 15FH008 | Finland | 06.07.2015 | Hair | F16 | Р | F | LL48 |
| 15FH009 | Finland | 24.06.2015 | Hair | F12 | N | | |
| 15FH010 | Finland | 22.07.2015 | Hair | E13 | Р | F | LL47 |
| 15FH011 | Finland | 22.07.2015 | Hair | E13 | Р | F | LL47 |
| 15FH012 | Finland | 22.07.2015 | Hair | E13 | N | | |
| 15FH013 | Finland | 06.08.2015 | Hair | E14 | Р | F | LL47 |
| 15FH014 | Finland | 06.08.2015 | Hair | E14 | Р | F | LL47 |
| 15FH015 | Finland | 06.08.2015 | Hair | E14 | Р | F | LL47 |
| 15FH016 | Finland | 23.06.2015 | Hair | E15 | Р | F | LL37 |
| 15FH017 | Finland | 23.06.2015 | Hair | E15 | Р | F | LL37 |
| 15FH018 | Finland | 02.07.2015 | Hair | G10 | Р | F | FI116/LL49/MO4 |
| 15FH019 | Finland | 21.07.2015 | Hair | F15 | Р | М | MO8/LL44/FI177 |
| 15FH020 | Finland | 06.08.2015 | Hair | D13 | N | | |
| 15NH196 | Norway | 01.07.2015 | Hair | l10 | Р | М | FI183 |
| 15NH197 | Norway | 01.07.2015 | Hair | I10 | N | | |
| 15NH198 | Norway | 01.07.2015 | Hair | J10 | N | | |
| 15NH199 | Norway | 01.07.2015 | Hair | J10 | N | | |
| 15NH200 | Norway | 04.07.2015 | Hair | l12 | Р | | Ingen ID |
| 15NH201 | Norway | 04.07.2015 | Hair | l12 | Р | М | FI182 |
| 15NH202 | Norway | 04.07.2015 | Hair | l12 | Р | | Ingen ID |
| 15NH203 | Norway | 04.07.2015 | Hair | l12 | N | | |
| 15NH204 | Norway | 04.07.2015 | Hair | l12 | Р | М | FI182 |
| 15NH205 | Norway | 14.07.2015 | Hair | J8 | Р | F | FI160 |
| 15NH206 | Norway | 14.07.2015 | Hair | 18 | Р | F | FI160 |
| 15NH207 | Norway | 14.07.2015 | Hair | J8 | Р | F | FI160 |
| 15NH208 | Norway | 14.07.2015 | Hair | J8 | Р | F | FI160 |
| 15NH209 | Norway | 14.07.2015 | Hair | J8 | Р | F | FI160 |
| 15NH210 | Norway | 14.07.2015 | Hair | J8 | Р | F | FI160 |
| 15NH211 | Norway | 14.07.2015 | Hair | J8 | Р | F | FI160 |
| 15NH212 | Norway | 14.07.2015 | Hair | J8 | N | | |
| 15NH213 | Norway | 14.07.2015 | Hair | J8 | Р | F | FI160 |
| 15NH214 | Norway | 14.07.2015 | Hair | J8 | Р | | Ingen ID |
| 15NH215 | Norway | 14.07.2015 | Hair | J8 | N | | |
| 15NH216 | Norway | 14.07.2015 | Hair | J8 | N | | |

| Svanhovd Number* | Country | Date of sampling | Material | Grid | P/N | Gender** | Identity |
|---------------------|---------|------------------|----------|------|-----|----------|----------------|
| 15NH217 | Norway | 14.07.2015 | Hair | J8 | N | | |
| 15NH218 | Norway | 14.07.2015 | Hair | J8 | Р | F | FI160 |
| 15NH219 | Norway | 14.07.2015 | Hair | J8 | Р | F | FI160 |
| 15NH220 | Norway | 14.07.2015 | Hair | J8 | Р | F | FI43/MO3 |
| 15NH221 | Norway | 14.07.2015 | Hair | J8 | Р | F | FI160 |
| 15NH222 | Norway | 14.07.2015 | Hair | J8 | Р | F | FI160 |
| 15NH223 | Norway | 14.07.2015 | Hair | K8 | N | | |
| 15NH224 | Norway | 14.07.2015 | Hair | K8 | Р | F | FI160 |
| 15NH225 | Norway | 14.07.2015 | Hair | K8 | Р | F | FI160 |
| 15NH226 | Norway | 14.07.2015 | Hair | K8 | N | F | FI160 |
| 15NH227 | Norway | 14.07.2015 | Hair | K8 | Р | F | FI160 |
| 15NH228 | Norway | 14.07.2015 | Hair | K8 | Р | F | FI160 |
| 15NH229 | Norway | 14.07.2015 | Hair | K8 | Р | F | FI160 |
| 15NH230 | Norway | 14.07.2015 | Hair | K8 | N | | |
| 15NH231 | Norway | 14.07.2015 | Hair | K8 | Р | F | FI160 |
| 15NH232 | Norway | 14.07.2015 | Hair | K8 | N | | |
| 15NH233 | Norway | 14.07.2015 | Hair | K7 | Р | F | FI43/MO3 |
| 15NH234 | Norway | 14.07.2015 | Hair | K7 | Р | F | FI43/MO3 |
| 15NH235 | Norway | 14.07.2015 | Hair | K7 | Р | F | FI43/MO3 |
| 15NH236 | Norway | 14.07.2015 | Hair | K7 | Р | F | FI43/MO3 |
| 15NH237 | Norway | 14.07.2015 | Hair | K7 | Р | F | FI43/MO3 |
| 15NH238 | Norway | 15.07.2015 | Hair | 19 | Р | F | FI111 |
| 15NH239 | Norway | 15.07.2015 | Hair | 19 | N | | |
| 15NH240 | Norway | 15.07.2015 | Hair | 19 | Р | F | FI111 |
| 15NH241 | Norway | 15.07.2015 | Hair | 19 | Р | F | FI185 |
| 15NH242 | Norway | 15.07.2015 | Hair | 19 | Р | F | FI111 |
| 15NH243 | Norway | 15.07.2015 | Hair | 18 | Р | F | FI111 |
| 15NH244 | Norway | 15.07.2015 | Hair | 18 | Р | F | FI186 |
| 15NH245 | Norway | 15.07.2015 | Hair | 18 | Р | F | FI111 |
| 15NH246 | Norway | 15.07.2015 | Hair | 18 | Р | F | FI111 |
| 15NH247 | Norway | 15.07.2015 | Hair | 18 | Р | F | FI111 |
| 15NH248 | Norway | 15.07.2015 | Hair | I10 | N | | |
| 15NH249 | Norway | 15.07.2015 | Hair | l10 | Р | F | FI116/LL49/MO4 |
| 15NH250 | Norway | 15.07.2015 | Hair | l10 | Р | F | FI116/LL49/MO4 |
| 15NH251 | Norway | 15.07.2015 | Hair | I10 | Р | М | FI123/LL43/MO5 |
| 15NH252 | Norway | 15.07.2015 | Hair | l10 | Р | F | FI116/LL49/MO4 |
| 15NH253 | Norway | 15.07.2015 | Hair | l11 | N | | |
| 15NH254 | Norway | 15.07.2015 | Hair | l11 | Р | М | FI123/LL43/MO5 |
| 15NH255 | Norway | 15.07.2015 | Hair | l11 | N | | |
| 15NH256 | Norway | 17.07.2015 | Hair | H11 | P | | Ingen ID |
| 15NH257 | Norway | 17.07.2015 | Hair | H11 | Р | M | FI183 |
| 15NH258 | Norway | 17.07.2015 | Hair | H11 | Р | M | FI183 |
| 15NH259 | Norway | 17.07.2015 | Hair | H11 | P | M | FI183 |
| 15NH260 | Norway | 17.07.2015 | Hair | H11 | Р | M | FI183 |
| 15NH261 | Norway | 17.07.2015 | Hair | H11 | Р | M | FI183 |
| 15NH262 | Norway | 17.07.2015 | Hair | l12 | Р | М | FI184 |
| 15NH263 | Norway | 17.07.2015 | Hair | l12 | Р | M | FI184 |

| Svanhovd Number* | Country | Date of sampling | Material | Grid | P/N | Gender** | Identity |
|---------------------|---------|------------------|----------|------|-----|----------|----------------|
| 15NH264 | Norway | 17.07.2015 | Hair | l12 | Р | М | FI184 |
| 15NH265 | Norway | 17.07.2015 | Hair | l12 | Р | М | FI184 |
| 15NH266 | Norway | 28.07.2015 | Hair | 16 | Р | F | FI167 |
| 15NH267 | Norway | 28.07.2015 | Hair | 17 | Р | F | FI167 |
| 15NH268 | Norway | 28.07.2015 | Hair | 17 | Р | F | FI167 |
| 15NH269 | Norway | 28.07.2015 | Hair | 17 | N | | |
| 15NH270 | Norway | 28.07.2015 | Hair | 17 | Р | F | FI167 |
| 15NH271 | Norway | 28.07.2015 | Hair | 17 | Р | F | FI167 |
| 15NH272 | Norway | 28.07.2015 | Hair | 17 | N | | |
| 15NH273 | Norway | 28.07.2015 | Hair | 17 | Р | F | FI167 |
| 15NH274 | Norway | 28.07.2015 | Hair | К8 | Р | F | FI160 |
| 15NH275 | Norway | 28.07.2015 | Hair | К8 | Р | F | FI160 |
| 15NH276 | Norway | 28.07.2015 | Hair | K8 | N | | |
| 15NH277 | Norway | 28.07.2015 | Hair | K7 | Р | F | FI43/MO3 |
| 15NH278 | Norway | 28.07.2015 | Hair | K7 | N | | |
| 15NH279 | Norway | 28.07.2015 | Hair | J8 | Р | M | FI161 |
| 15NH280 | Norway | 28.07.2015 | Hair | J8 | Р | M | FI161 |
| 15NH281 | Norway | 28.07.2015 | Hair | J8 | N | | |
| 15NH282 | Norway | 28.07.2015 | Hair | J8 | Р | | Ingen ID |
| 15NH283 | Norway | 28.07.2015 | Hair | J8 | Р | M | FI161 |
| 15NH284 | Norway | 30.07.2015 | Hair | 18 | N | | |
| 15NH285 | Norway | 30.07.2015 | Hair | l10 | N | | |
| 15NH286 | Norway | 30.07.2015 | Hair | l10 | Р | M | FI70 |
| 15NH287 | Norway | 30.07.2015 | Hair | l10 | Р | M | F170 |
| 15NH288 | Norway | 30.07.2015 | Hair | l10 | Р | M | F170 |
| 15NH289 | Norway | 30.07.2015 | Hair | l10 | Р | M | F170 |
| 15NH290 | Norway | 30.07.2015 | Hair | l10 | Р | М | F170 |
| 15NH291 | Norway | 30.07.2015 | Hair | l10 | Р | M | FI70 |
| 15NH292 | Norway | 30.07.2015 | Hair | l10 | Р | (M) | F169 |
| 15NH293 | Norway | 30.07.2015 | Hair | l10 | Р | | Ingen ID |
| 15NH294 | Norway | 30.07.2015 | Hair | l10 | Р | (M) | F169 |
| 15NH295 | Norway | 30.07.2015 | Hair | l12 | Р | F | FI180 |
| 15NH296 | Norway | 30.07.2015 | Hair | l12 | Р | F | FI180 |
| 15NH297 | Norway | 30.07.2015 | Hair | J10 | Р | F | FI181 |
| 15NH298 | Norway | 04.08.2015 | Hair | J11 | N | | |
| 15NH299 | Norway | 04.08.2015 | Hair | J11 | Р | M | FI123/LL43/MO5 |
| 15NH300 | Norway | 10.08.2015 | Hair | 17 | Р | F | FI111 |
| 15NH301 | Norway | 10.08.2015 | Hair | 17 | Р | | Ingen ID |
| 15NH302 | Norway | 10.08.2015 | Hair | J6 | Р | M | F170 |
| 15NH303 | Norway | 10.08.2015 | Hair | J6 | Р | М | F170 |
| 15NH304 | Norway | 10.08.2015 | Hair | 16 | Р | | Ingen ID |
| 15NH305 | Norway | 10.08.2015 | Hair | 16 | Р | F | FI167 |
| 15NH307 | Norway | 10.08.2015 | Hair | 16 | Р | F | FI167 |
| 15NH308 | Norway | 11.08.2015 | Hair | K7 | Р | F | FI43/MO3 |
| 15NH309 | Norway | 11.08.2015 | Hair | K7 | N | | |
| 15NH310 | Norway | 11.08.2015 | Hair | K8 | Р | F | FI43/MO3 |
| 15NH311 | Norway | 11.08.2015 | Hair | K8 | Р | F | FI160 |

| Svanhovd Number* | Country | Date of sampling | Material | Grid | P/N | Gender** | Identity |
|---------------------|------------------|--------------------------|--------------|-------------------|---------------|----------|----------------------|
| 15NH312 | Norway | 11.08.2015 | Hair | K8 | N | | |
| 15NH313 | Norway | 11.08.2015 | Hair | K8 | Р | F | FI43/MO3 |
| 15NH314 | Norway | 15.08.2015 | Hair | J8 | Р | | Ingen ID |
| 15NH315 | Norway | 15.08.2015 | Hair | J8 | Р | М | FI70 |
| 15NH316 | Norway | 15.08.2015 | Hair | J8 | Р | M | FI70 |
| 15NH317 | Norway | 15.08.2015 | Hair | 18 | Р | М | FI70 |
| 15NH318 | Norway | 15.08.2015 | Hair | J8 | Р | М | FI70 |
| 15NH319 | Norway | 15.08.2015 | Hair | J8 | Р | М | F170 |
| 15NH320 | Norway | 15.08.2015 | Hair | J8 | Р | М | F170 |
| 15NH321 | Norway | 15.08.2015 | Hair | J8 | Р | М | F170 |
| 15NH322 | Norway | 15.08.2015 | Hair | l12 | Р | F | FI116/LL49/MO4 |
| 15NH323 | Norway | 15.08.2015 | Hair | l12 | N | | |
| 15NH324 | Norway | 15.08.2015 | Hair | l12 | N | | |
| 15NH325 | Norway | 15.08.2015 | Hair | l12 | Р | | Ingen ID |
| 15NH326 | Norway | 15.08.2015 | Hair | l12 | N | | |
| 15NH327 | Norway | 15.08.2015 | Hair | l12 | Р | F | FI116/LL49/Mo48 |
| 15NH328 | Norway | 15.08.2015 | Hair | 18 | Р | | Ingen ID |
| 15NH329 | Norway | 15.08.2015 | Hair | 18 | Р | M | FI166 |
| 15NH330 | Norway | 15.08.2015 | Hair | 18 | Р | M | FI166 |
| 15NH331 | Norway | 15.08.2015 | Hair | 18 | N | | |
| 15NH332 | Norway | 15.08.2015 | Hair | 18 | Р | M | FI166 |
| 15NH333 | Norway | 15.08.2015 | Hair | 18 | Р | M | FI166 |
| 15NH334 | Norway | 15.08.2015 | Hair | 18 | Р | | Ingen ID |
| 15NH335 | Norway | 15.08.2015 | Hair | 18 | Р | | Ingen ID |
| 15NH336 | Norway | 15.08.2015 | Hair | 18 | N | | |
| 15NH337 | Norway | 15.08.2015 | Hair | 18 | N | | |
| 15NH338 | Norway | 15.08.2015 | Hair | J11 | Р | | Ingen ID |
| 15RF129 | Russia | 27.07.2015 | Feces | Additional sample | N | | |
| 15RF130 | Russia | 06.08.2015 | Feces | Additional sample | N | | |
| 15RF131 | Russia | 06.08.2015 | Feces | Additional sample | N | | |
| 15RF132 | Russia | 27.06.2015 | Feces | Additional sample | N | | |
| 15RF133 | Russia | 23.06.2015 | Feces | Additional sample | P | F | FI43/MO3 |
| 15RF134 | Russia | 06.08.2015 | Feces | Additional sample | N | | 51400/04045 |
| 15RF135 | Russia | 06.08.2015 | Feces | Additional sample | P | F | FI139/MO45 |
| 15RF136 | Russia | 15.06.2015 | Feces | Additional sample | P | | Ingen ID |
| 15RF137 | Russia | 27.06.2015 | Feces | Additional sample | P | | Ingen ID |
| 15RF138 | Russia | 14.07.2015 | Feces | Additional sample | P | | Ingen ID |
| 15RH001 15RH002 | Russia | 01.07.2015 01.07.2015 | Hair | M12 G12 | N | N.4 | MO8/LL44/FI177 |
| 15RH002 15RH003 | Russia Russia | | Hair Hair | G12 G12 | P P | M F | FI116/LL49/MO4 |
| 15RH003 15RH004 | Russia | 01.07.2015 01.07.2015 | Hair | G12 G12 | <u>Р</u> Р | F | FI116/LL49/MO4 |
| 15RH005 | Russia | 01.07.2015 | Hair | G12 | <u>Р</u> | Г | Ingen ID |
| 15RH005 | Russia | 01.07.2015 | Hair | G12 | <u>Р</u> | M | MO8/LL44/FI177 |
| 15RH007 | Russia | 30.06.2015 | Hair | K9 | N P | IVI | IVIOO/ LL44/ FI1 / / |
| 15RH007 | Russia | 30.06.2015 | Hair | K9 | P | | Ingen ID |
| 15RH009 | Russia | 30.06.2015 | Hair | K9 | N P | | ingen ib |
| 15RH010 | Russia | 30.06.2015 | Hair | K7 | N | | |
| TOLUNIO | เงนออเส | 30.00.2013 | Hall | IX / | 11 | | |

| Svanhovd Number* | Country | Date of sampling | Material | Grid | P/N | Gender** | Identity |
|---------------------|------------------|--------------------------|--------------|-------------------|---------------|----------|----------------|
| 15RH011 | Russia | 30.06.2015 | Hair | K7 | N | | |
| 15RH012 | Russia | 30.06.2015 | Hair | К8 | Р | M | MO41 |
| 15RH013 | Russia | 30.06.2015 | Hair | К8 | N | | |
| 15RH014 | Russia | 30.06.2015 | Hair | K8 | Р | F | FI38/MO18 |
| 15RH015 | Russia | 15.07.2015 | Hair | M12 | N | | |
| 15RH016 | Russia | 14.07.2015 | Hair | К8 | N | | |
| 15RH017 | Russia | 14.07.2015 | Hair | M6 | N | | |
| 15RH018 | Russia | 14.07.2015 | Hair | L6 | Р | F | FI38/MO18 |
| 15RH019 | Russia | 14.07.2015 | Hair | L6 | N | | |
| 15RH020 | Russia | 14.07.2015 | Hair | L6 | Р | F | MO49 |
| 15RH021 | Russia | 14.07.2015 | Hair | L6 | N | | |
| 15RH022 | Russia | 14.07.2015 | Hair | L6 | Р | M | MO41 |
| 15RH023 | Russia | 14.07.2015 | Hair | K7 | Р | M | FI123/LL43/MO5 |
| 15RH024 | Russia | 14.07.2015 | Hair | K7 | Р | M | FI123/LL43/MO5 |
| 15RH025 | Russia | 14.07.2015 | Hair | K7 | Р | M | FI123/LL43/MO5 |
| 15RH026 | Russia | 28.07.2015 | Hair | M6 | N | | |
| 15RH027 | Russia | 28.07.2015 | Hair | M6 | Р | M | MO41 |
| 15RH028 | Russia | 28.07.2015 | Hair | K8 | Р | F | MO9 |
| 15RH029 | Russia | 28.07.2015 | Hair | K8 | Р | F | MO9 |
| 15RH030 | Russia | 28.07.2015 | Hair | K8 | Р | F | MO9 |
| 15RH031 | Russia | 28.07.2015 | Hair | K8 | Р | F | MO9 |
| 15RH032 | Russia | 10.08.2015 | Hair | К9 | N | | |
| 15RH033 | Russia | 10.08.2015 | Hair | К9 | Р | | Ingen ID |
| 15RH034 | Russia | 10.08.2015 | Hair | K9 | P | F | MO46 |
| 15RH035 | Russia | 10.08.2015 | Hair | K8 | P | | Ingen ID |
| 15RH036 | Russia | 10.08.2015 | Hair | K9 | P | F | MO47 |
| 15RH037 | Russia | 10.08.2015 | Hair | K9 | P | F | MO46 |
| 15RH038 | Russia | 10.08.2015 | Hair | K9 | P | | Ingen ID |
| 15RH039 | Russia | 10.08.2015 | Hair | K9 | P | М | MO41 |
| 15RH040 | Russia | 10.08.2015 | Hair | K9 | P | | Ingen ID |
| 15RH041 | Russia | 10.08.2015 | Hair | K9 | N | | |
| 15RH042 15RH043 | Russia Russia | 10.08.2015 10.08.2015 | Hair Hair | K9 K9 | N P | | Ingen ID |
| 15RH044 | Russia | 10.08.2015 | Hair | K9 | P | M | MO41 |
| 15RH045 | Russia | 10.08.2015 | Hair | K9 | <u>Р</u> | IVI | Ingen ID |
| 15RH046 | Russia | 06.06.2015 | Hair | Additional sample | <u>Р</u> | M | FI90/MO42 |
| 15RH047 | Russia | 07.06.2015 | Hair | Additional sample | <u>г</u> Р | M | MO43 |
| 15RH048 | Russia | 07.06.2015 | Hair | Additional sample | <u>г</u> Р | M | FI105/M015 |
| 15RH049 | Russia | 09.06.2015 | Hair | Additional sample | <u>г</u> Р | M | FI44/MO44 |
| 15RH050 | Russia | 10.06.2015 | Hair | Additional sample | <u>г</u> Р | F | FI139/MO45 |
| 15RH050 | Russia | 10.06.2015 | Hair | Additional sample | P | M | FI44/MO44 |
| 15RH052 | Russia | 31.07.2015 | Hair | Additional sample | <u>г</u> Р | F | FI38/MO18 |
| 15RH053 | Russia | 27.06.2015 | Hair | K8 | <u> Р</u> | ' | M09 |
| 15RH054 | Russia | 07.07.2015 | Hair | K9 | P | ' | M09 |
| 13111034 | Nussia | 07.07.2013 | Han | N.J. | ' | ı | 14103 |

P=positive, N=negative *NF= feces sample, NH= hair sample **M = male, F = female ***A = Accredited test results ***IA= the analysis are performed by accredited method, but the loss of alleles or markers makes the output not meet the requirement for accredited test results.

No ID= Proven DNA of bears, with incomplete DNA profile.

Explanation notes: 1 = Allele Loss on one or two markers 2 = Partial profile (3-5 markers) 3 = uncertain DNA profile due to multiple allelic loss 4 = Mixture of hair from two or more individuals.



Norsk institutt for bioøkonomi (NIBIO) ble opprettet 1. juli 2015 som en fusjon av Bioforsk, Norsk institutt for landbruksøkonomisk forskning (NILF) og Norsk institutt for skog og landskap.

Bioøkonomi baserer seg på utnyttelse og forvaltning av biologiske ressurser fra jord og hav, fremfor en fossil økonomi som er basert på kull, olje og gass. NIBIO skal være nasjonalt ledende for utvikling av kunnskap om bioøkonomi.

Gjennom forskning og kunnskapsproduksjon skal instituttet bidra til matsikkerhet, bærekraftig ressursforvaltning, innovasjon og verdiskaping innenfor verdikjedene for mat, skog og andre biobaserte næringer. Instituttet skal levere forskning, forvaltningsstøtte og kunnskap til anvendelse i nasjonal beredskap, forvaltning, næringsliv og samfunnet for øvrig.

NIBIO er eid av Landbruks- og matdepartementet som et forvaltningsorgan med særskilte fullmakter og eget styre. Hovedkontoret er på Ås. Instituttet har flere regionale enheter og et avdelingskontor i Oslo.