

NPAFC
Doc. 1678
Rev.

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in the North Pacific Ocean in 2017**

by

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Submitted to the

NORTH PACIFIC ANADROMOUS FISH COMMISSION

by

Japan

March 2017

THIS PAPER MAY BE CITED IN THE FOLLOWING MANNER:

Suzuki, K., S. Sato, S. Urawa, and M. Fukuwaka. 2017. Proposed cruise plans of Japanese research vessels for salmon in the North Pacific Ocean in 2017. NPAFC Doc. 1678. 6 pp. Hokkaido National Fisheries Research Institute, Japan Fisheries Research and Education Agency (Available at <http://www.npafc.org>).

Proposed Cruise Plans of Japanese Research Vessels for Salmon in the North Pacific Ocean in 2017

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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 western North Pacific Ocean in middle May, and the North Pacific Ocean and the Bering Sea between late June and early August 2017.

Keywords: Japanese cruise plan, high-seas salmon, monitoring survey, Bering Sea, North Pacific Ocean, 2017

Two Japanese research vessels (Appendix Table) are scheduled to conduct scientific salmon research in the North Pacific Ocean and Bering Sea in 2017 (Table 1).

- (1) The *Hokko maru* will carry out salmon research with a surface trawl to obtain information on the distribution, abundance, and other biological characteristic of Pacific salmon in the Bering Sea from middle July to early August (Fig. 1).
- (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 western North Pacific Ocean between late June and early July (Fig. 3-A) and in the Bering Sea including the southern Chukchi Sea between early July and late July (Fig. 3-B).

Table 1. Proposed cruise plan of Japanese research vessels for salmon in the North Pacific Ocean and Bering Sea in 2017.

Vessel	Period	Survey area	Research objects	Gears equipped
<i>Hokko maru</i>	July 19 - August 11	Bering Sea	Salmon abundance and distribution	Surface/mid-water trawl, hook-and-line
<i>Oshoro maru</i>	May 12 - May 23	North Pacific Ocean	Fish community	Gillnets, longline, hook-and-line, squid jigging
<i>Oshoro maru</i>	June 18 - August 2	North Pacific Ocean, Bering Sea including the southern Chukchi Sea	Fish community	Longline, hook-and-line, Mid-water/bottom/frame trawl

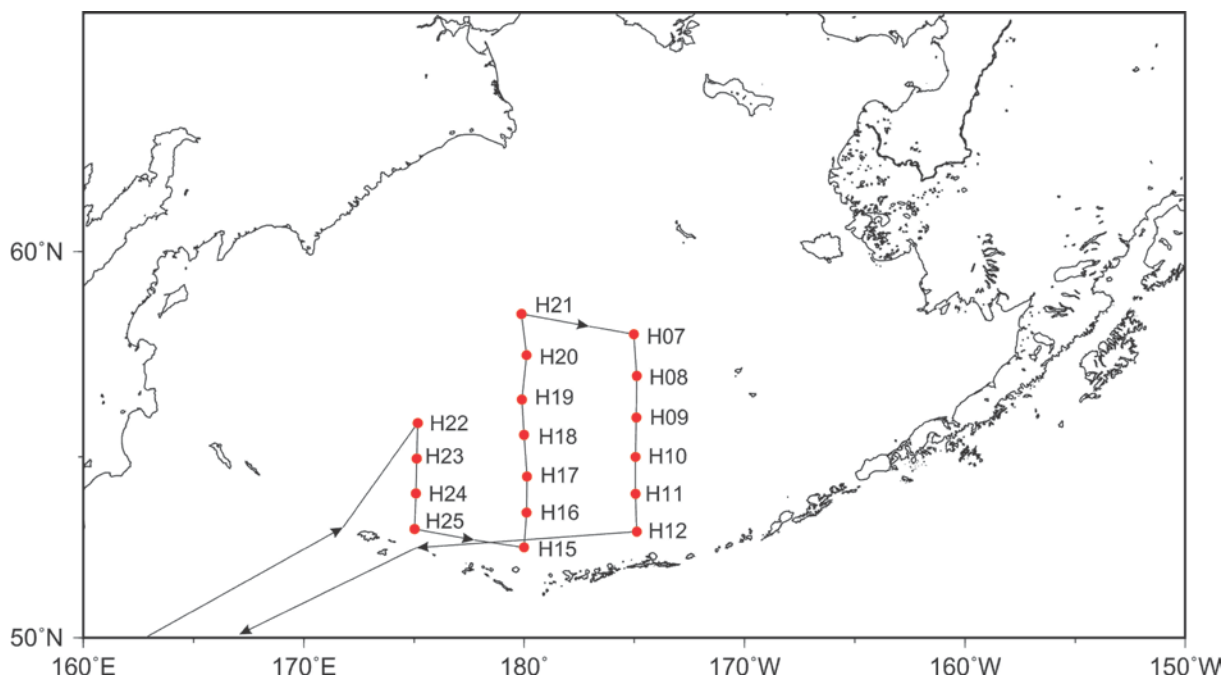


Fig. 1. A map showing 17 sampling stations in the Bering Sea by the R/V *Hokko maru*, July 19 (Kushiro) – August 11 (Kushiro), 2017.

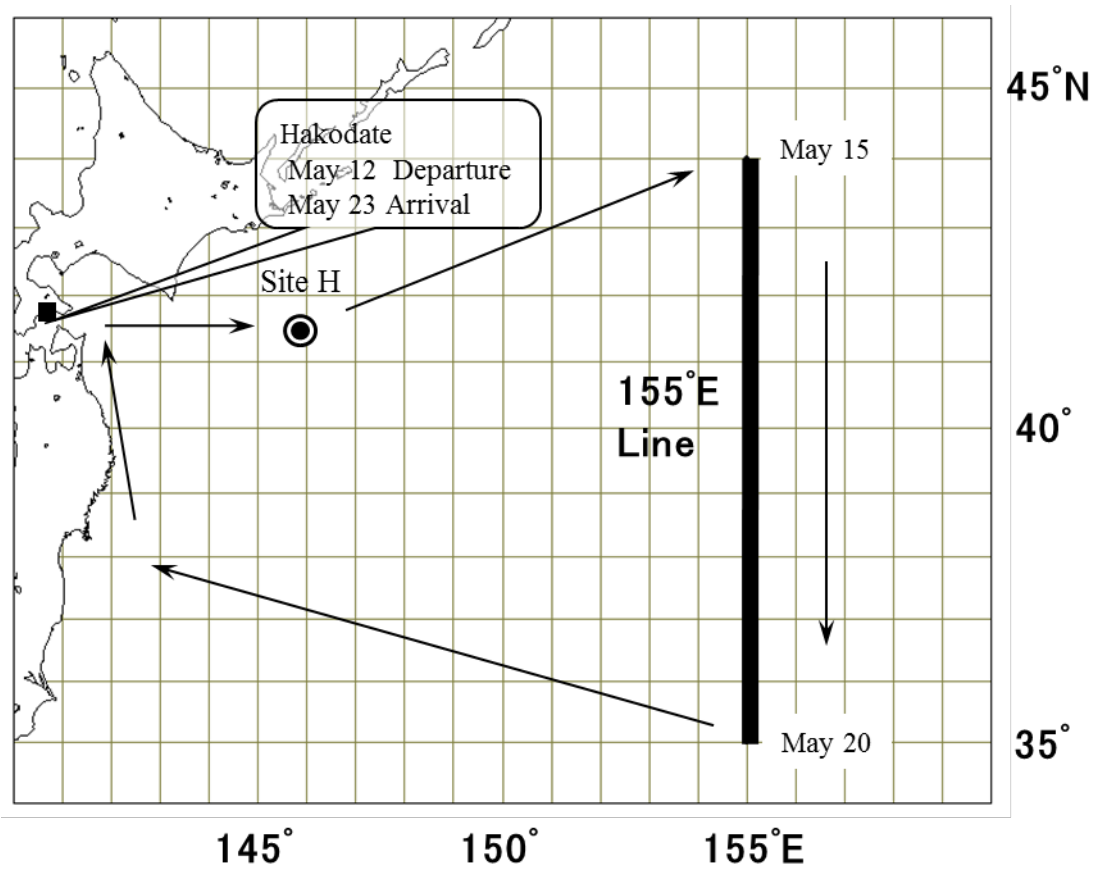


Fig. 2. Research area of the R/V *Oshoro maru* in the western North Pacific Ocean, May 12 (Hakodate) – May 23 (Hakodate), 2017.

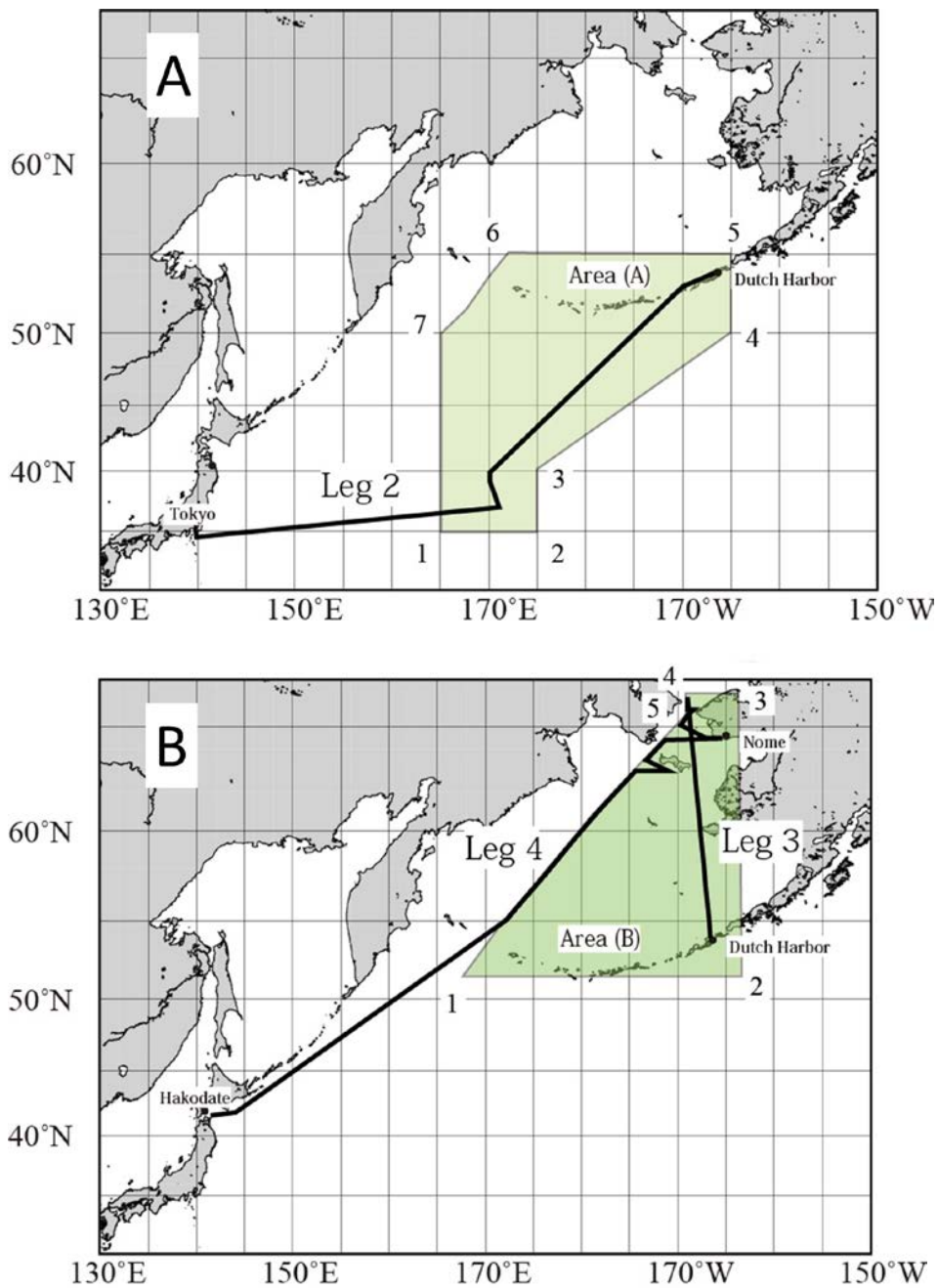


Fig. 3. Research areas of the R/V *Oshoro maru* in the North Pacific Ocean (A) and the Bering Sea including the southern Chukchi Sea (B), June 18 (Tokyo) – August 2 (Hakodate), 2017. The Leg.1 is a domestic cruise from Hakodate to Tokyo.

Appendix Table. List of Japanese research vessels scheduled for high-seas salmon surveys in 2017.

Party	Vessel name	Call sign	Gears equipped	Other available information
Hokkaido National Fisheries Research Institute, FRA	<i>Hokko maru</i>	JEBB	Surface /mid-water trawl, hook-and-line	INMARSAT telephone: +872-7634-443-93, Length: 64.73 m, Gross tonnage: 902
Hokkaido University	<i>Oshoro maru</i>	7JRM	Mid-water/bottom/frame trawl, gillnet, longline, hook-and-line, squid jigging	VSAT telephone: 0345406625, Length: 78.27 m, Gross tonnage: 1,998