
Kei-ichi Mito
National Research Institute of Far Seas Fisheries

1991 October
Fisheries Agency of Japan

THIS PAPER MAY BE CITED IN THE FOLLOWING MANNER:

Kei-ichi Mito
National Research Institute of Far Seas Fisheries

1. Research in the Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands Region in 1991

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

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

Acoustic and midwater trawl surveys for pollock such as have been conducted since 1988 in the Aleutian Basin and on the continental shelf in the eastern Bering Sea were conducted from early June to early September. The purpose of the surveys was: to obtain information on biomass of pelagic pollock inhabiting the Aleutian Basin, as in the 1988 survey, to obtain biological information of pollock, to determine water temperature conditions, and to sample pollock larvae and zooplankton in the Basin and the eastern continental shelf.

The landbased dragnet trawler Shoyo maru (350 GT) was chartered for this research. After a comprehensive examination with the quantitative echo sounder system was conducted off Kushiro and off Muroran from early June to mid June, the research vessel departed from Kushiro Harbour on June 12, and has conducted surveys in the eastern Bering Sea and Aleutian Basin since late June. This is the cooperative survey by the National Research Institute of Far Seas Fisheries, National Research Institute of Fisheries Engineering, and Alaska Fisheries Science Center, U.S. Department of Commerce. A proposal had been made to the Soviet Government to conduct the cooperative survey in the U.S.S.R. area of the Basin, but permission could not be obtained from the Soviet Government.

(2) Research by Scientific Observers on Japanese Fishing vessels in the International Waters of the Bering Sea

Collections of information on catch of pollock, on incidental catch, and biological data etc. which were conducted by a scientific observer on board the Japanese fishing vessels on a preliminary basis in 1990 are scheduled to be conducted on a full scale by 10 scientific observers from October to March in the following year.
2. **Planned Research in the Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands Region in 1992**

The Japanese Government plans to conduct the following research program for groundfish in the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands region in 1992, 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 1991, Japan is scheduled to conduct the Japan-U.S. cooperative surveys using the quantitative echo sounder system in order to estimate the biomass of pollock in the Aleutian Basin within the U.S. 200 mile zone and international waters and on the continental shelf of the eastern Bering Sea and to sample fish using a midwater trawl net.

The survey will be conducted using a chartered landbased dragnet trawler for 100 days from June to September.

(2) **Acoustic/Midwater Trawl Survey for Pollock in the Aleutian Basin (Winter)**

As a continuation of studies in 1988, Japan is scheduled to conduct the Japan-U.S. cooperative surveys using the quantitative echo sounder system in order to estimate the biomass of pollock in the Aleutian Basin within the U.S. 200 mile zone and international waters of the Bering Sea and to sample fish using the midwater trawl net. Since it is important to conduct the surveys targeting pollock stocks throughout the Bering Sea, if we obtain permission from the Soviet Government, we are scheduled to conduct the surveys in a survey area that includes the U.S.S.R. areas. In addition, we are planning to invite scientists from concerned countries such as Korea and Poland, etc., as in the surveys which were conducted in the winters of 1988 and 1990.

The survey will be conducted for four months from December to March, using the research vessel of the Fisheries Agency of Japan which was built in 1991, the new Kaiyo maru.

(3) **Research by Scientific Observers on Japanese Fishing vessels in International Waters of the Bering Sea**

On a similar scale to that conducted in 1991, information on catch of pollock, on incidental catch, and biological data on pollock are scheduled to be collected by scientific observers on board the Japanese fishing vessels.

3. **Planned Research in 1992 in the Northeastern Pacific**

Japan did not conduct a survey on groundfish in the northeastern Pacific in 1991, and has no research plans for this area in 1992.

---------

3648--3