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Salmon in the North Pacific Ocean in 2014**

by

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Proposed Cruise Plans of Japanese Research Vessels for Salmon in the North Pacific Ocean in 2014

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Abstract: Two Japanese research vessels are scheduled to conduct high-seas salmon surveys. The FRA research vessel *Hokko maru* will carry out a summer monitoring survey for salmon and their habitat in the central Bering Sea. The Hokkaido University research vessel *Oshoro maru* will accomplish a salmon research in the western North Pacific in middle May 2014.

According to the national research plan (Doc. 1311), two Japanese research vessels are scheduled to conduct the following scientific research in the North Pacific Ocean and Bering Sea in 2014 (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). 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 2014

Vessel	Period	Survey area	Research objects	Gear equipped
<i>Hokko maru</i>	July 23 - August 15	Bering Sea	Salmon abundance and distribution	Surface/midwater trawl, hook-and-line
<i>Oshoro maru</i>	May 8 - May 19	Western North Pacific	Fish community	Gillnets, longline, hook-and-line, jigging

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).

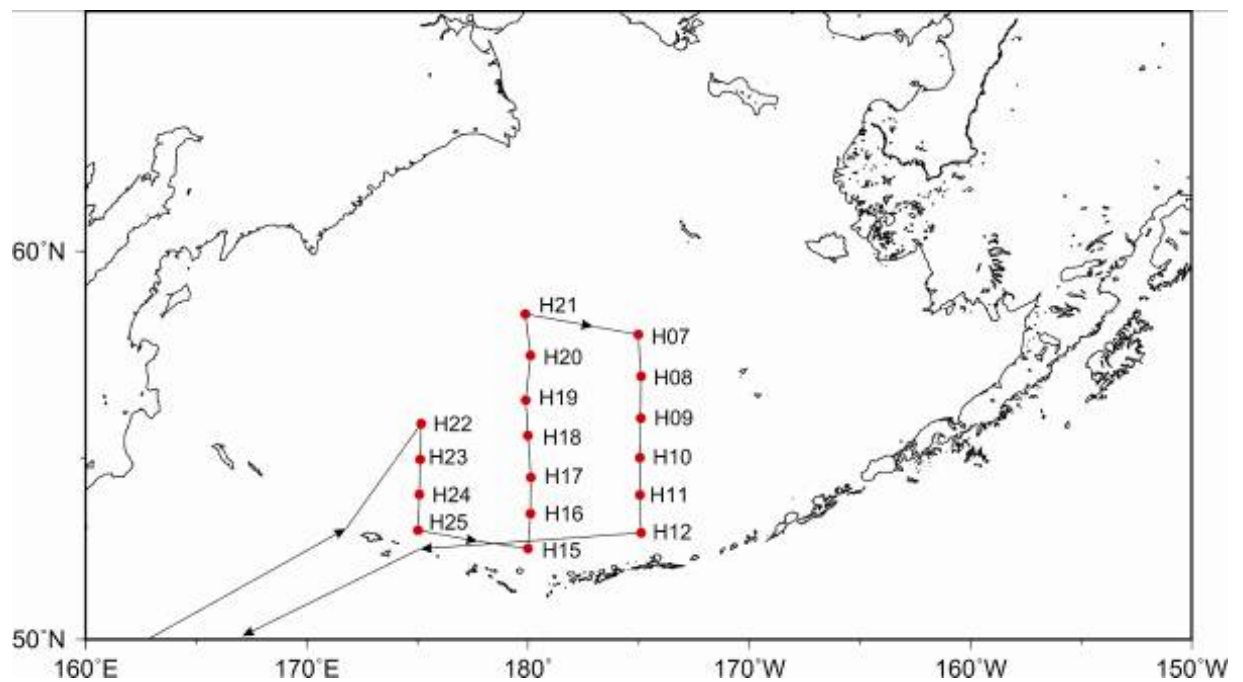


Fig. 1. A map showing 17 sampling stations in the Bering Sea by the R/V *Hokko maru*, July 23 (Kushiro) – August 15 (Kushiro), 2014.

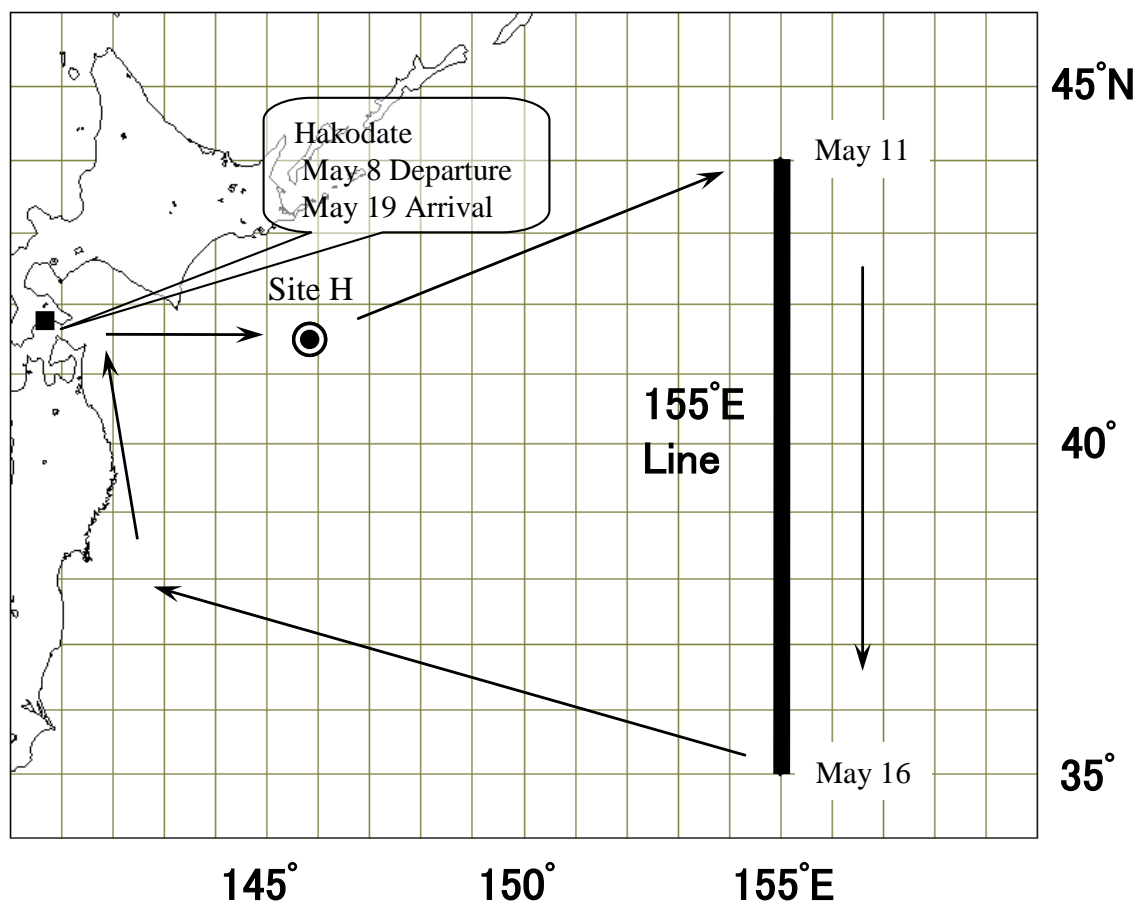


Fig. 2. Research area of the R/V *Oshoro maru* in the western North Pacific Ocean, May 8 (Hakodate) – May 19 (Hakodate), 2014.

Appendix Table. List of Salmon Research Vessels Scheduled for 2014 by Japanese Party.

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