Document for STC meeting in Pusan
November, 1999

Cruise Plan for Mid-water Trawl Survey on Pelagic Pollock in the International Waters of the Bering Sea, 1999

Fisheries Agency of Japan

I. Objectives

The objectives of the 1999 autumn cruise are to:

① Collect information about pollock distribution in the international waters in the Bering Sea, in Autumn.

② Collect biological information of pelagic pollock in the International Waters in the Bering Sea, in Autumn.

II. Institution

Hokkaido National Fisheries Research Institute (HNF)
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Groundfish Biology Section
Akira Nishimura (anishimu@hnf.affrc.go.jp)

III. Research Vessel

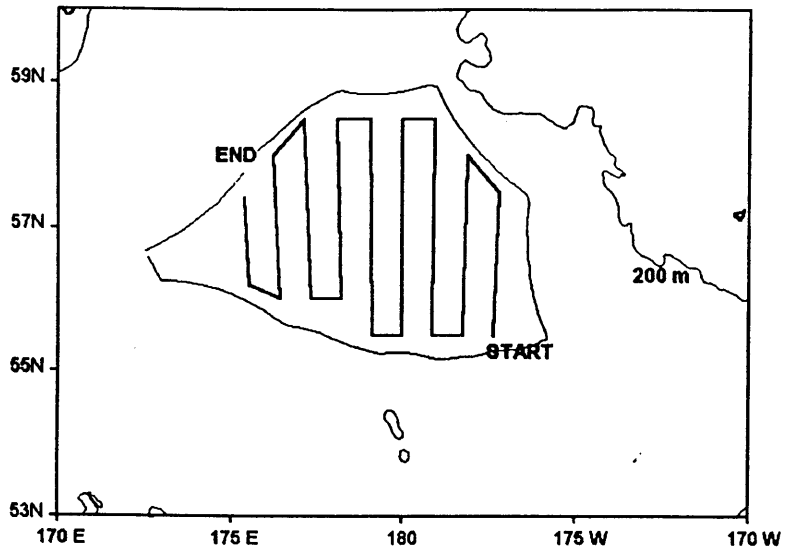
No. 3 Kaiyo Maru (473 ton; Nipon Kaiyo Co. Ltd.)
CALL SIGN : JHQM
INMARSAT: 001-872(3)-1204522

IV. Itinerary (Tantative)

Date	Item
Nov. 15	Departure Kushiro
Nov. 16-22	Transit to Donut Hole
Nov. 23-Dec.3	Survey in Donut Hole
Dec.4-10	Homeward voyage to Kushiro
Dec.. 11	Arrive Kushiro

V .Survey areas

International waters of the Bering Sea (Donuts Hole; Fig. 1).



VI. Scientific Personnel

Researcher: Kazuhiko Iwasaki (Fisheries Agency of Japan)

VII. Research Items

1) Collection of the information about pollock distribution in the Donut hole by using vessel equipped acoustic system.

Ecogram of vessel equipped quantitative echo sounder system (EK500) will be collected continuously along the transects (Fig. 1). When significant echo sign appears, trawl haul will be conducted to identify the echo sign and to provide biological data for these organisms. Ship speed is expected to average 8 knots in favorable weather.

2) Collection of the biological samples by using mid-water trawl net. Duration of each trawl haul should be kept to minimum time necessary to ensure an adequate sample size (600-1000 kg). The following biological data will be collected from the samples.

Species composition and weight / numbers of each species.
Pollock length frequencies of each trawl haul.
Age composition from otolith reading.
Growth analyses and bio-chemical analyses.

VIII. Data

All of the data will be transferred to HNF and will be analyzed. The results will be presented to STC meeting under the Convention on the Conservation and Management of Pollock Resources in the Central Bering Sea.