

Establishment of a Japan Sea Project Office at the University of Washington

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LONG-TERM GOALS

The long-term goal of this project is to facilitate communication between scientists participating in the ONR Japan Sea initiative and scientists in Asia, including Japan, Korea, and Russia. This communication will take the form of sponsored visits, joint cruises, data exchange, and meetings.

OBJECTIVES

As part of the ONR Japan Sea DRI, it is necessary to work closely with scientists from other countries in the Pacific Rim. In addition to traditional research funding, it is necessary to have a center of communication with some funds available to interact efficiently with these scientists. The Japan Sea Project Office at UW has filled this role. Some of the funds received from ONR to fund this office were NICOP funds that have been used to support Russian scientists from Vladivostok, Russia to carry out research relevant to the Japan Sea that uses data from Russian archives that is not generally available to western scientists.

APPROACH

The Project Office is available to organize and fund occasional meetings between leaders of Japan Sea research in the US and Asia and to be a point of contact for funding foreign research vessels and scientists that could not easily be accomplished in any other way.

WORK COMPLETED

During the past year funds from this grant were used for several purposes. (1) 23 days of shiptime was purchased on the Russian research vessel *Professor Khromov*, based at the Far East Regional Hydrometeorological Research Institute (FERHRI) in Vladivostok, Russia. This cruise was used to collect CTD and chemical tracer data in the Russian sector of the Japan Sea (Prof. Lynne Talley of Scripps was the lead PI) and to deploy 32 PALACE floats for the PI of this grant. (2) Using NICOP funds, analyses of data in the Russian archives were performed by 6 scientists from FERHRI, including an examination of long-term changes in the Japan Sea, the seasonal variability of various properties in various regions of the Japan Sea, and the response of the circulation and stratification of the Japan Sea to strong atmospheric storms. Additionally, one scientist from the Pacific Oceanological Institute in Vladivostok was supported to carry out related work, also using NICOP funding.

Report Documentation Page

Form Approved
OMB No. 0704-0188

Public reporting burden for the collection of information is estimated to average 1 hour per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. Send comments regarding this burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden, to Washington Headquarters Services, Directorate for Information Operations and Reports, 1215 Jefferson Davis Highway, Suite 1204, Arlington VA 22202-4302. Respondents should be aware that notwithstanding any other provision of law, no person shall be subject to a penalty for failing to comply with a collection of information if it does not display a currently valid OMB control number.

1. REPORT DATE 30 SEP 2001		2. REPORT TYPE		3. DATES COVERED 00-00-2001 to 00-00-2001	
4. TITLE AND SUBTITLE Establishment of a Japan Sea Project Office at the University of Washington				5a. CONTRACT NUMBER	
				5b. GRANT NUMBER	
				5c. PROGRAM ELEMENT NUMBER	
6. AUTHOR(S)				5d. PROJECT NUMBER	
				5e. TASK NUMBER	
				5f. WORK UNIT NUMBER	
7. PERFORMING ORGANIZATION NAME(S) AND ADDRESS(ES) School of Oceanography, Box 357940,,University of Washington,,Seattle,,WA, 98195				8. PERFORMING ORGANIZATION REPORT NUMBER	
9. SPONSORING/MONITORING AGENCY NAME(S) AND ADDRESS(ES)				10. SPONSOR/MONITOR'S ACRONYM(S)	
				11. SPONSOR/MONITOR'S REPORT NUMBER(S)	
12. DISTRIBUTION/AVAILABILITY STATEMENT Approved for public release; distribution unlimited					
13. SUPPLEMENTARY NOTES					
14. ABSTRACT The long-term goal of this project is to facilitate communication between scientists participating in the ONR Japan Sea initiative and scientists in Asia, including Japan, Korea, and Russia. This communication will take the form of sponsored visits, joint cruises, data exchange, and meetings.					
15. SUBJECT TERMS					
16. SECURITY CLASSIFICATION OF:			17. LIMITATION OF ABSTRACT Same as Report (SAR)	18. NUMBER OF PAGES 4	19a. NAME OF RESPONSIBLE PERSON
a. REPORT unclassified	b. ABSTRACT unclassified	c. THIS PAGE unclassified			

RESULTS

As a result of the Honolulu meeting and subsequent meetings in the US, Japan, and Russia, the Project Office has taken the lead in organizing much of the US field work that will take place in the Japan Sea in 1999. We have found out what clearances are needed for us to work in the Japan Sea and how to obtain these clearances. The Project Office prepared and submitted a document to the FERHRI laboratory in Vladivostok in June of 1998 that officially applied for clearance to work inside the Russian EEZ during 1999 and 2000. In addition, the Project Office has made agreements with scientists from Russia concerning the charter of Russian research vessels and their use by US projects during this project.



Figure 1. The Russian research vessel PROFESSOR KHROMOV, used by both US and Russian scientists in collaborative work in the Japan Sea.

IMPACT/APPLICATION

The applications of the work conducted during past year will be seen during the coming year. A great deal of data was collected on the cruise of the *Professor Khromov* (see the figure at the end of this report). It would have been impossible for the US to carry out any work inside the Russian EEZ without a great deal of advance preparation, and most of these preparations were funded through this grant. Many of the most important scientific problems that are to be studied during the Japan Sea DRI can only be done inside the Russian EEZ. For this reason, close cooperation with Russia has been necessary, and the Project Office has been one of the main vehicles for maintaining this cooperation via formal contacts and the transfer of funds.

TRANSITIONS

None yet.

RELATED PROJECTS

A number of other investigators are also working on the Japan Sea project. I have worked most closely with Prof. Lynne Talley of Scripps, who was chief scientist on the US Japan Sea hydrography/tracer cruise and is also working closely with the Russians to insure that this work is successful.