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**Proposed Cruise Plans of Japanese Research Vessels for
Salmon in the North Pacific Ocean
in 2003/2004 fiscal year**

by

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Five Japanese salmon research vessels are tentatively scheduled to conduct the following scientific research in the North Pacific, the Bering Sea, and the Okhotsk Sea, in 2003/2004 fiscal year (Table 1). In case of gillnet operation, gillnets less than 2.5 km in length at sea will be used.

(1) The *Oshoro maru* will conduct research with gillnets, longline, hook-and-line and a trawl net to obtain data on the distribution and ecology of salmon and other pelagic fishes in the western North Pacific from May to June, in the western, central North Pacific, the Bering Sea, and the Gulf of Alaska from late June to late August (Fig. 1).

(2) The *Wakatake maru* will conduct research with gillnets and longlines to obtain data on the distribution and abundance of salmon along 180° longitude in the central North Pacific and the Bering Sea from early June to late July (Fig. 2).

(3) The *Kaiyo maru* will conduct research with a pelagic trawl and hook-and-lines to obtain information on the distribution and abundance of salmonids in the Bering Sea from June to September (Fig. 3).

(4) The *Kaiun maru* will conduct research with gillnets to obtain data on the distribution and ecology of neon flying squid, salmon and other pelagic fishes in the central North Pacific Ocean from early July to early August (Fig. 4).

(5) The *Torishima* will conduct research with a pelagic trawl to obtain information on the distribution and abundance of Asian chum and pink salmon in the Okhotsk Sea and the western North Pacific from mid October to early November (Fig. 5).

Table 1. Proposed cruise plan of Japanese research vessels for salmon in the North Pacific in 2003/2004 fiscal year

Vessel	Period	Survey area	Research objects	Gear equipped
<i>Oshoro maru</i>	May 10 - May 23	Western North Pacific	Fish community	Gillnets
	June 3 - June 16	Western North Pacific	Fish community	Gillnets
	June 27 - August 25	North Pacific, Bering Sea	Fish community	Gillnets, longline, hook-and-line and trawl nets
<i>Wakatake maru</i>	June 5 - July 22	Central North Pacific, Bering Sea	Stock assessment	Gillnets and longline
<i>Kaiyo maru</i>	June 20 - September 30	Bering Sea	Stock assessment	Pelagic trawl and hook-and-line
<i>Kaiun maru</i>	July 1 - August 4	Central North Pacific	Stock assessment	Gillnets
<i>Torishima</i>	October 13 - November 1	Okhotsk Sea, Western North Pacific	Stock assessment	Pelagic trawl

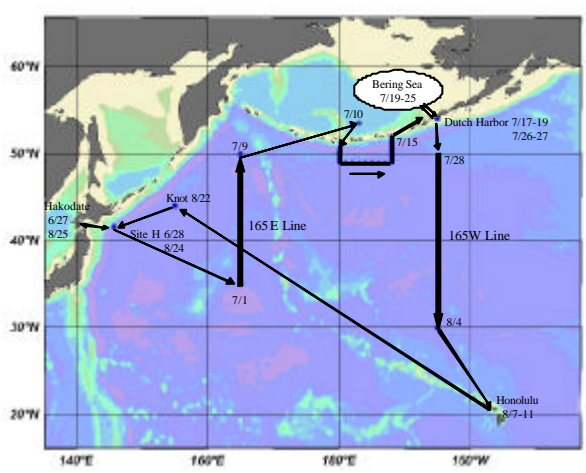
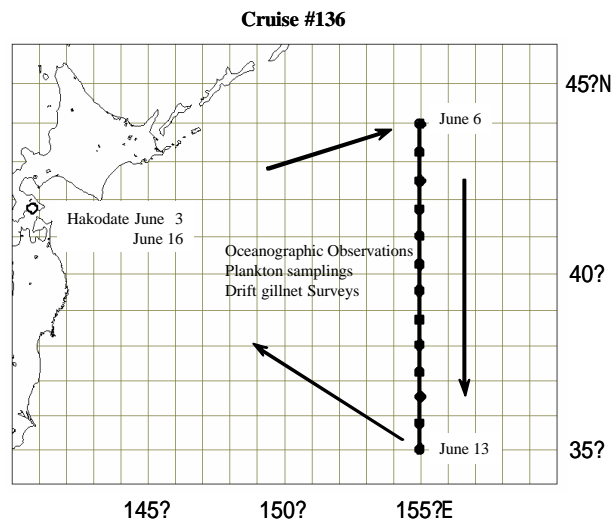
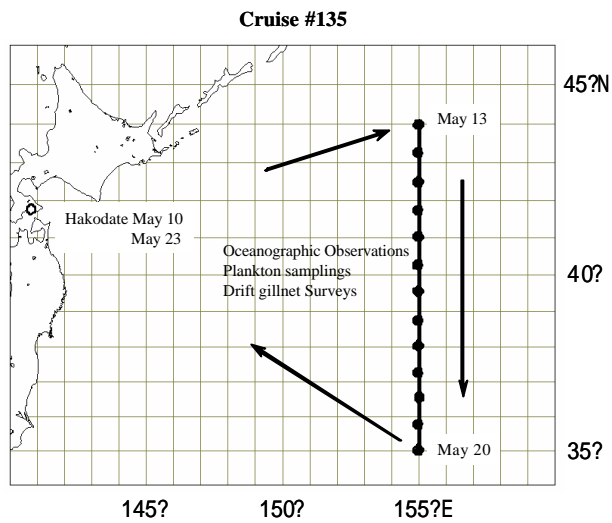


Fig. 1. Cruises of the *Oshoro maru*. 1st cruise in the western North Pacific May 10 (Hakodate) – May 23 (Hakodate) (upper panel), 2nd cruise in the western North Pacific June 3 (Hakodate) –June 16 (Hakodate) (central panel) and 3rd cruise in the North Pacific and the Bering Sea June 27 (Hakodate) – August 25 (Hakodate) (lower panel).

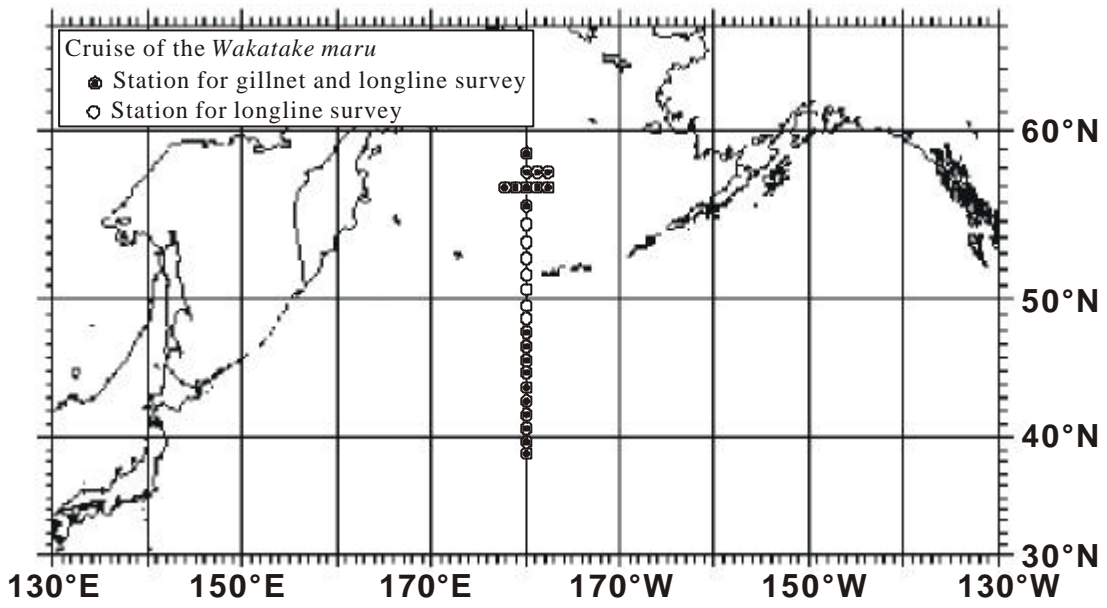


Fig. 2. Cruise of the *Wakatake maru*. June 5 (Hakodate) - July 22 (Hakodate).

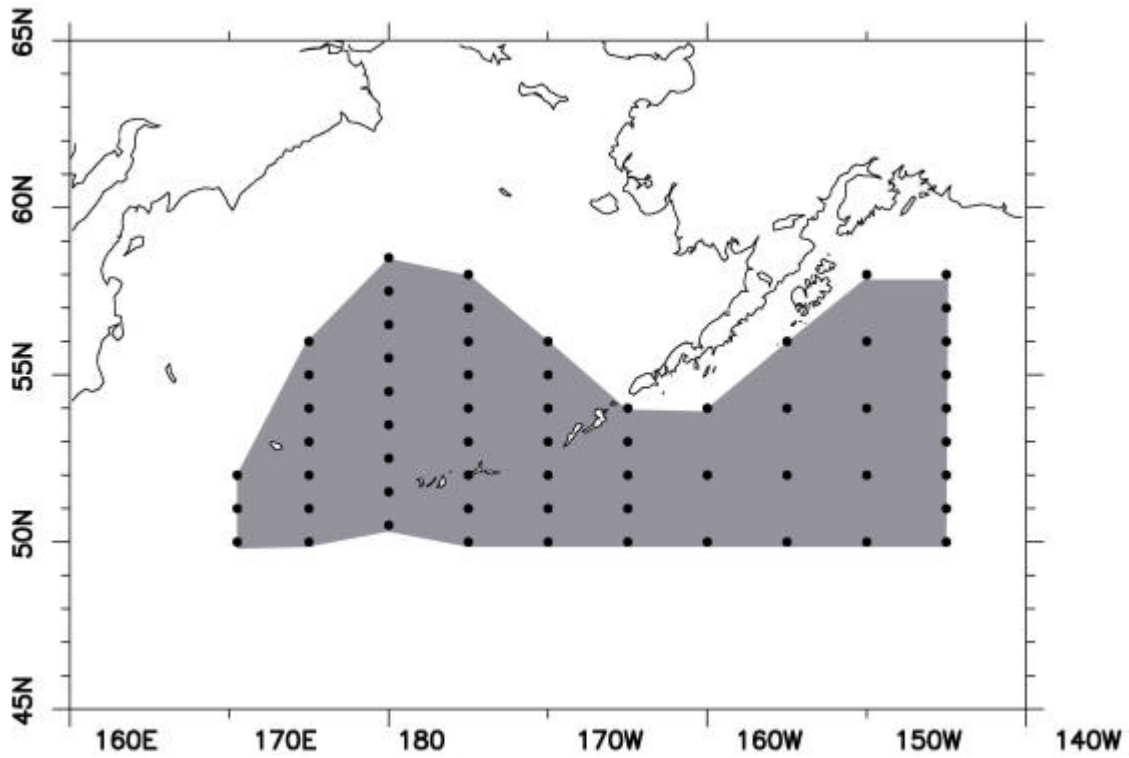


Fig. 3. Cruise of the *Kaiyo maru*. Excluding Russian 200-mile zone and U.S. 12-mile zone. June 20 (Tokyo) – September 30 (Tokyo).

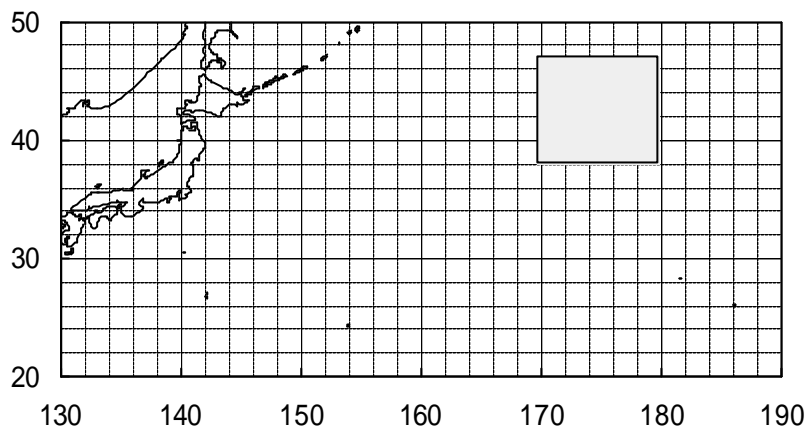


Fig. 4. Cruise of the *Kaiun maru*. July 1 (Hachinohe) – August 4 (Hachinohe).

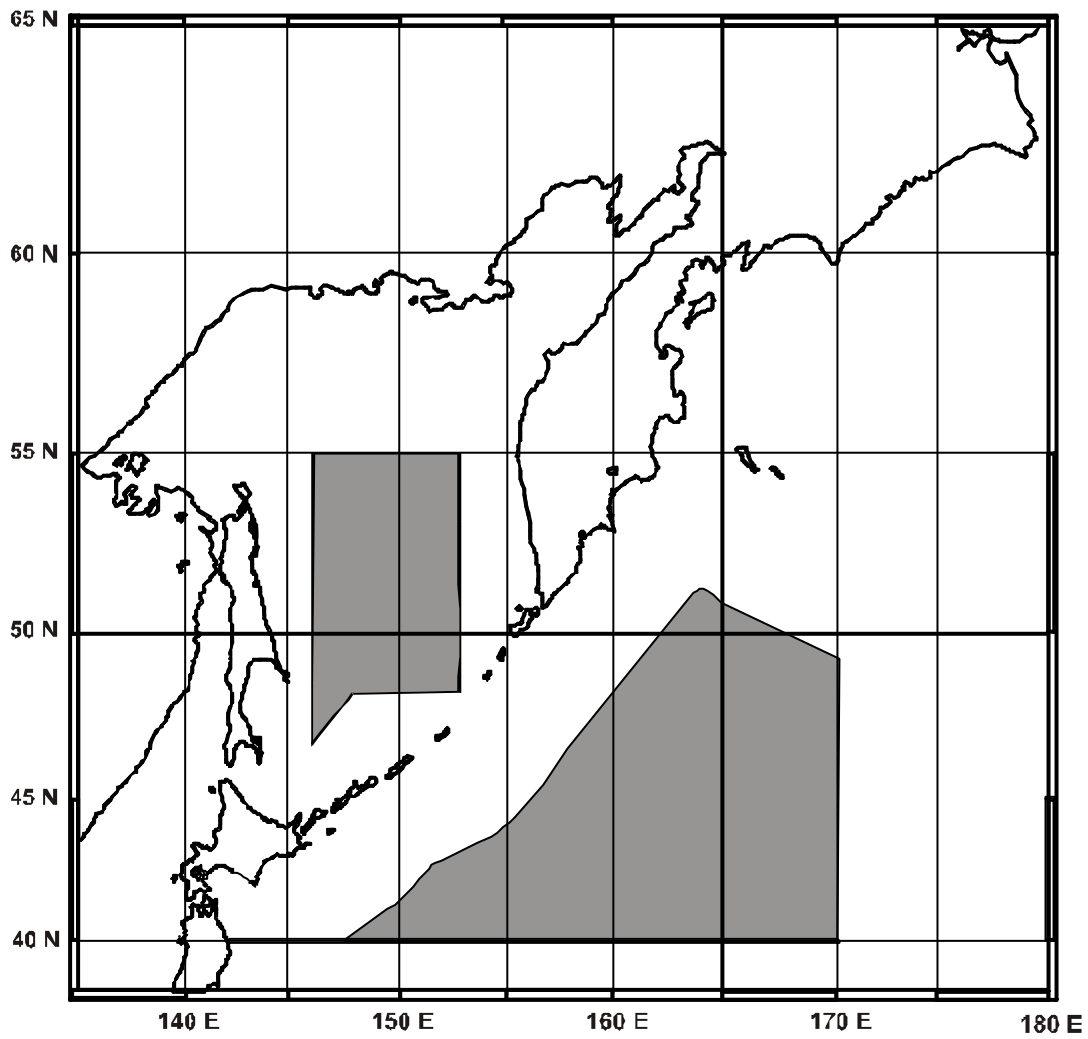


Fig. 5. Cruise of the *Torishima*. October 13 (Kushiro) – November 1 (Kushiro).