NPFC-2024-SSC BFME05-IP06



Report of Japanese sea-floor visual survey in the northern Emperor Seamount in 2024

Conducted from July 22 to August 11 in 2024

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NPFC-SSC BFME05, Tokyo, 2024/12/09

Objective is...

To collect information on distribution of cold-water corals and other communities on Seamounts of the northern fishing area in the Emperor Seamounts region continued since 2023

Drop camera system

- GoPro digital camera used as video camera and LED light
- Lowered down on the sea-floor five times to take sea-floor images on five neighboring locations in each site
- Kept on the sea-floor for 2 min each touchdown



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Results of survey in 2023

Suiko Seamount

Several species corals mainly large gorgonians (S04, S05, S06, S07, S08) S04 (966m) S04 (966m) S04 (966m)





• Further survey the westward extent of this coral community

<u>Ojin Seamount</u>

Assemblage of gorgonians, sea lilies and massive sponges dominated by uniaxial Isididae (O01, O02)



Need to check the extent of this community

<u>Yomei Seamount</u>

Large gorgonians and glass sponge sites (YO03)





 Need to Clarify the surroundings of Y03 in detail

Confirm the extent of the observed communities

Target seamounts

Suiko, Yomei and Ojin Seamounts



 Conducted survey at 16 sites and 3 lines in 3 seamounts (red dots) based on the results on scientific survey of last year (black dots)

Results -Suiko Seamount (1)-

Corals and other benthos are sparsely (S11, S12, S13, S17, S18, S19)





Low priority sites as survey because low potential for community extent

Results -Suiko Seamount (2)-

Several species corals (S14, S15, S16, S20, S21, S22)





Further survey the outward extent of this coral community

Results - Yomei Seamount-

Few corals and other benthos (YO11, YO12, YO13, YO14)



Low priority sites as survey because low potential for community extent

Results -Ojin Seamount-

Sparsely or few corals and other benthos (O13, O16, O19)



Low priority sites as survey because low potential for community extent

Results of survey in this year –Suiko Seamount-

44.57

4.54

170 18

Suiko Seamount



2023

Several species corals (S14, S15, S16, S20, S21, S22)



• Further survey the extent to outside of this coral community

2024

Continue to confirm the extent of the observed communities

Results of survey in this year – Yomei Seamount-

Yomei Seamount



Community as patchy and dense with a very limited range

Results of survey in this year –Ojin Seamount-

Ojin Seamount

dominated by uniaxial Isididae (O01, O02) $\int_{0}^{0} \int_{0}^{0} \int_$

Assemblage of gorgonians, sea lilies and massive sponges

• Need to check the extent of this community



Sites with few corals and other benthos (O13, O16, O19)



to change to line survey

• Low priority sites as VME indicators survey

2024

Community as patchy and dense with a very limited range

Results of survey in this year



- Suiko Seamount will continue to be surveyed.
- The distribution status of Yomei and Ojin Seamount were identified.

Few corals and other benthos (YO11, YO12, YO13, YO14)



Community as patchy and dense with a very limited range

Sparsely or few corals and other benthos (O13, O16, O19)



Community as patchy and dense with a very limited range