

**Proposed Cruise Plans of Japanese Research Vessels for Salmon
in the North Pacific Ocean in 2016**

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Proposed Cruise Plans of Japanese Research Vessels for Salmon in the North Pacific Ocean in 2016

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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 two salmon researches in the North Pacific Ocean in middle May, and between late June and early July, 2016.

Keywords: Japanese cruise plan, high-seas salmon, monitoring survey, Bering Sea, North Pacific Ocean, 2016

Two Japanese research vessels ([Appendix Table](#)) are scheduled to conduct scientific salmon research in the North Pacific Ocean and Bering Sea in 2016 (Table 1).

(1) The *Hokko maru* will carry out salmon research with a surface/~~midwater~~ trawl to obtain information on the distribution, abundance, and other biological characteristic of Pacific salmon in the Bering Sea from late July to middle August (Fig. 1). **In addition, live chum salmon caught with hook-and-line will be placed with DST magnetic and NPAFC disc tags and released in the Bering Sea to investigate their navigation mechanism in the high-seas.**

(2) The *Oshoro maru* will carry out salmon research with gillnets, longline, and hook-and-line to obtain biological data on the distribution and ecology of salmon and other pelagic fishes in the western North Pacific Ocean in May (Fig. 2). In case of gillnet operation, gillnets less than 2.5 km in length at sea will be used.

(3) The *Oshoro maru* will conduct salmon research with surface long-line and hook-and-line to obtain biological data on the distribution and ecology of salmon and other pelagic fishes in the North Pacific Ocean between late June and early July (Fig. 3).

Table 1. Proposed cruise plan of Japanese research vessels for salmon in the North Pacific Ocean and Bering Sea in 2016.

Vessel	Period	Survey area	Research objects	Gears equipped
<i>Hokko maru</i>	July 27 - August 19	Bering Sea	Salmon abundance and distribution	Surface/ midwater trawl, hook-and-line
<i>Oshoro maru</i>	May 12 - May 23	North Pacific Ocean	Fish community	Gillnets, longline, hook-and-line, jigging
<i>Oshoro maru</i>	June 19 - July 15	North Pacific Ocean	Fish community	Longline, hook-and-line, jigging

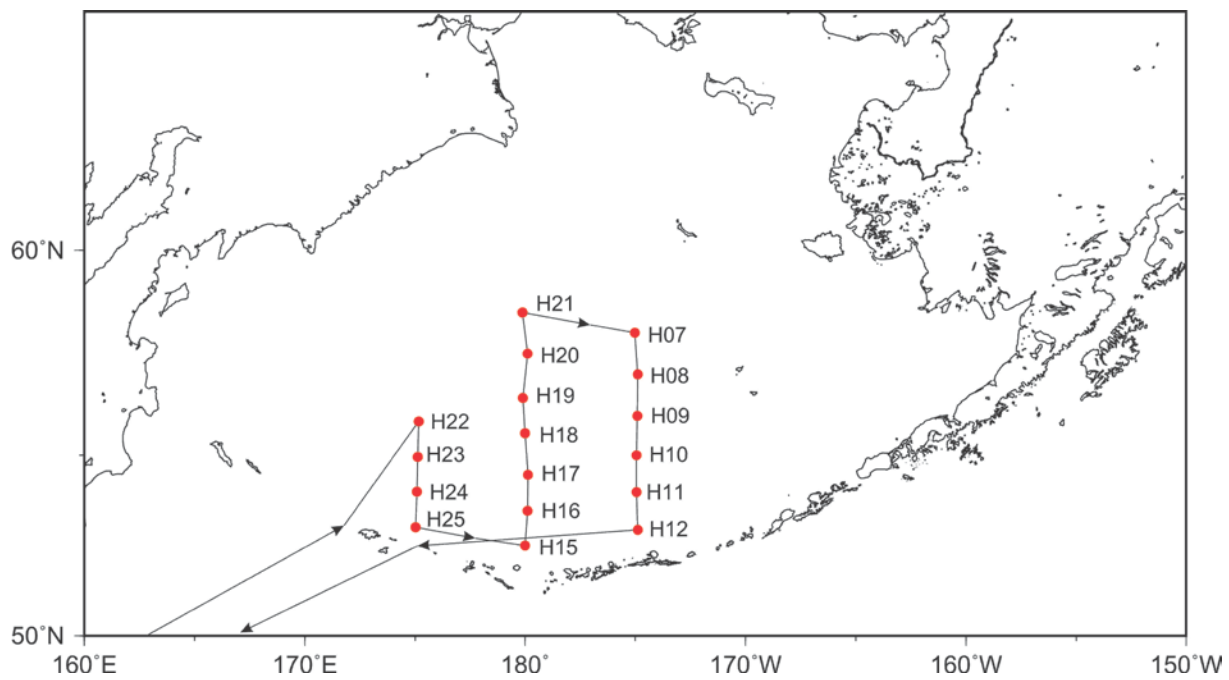


Fig. 1. A map showing 17 sampling stations in the Bering Sea by the R/V *Hokko maru*, July 27 (Kushiro) – August 19 (Kushiro), 2016.

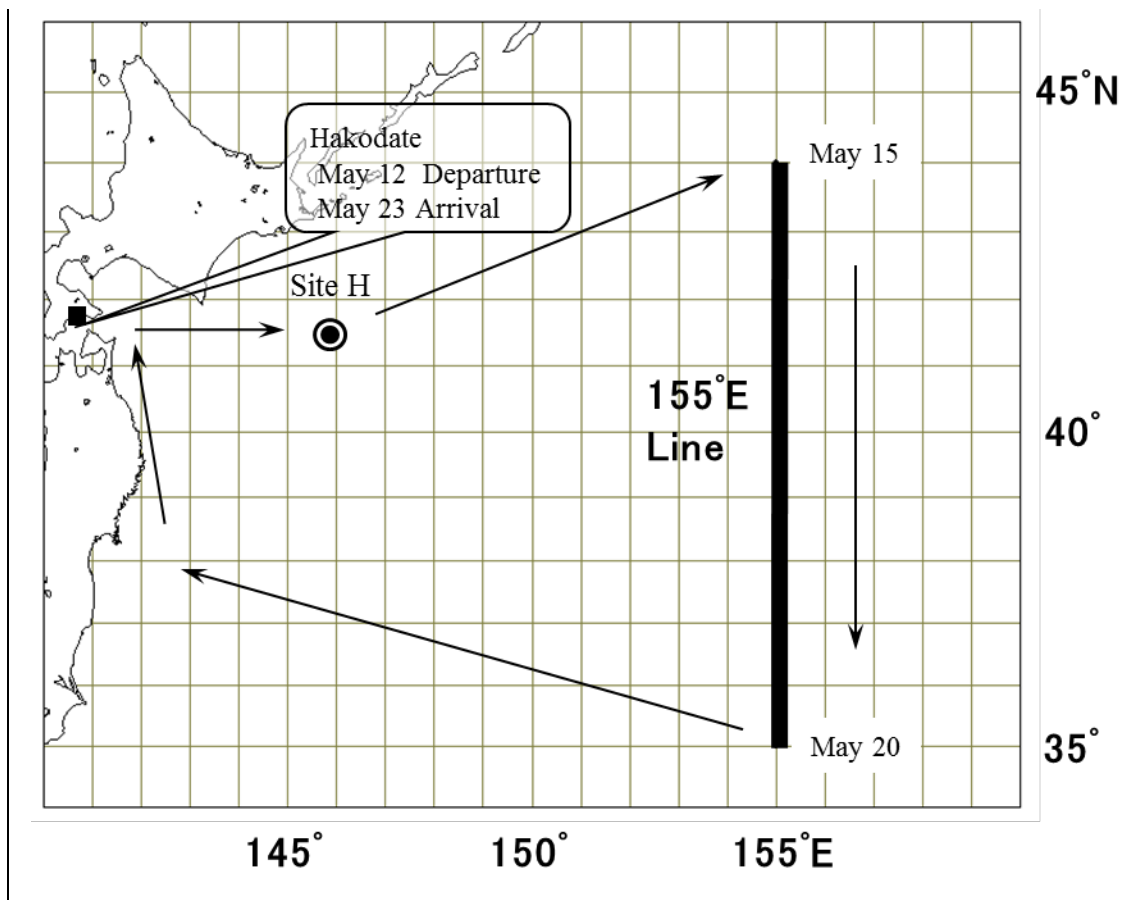


Fig. 2. Research area of the R/V *Oshoro maru* in the western North Pacific Ocean, May 12 (Hakodate) – May 23 (Hakodate), 2016.

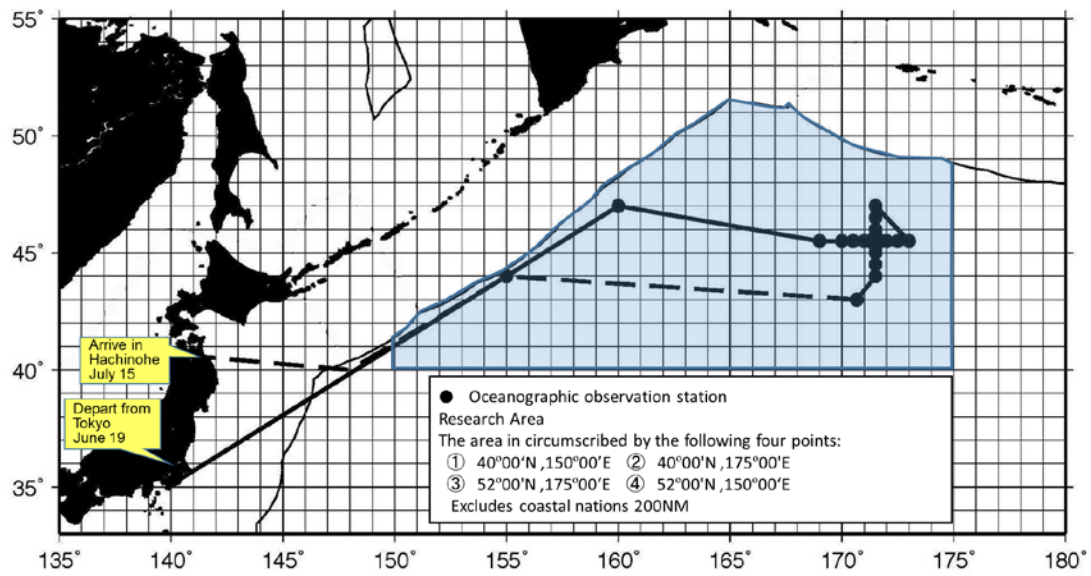


Fig. 3. Research area of the R/V *Oshoro maru* in the North Pacific Ocean, June 19 (Tokyo) – July 15 (Hachinohe), 2016.

Appendix Table. List of Japanese research vessels scheduled for high-seas salmon surveys in 2016.

Party	Vessel's name	Call sign	Gears equipped	Other available information
Hokkaido National Fisheries Research Institute, FRA	<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>	7JRM	Gillnet, longline, hook-and-line, squid jigging	VSAT telephone: 0345406625, Length: 78.27 m, Gross tonnage: 1,998