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TRANSLATION

**JAPANESE RESEARCH IN 1990 AND RESEARCH PLAN FOR 1991
ON GROUND FISH STOCKS IN THE BERING SEA,
ALEUTIAN ISLANDS REGION, AND NORTHEASTERN PACIFIC**

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**Japanese Research in 1990 and Research Plan for 1991
on Groundfish Stocks in the Bering Sea,
Aleutian Islands Region, and Northeastern Pacific**

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1. Research Vessel Operations in the Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands Region in 1990

The Japanese Government is conducting the following research in the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands region:

(1) Acoustic/Midwater Trawl Survey for Pollock in the Aleutian Basin and on the Continental Shelf in the Eastern Bering Sea (Summer)

Acoustic and midwater trawl surveys for pollock have been conducted since 1988 in the Aleutian Basin and on the continental shelf in the eastern Bering Sea is being conducted from late June to early October. The purpose of the survey was to obtain information on biomass and biology of pelagic and midwater pollock inhabiting the Aleutian Basin and on the eastern continental shelf, understanding of water temperature circumstances, and sampling pollock larvae and zooplankton, as in the previous year.

The landbased dragnet trawler *Daian maru No. 128* (279 GT) was chartered for this research. After the comprehensive examination for the quantitative echo sounder system was conducted off Kushiro from late June to early July, the research vessel departed from the Kushiro Harbour on July 11, and has conducted the surveys in the eastern Bering Sea since late July. This is the joint survey by the National Research Institute of Far Seas Fisheries, National Research Institute of Fisheries Engineering, and Alaska Fisheries Science Centre, U.S. Department of Commerce.

2. Planned Research Vessel Operations in the Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands Region in 1991

The Japanese Government plans to conduct the following research program for groundfish in the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands region in 1991 but budget considerations may cause some revisions.

(1) Acoustic/Midwater Trawl Survey for Pollock in the Aleutian Basin and on the Continental Shelf in the Eastern Bering Sea (Summer)

As a continuation of studies in 1990, Japan is scheduled to conduct the Japan-U.S. joint surveys using the quantitative echo sounder system in order to estimate the biomass of pollock in the Aleutian Basin within the U.S. 200 miles zone and international waters and on the continental shelf of the

eastern Bering Sea and to sample fish using the midwater trawl net. In addition, both Japan and the U.S. are thinking of an expansion of their research program to cover pollock stocks in the entire Bering Sea including U.S.S.R. waters in 1991, and they are approaching the U.S.S.R. Government to participate in this joint research program. If the U.S.S.R. agrees, the Japanese research plan will be decided within the framework of the trilateral joint survey.

The survey will be conducted using the chartered landbased dragnet trawler for four months from May to September.

3. Research Vessel Operations in 1990 and Planned Research Vessel Operations in 1991 in the Northeastern Pacific

Japan did not conduct the survey on groundfish in the northeastern Pacific in 1990, and also has no research plans for this area in 1991.
