Vostok Station is at the tip of a peninsula in Vostok Bay.

Peter the Great Bay area with Vladivostok (gold on the “golden horn”) and Vostok Bay (red).

A marsh north of Vostok Station and three shallow marine bays southwest that we sampled on foot or by rowboat. Unique species in each place.

Gaidamak Harbor: a shipyard with floating drydock and piles of rusty ships. Also about a dozen confiscated Japanese fishing vessels. The lake has a *Melita nitida* looking amphipod in it.

A village separates the north and south Vostok Station campi.

Leslie and I got the nicest place on the complex (not yet on google). It wasn’t right but the sinks, toilets and showers were nice.
Traffic runs on the right but most cars are have right hand steering. . . . This results in interesting rides.

Leslie’s place with sink and toilet.

Roadside flower.

Vostok Station on the peninsula tip.

Vostok boat basin.

My Cabin

Inside my cabin. No sink or toilet.

Vostok dining hall.

Leslie and Ivan (to her right) dining.
Samples arrived at the station and the different groups sorted through them for their taxa (algae [Gayle Hansen and crew], polychaetes [Leslie Harris and crew] and amphipods, [the Liudmila, Natasha and me crew]).

A fouling plate sample. Other samples were scrapings from rocks, pilings and anywhere.

This was the nicest part of the shipyard we sampled.

The workers were friendly. We collected scrapings down there.

Sampling on a floating drydock under repair. No stinkin’ OCEA rules here!


Us collectors

Liudmila, TINRO and Natasha, IMB.

I was to the right of Natasha.
North view from Vostok Station. Winter winds come from that valley. Solid granite everywhere.

Liudmila in front of the nicest and least used building on the complex, the director’s house.

Liudmila, Evgeny, Ilia, Natasha and Marina on rocks south of the lab.

East view from Vostok Station

Vostok seawater tank

South from Vostok Station

Very low tide (0.8 m!!) exposes base of Vostok sauna steps into the sea.

Urchin barrens (subtidal).

Bat stars.
Not being fenced in, cows often hang out by the roads.

Natasha’s blowing hair and “village” north of Vostok.

Beached jellyfish. Same marsh.

Jin Choi and I posing while we wait to be picked up.

Beach 1 km from the lab after lunch.

Natasha and Jin Choi sampling for amphipods and polychaetes respectively.

Same marsh as right. Looks like Assiminea

Dense Littorina on narrow band of shore.

Similar to Mya arenaria but Latumula has nacrous external valves and a thick siphon.
Gayle, entirely in her element, looking for the last possible algae species. She was masterful.

14 Oct. Natasha, Inna and Natalia, (station manager), seeing Gayle off to visit another station.


Vostok Station palm grove.

My new digs. 15 Oct. Yeah, that’s snow.

Fishermen of the adjacent “village” of “Avantgard”.

On the station. Red roof dining hall on left

Sunrise 18 Oct.
Common dining room inside of new digs. Leslie's rooms are on the right and mine are on the left.

Bedroom. Computer usually on the desk.

My kitchen from the dining room.

Inside my kitchen with hotplate, sink and microwave on right, shower ahead and bedroom on left.

Vostok reserve perimeter floats in front of my room at sunset. Where we found *Ampithoe valida*, 18 Oct.

Inna and Leslie in the polychaete lab.

View from Inna and Leslie's window.

"Avantgard" from north side.

Boat used for night tows. Nikoli is skipper.
Among estuary finds: *Nuttallia obscurata*.

Alexander takes Natasha and I to the estuary.

Priboynaya Bay. Means “waves”.

Estuary. Natasha’s boots leaked.

Vostok Lab divers fussing over Natasha before estuary trip.

Inch long *Rocinella maculata* from subtidal sand. Photo does poor justice.

Mica painted riffles Priboynaya Bay.

Mica from the granite paints the beach silver.

Vostok Station guard cat working Leslie and the crowd.

Inch long *Rocinella* (can’t remember the Mica from the granite paints the beach silver.)
Natasha (amphipods) and (polychaetes) Inna and Leslie.

Inna and Leslie.

Village from south Vostok Station.

Guard cat continuing security duty.

Assiminea looking snails make pits in the high marsh mud.

Fishing in the 4 foot deep estuary channel.

Real naturalists usually have their heads down. Vasily “pesters” oysters that have spionids using a rake. They got away.

Vasily, in his element (=small boat). I am rowing.

These guys didn’t get away: Didemnum vexillum (G. Lambert ID from better pictures) growing over Mytilus trossulus, Crassostrea gigas and mixed Ulva. Also associated were Monocorophium acherusicum and M. insidiosum from a 30 cm diameter float anchored <1 km from the station.
The point of land just south of Vostok Station on 13 October 2011.

The ridge on the same point of land on 24 October.

Facing south on the south end of the point, 24 October.

Somebody’s beloved dog. Marked on the very steep hillside overlooking the west side of the station.

Natasha punching in the amphipod data so I can begin with analyses already. She taught me about Russian amphipod taxonomy and watched out for me for three weeks with endless patience, tolerance, kindness and grace. Alas, all she got in return was me.

Dosdevanya (see you later) and I hope it is not “preshe” (goodbye forever). Vasily, Leslie, Natalia, Natasha, me.