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

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LONG-TERM GOAL

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.

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

A meeting of leaders from countries carrying out Japan Sea work was sponsored in Honolulu during December of 1997. 10 scientists from the US and Asia attended this meeting, with funds provided by the Project Office. The meeting was essential to facilitate planning of the large US field effort that will begin in the Japan Sea in 1999.

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 fieldwork 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 the Japan Sea work.

IMPACT/APPLICATION

The applications of the work conducted during past year will be seen in 1999. It would be impossible for the US to carry out any work inside the Russian EEZ without a great deal of advance preparation. However, many of the most important scientific problems that will be studied during the Japan Sea DRI can only be done inside the Russian EEZ. For this reason, close cooperation with Russia is necessary, and the Project Office is the vehicle for maintaining this cooperation.

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 will be chief scientist on several Japan Sea hydrography/tracer cruises and is also working closely with the Russians to insure that this work is successful.