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INTERNATIONAL NORTH PACIFIC FISHERIES COMMISSION
Working Group on Joint Surveys
Shimizu, Japan, 1982 November 1-2.

REPORT OF THE WORKING GROUP ON JOINT SURVEYS

The Working Group on Joint Surveys met November 1-2 in Shimizu, Japan. Dr. Kaoru Tatara of the Far Seas Fisheries Research Laboratory, Fisheries Agency of Japan, welcomed participants and emphasized the value of the results from cooperative U.S.-Japan surveys and expressed the desire of the Fishery Agency to continue these joint surveys. K. Okada of Japan was selected chairman of the meetings and R. Bakkala of the U.S. as rapporteur.

1. PARTICIPANTS

The following persons took part in the working group sessions:

JAPAN	K. Okada	Far Seas Fisheries Research Laboratory
	H. Yamaguchi	" " " " "
	T. Sasaki	" " " " "
	K. Wakabayashi	" " " " "
	K. Kitani	" " " " "
 UNITED STATES	L. Ronholt	Northwest and Alaska Fisheries Center
	R. Bakkala	" " " " "

Interpreter for the meeting was C. Okazaki.

2. Agenda

The following agenda was adopted for the meetings:

A. The 1979 Report

Consideration of the latest draft

a) Species name

b) References

c) Other

B. The 1980 Report

(1) Fishing power comparison

(2) Table of Contents

(3) Check of catch rate and biomass

(4) Consideration of draft

C. The 1981 Report

(1) Fishing power comparison

(2) Results

(3) Consideration of draft and time schedule

(4) Authorship

D. The 1982 Report

(1) Review of the surveys

(2) Data status and data exchange

(3) Fishing power comparison

(4) Data analysis

(5) Reporting

(6) Authorship

E. The 1983 survey plan

(1) Kaiyo maru

(2) Others

F. Other business

(1) Tagging experiments

(2) Others

G. Future meeting

H. Review of Working Group Report

3. The 1979 Report

A brief discussion of required changes and the schedule for completion of the final draft for the 1979 cooperative U.S.-Japan trawl survey in the eastern Bering Sea was conducted. It was agreed that the common name used for new species of eelpouts identified during the survey should be eelpout. These species have not yet been given full common names. It was also agreed that references that are in Japanese should be identified as such by adding to the reference (In Japanese) or (In Japanese with English abstract). A third agreement was to contact the INPFC Secretariat to determine how we should identify the organization of individual chapter authors.

The editors of the 1979 joint report will make every effort to have final reviews completed by their respective organizations by the end of 1982 and will themselves carefully review the draft. It is anticipated that the report will be submitted to INPFC in early 1983 for consideration for publication in the bulletin series.

4. The 1980 Report

The report describing results of the 1980 cooperative U.S.-Japan trawl survey of Aleutian Islands groundfish is in progress. The working group reviewed the outline for the report, completed drafts of the methods section, the methods of data analysis, and methods of presenting results. Because of potential problems with results of comparative fishing experiments, biomass estimates

unadjusted for fishing powers will be presented in the results section. The discussion section will explain that biomass estimates may be higher if the fishing powers derived from the comparative fishing experiments have validity. It was also agreed that the subsection describing stations sampled, area surveyed, and results of the comparative fishing experiments would be contained in the methods section rather than the results section. Considerable time was spent discussing specific table and figure formats for the report.

A final draft of the 1980 joint report was anticipated to be completed by November 1983.

5. The 1981 Report

The joint report describing results of the 1981 cooperative U.S.-Japan demersal trawl survey of the eastern Bering Sea is also in progress. This report will take the form of a data report with a minimum of text. The 1979 report (described in 3 above) will be referenced for survey methods and methods of analysis except where differences existed. The 1981 report will contain a discussion section to point out any relevant or new findings from the 1981 survey data.

Analyses of the survey data have been completed and many of the tables and figures summarizing results of the analyses prepared. These tables and figures were reviewed and revisions agreed upon. It was agreed that: 1) tables showing rank order of relative abundance by depth zone would be combined into a single table; 2) in figures showing length-frequency distributions by subarea and for the overall survey area, population number estimates would be given below values of mean length; 3) tables giving sex ratios by subarea and figures showing age composition by subarea will not be presented in this report, and 4) growth curves will be presented. It was further agreed that Japanese authors would originate the discussion section and that Mr. Sample of the U.S. would be the

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principal author and Mr. Wakabayashi and Mr. Yamaguchi would be authors from Japan.

It was anticipated that a final draft of the report would be completed by late 1983.

6. The 1982 Report

The report describing results of the 1982 cooperative U.S.-Japan demersal trawl and hydroacoustic survey of the eastern Bering Sea was discussed briefly. The 1982 report, like the 1981 report, will be in the form of a data report. Authors from Japan will be Mr. Yamaguchi and Mr. Teshima. The authors from the United States have not been decided.

7. 1983 Pelagic Pollock Survey

Japan will conduct a hydroacoustic-midwater trawl and oceanographic survey of the Aleutian Basin in January-March 1983 aboard the Japan Fisheries Agency research vessel Kaiyo maru. The primary purpose is to estimate the stock abundance and biological characteristics of pelagic pollock in the Basin. A Furuno scientific echosounder with an echo integrator will be used to acoustically assess the abundance of pollock. Target strength measurements will be made for about one week prior to the survey. About 80 midwater trawl stations will be sampled during the survey. The location of the acoustic track line and midwater stations is shown in Figure 1.

The oceanographic survey will be conducted with moored buoy systems and by collection of temperature and salinity data at each midwater station. The primary purpose of the oceanographic studies is to relate environmental conditions to the distribution and movements of pollock. Two moored buoy systems with automatic recording devices will be deployed just north of the Aleutian Islands with the main objective of measuring the direction and magnitude of currents

in this area. The moored buoy systems will also provide continuous records of temperature and salinity. The buoys will extend from about 120 m under the surface to about 100 m from the bottom. The overall lengths of the buoy systems will be about 3,200 m at one location and 1,600 m at the second location. The buoy systems will be left in place about 40 days.

8. Planning for the 1983 cooperative U.S.-Japan demersal trawl survey of the Aleutian Islands region

Representatives from both Japan and the United States expressed the desire to conduct a cooperative survey in the Aleutians in 1983. Neither side could make firm commitments until its respective agency had completed survey planning for 1983. On the assumption that the cooperative survey would be carried out, plans were discussed for sampling strategy to be used during the Aleutian survey.

9. Future meetings of the Working Group

The Non-Anadromous Subcommittee of INPFC recommended that the Working Group meet for a one-week period following U.S.-Japan bilateral meetings in the spring of 1983 to continue its work on the joint report.

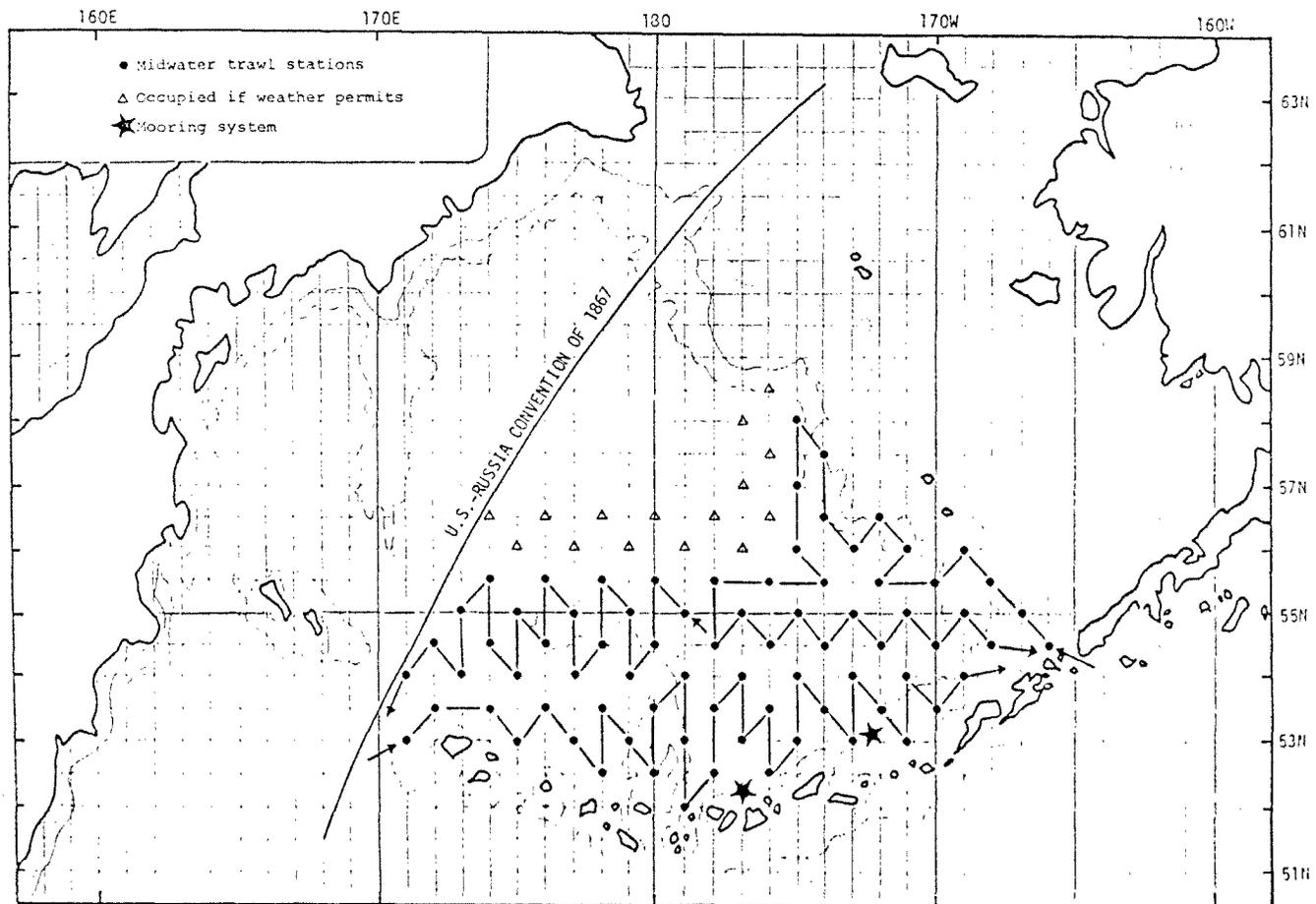


Figure 1.--Hydroacoustic trackline and midwater trawl stations to be sampled by the Kaiyo maru during the January-March, 1983 survey of pelagic pollock in the Aleutian Basin.