

NPAFC  
Doc. 1385  
Rev.    

**Proposed Cruise Plans of Japanese Research Vessels for  
Salmon in the North Pacific Ocean in 2012**

**by**

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**Submitted to the**

**NORTH PACIFIC ANADROMOUS FISH COMMISSION**

**by**

**JAPAN**

**March 2012**

**THIS PAPER MAY BE CITED IN THE FOLLOWING MANNER:**

Urawa, S. and T. Nagasawa. 2012. Proposed cruise plans of Japanese research vessels for salmon in the North Pacific Ocean in 2012. NPAFC Doc. 1385. 4 pp. Hokkaido National Fisheries Research Institute, Fisheries Research Agency, 2-2 Nakanoshima, Sapporo 062-0922, Japan. (Available at [www.npafc.org](http://www.npafc.org).)

# Proposed Cruise Plans of Japanese Research Vessels for Salmon in the North Pacific Ocean in 2012

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According to the national research plan (Doc. 1311), two Japanese salmon research vessels are scheduled to conduct the following scientific research in the North Pacific Ocean and Bering Sea in 2012 (Table 1).

- (1) The *Hokko maru* will carry out salmon research with a surface/midwater trawl and hook-and-line to obtain information on the distribution, abundance, and other biological characteristic of Pacific salmon in the Bering Sea from late July to early August (Fig. 1).
- (2) The *Oshoro maru* will carry out salmon research with gillnets, longline, and hook-and-line to obtain data on the distribution and ecology of salmon and other pelagic fishes in the western North Pacific in May (Fig. 2) and in the Gulf of Alaska from June to August (Fig. 3).

In case of gillnet operation, gillnets less than 2.5 km in length at sea will be used.

Table 1. Proposed cruise plan of Japanese research vessels for salmon in the North Pacific in 2012

| Vessel             | Period              | Survey area           | Research objects                  | Gear equipped                                     |
|--------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------------------|---|
| <i>Hokko maru</i>  | July 20 - August 12 | Bering Sea            | Salmon abundance and distribution | Surface/midwater trawl, hook-and-line             |
| <i>Oshoro maru</i> | May 10 - May 23     | Western North Pacific | Fish community                    | Gillnets, longline, hook-and-line, jigging        |
|                    | June 8 - August 6   | Gulf of Alaska        | Fish community                    | Gillnets, longline, hook-and-line, jigging, trawl |

## Reference

Fisheries Agency of Japan. 2011. Japanese salmon research under the NPAFC Science Plan 2011-2015. NPAFC Doc. 1311. 3 pp. (Available at [www.npafc.org](http://www.npafc.org)).

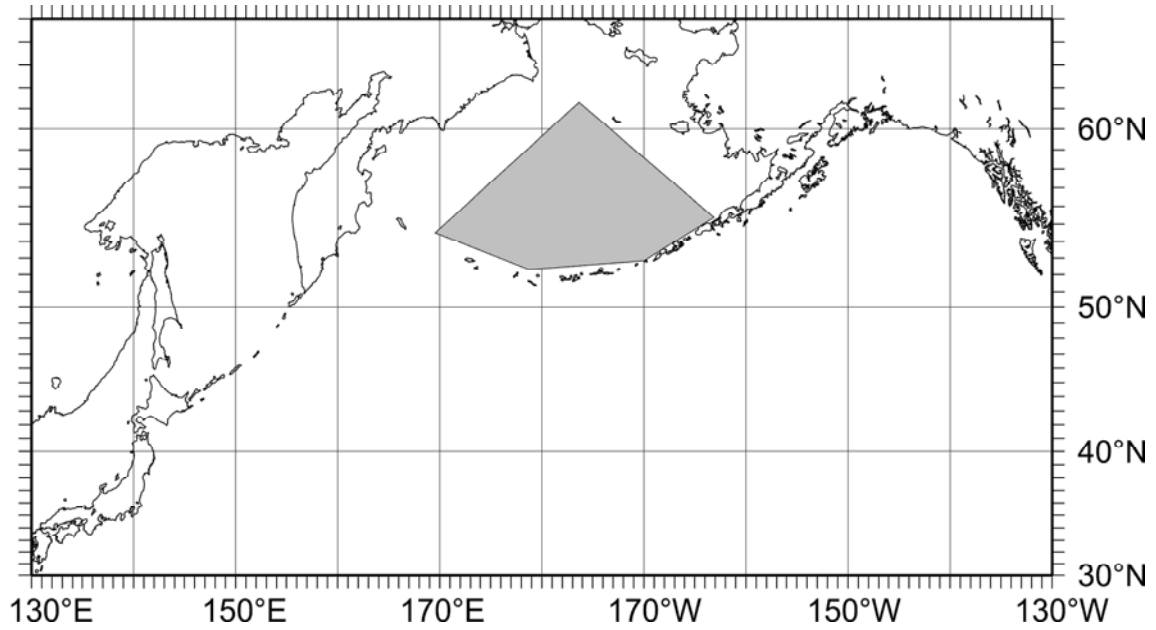


Fig. 1. Research area of the R/V *Hokko maru* in the Bering Sea, July 20 (Kushiro) – August 12 (Kushiro), 2012.

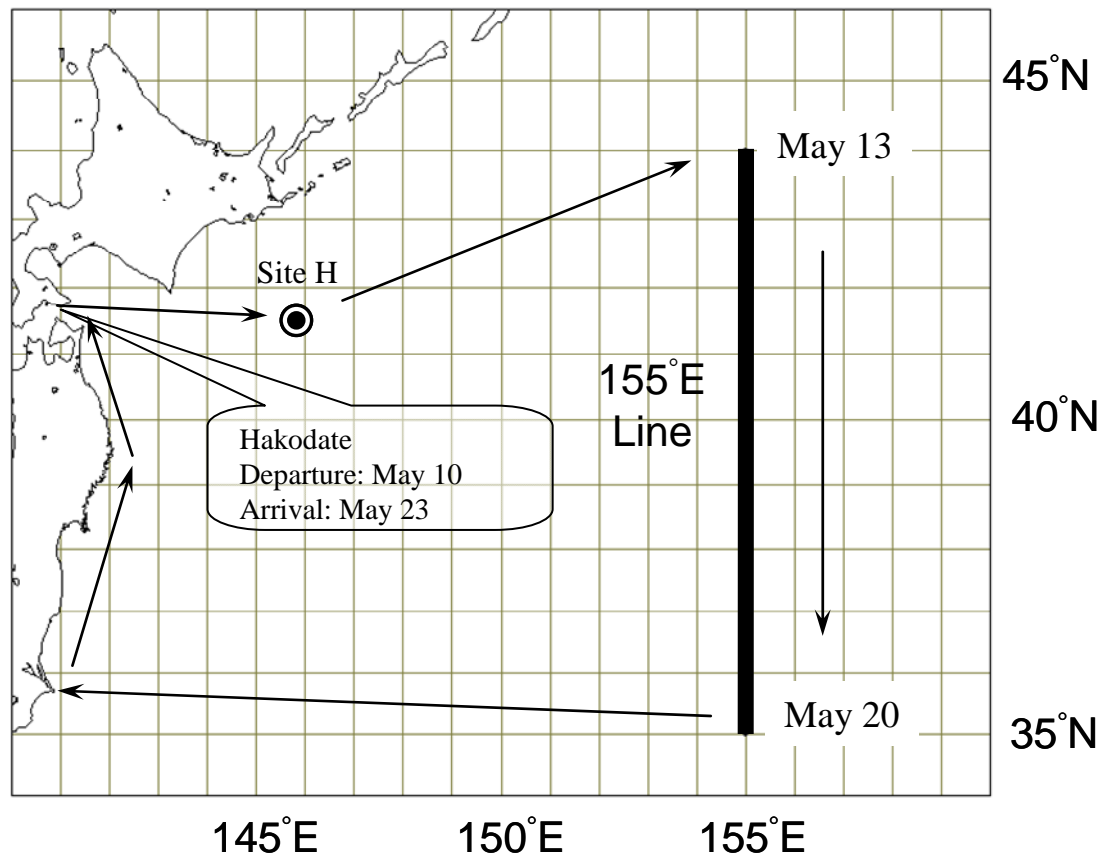


Fig. 2. Research area of the R/V *Oshoro maru* in the western North Pacific Ocean, May 10 (Hakodate) – May 23 (Hakodate), 2012.

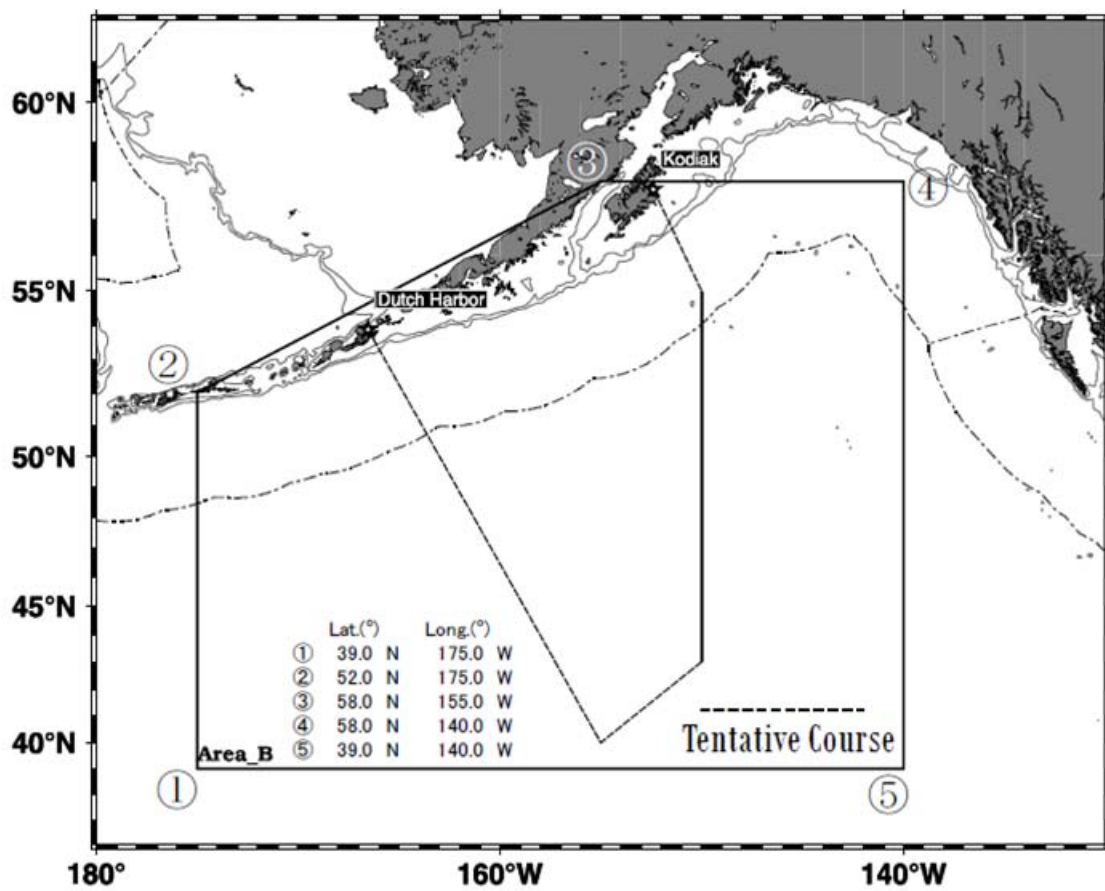


Fig. 3. Research area of the R/V *Oshoro maru* in the Gulf of Alaska, June 8 (Hakodate) – August 6 (Hakodate), 2012. Salmon samplings by longline, hook-and-line and gillnet will be conducted outside of the US EEZ.

Appendix Table. List of Salmon Research Vessels Scheduled for 2011 by Japanese Party

| Party   | Vessel's name      | Call sign | Gear equipped                          | Other available information   |
|---|--------------------|-----------|--|---|
| FRA<br>Hokkaido<br>National<br>Fisheries<br>Research<br>Institute | <i>Hokko maru</i>  | JEBB      | Trawl, hook-and-line                   | INMARSAT telephone: +872-7634-443-93, Length: 64.73 m, Gross tonnage: 902   |
| Hokkaido<br>University  | <i>Oshoro maru</i> | JDVA      | Gillnet,<br>longline,<br>hook-and-line | INMARSAT telephone: +872-3431-025-10, Length: 72.85 m, Gross tonnage: 1,779 |