

**SPATIAL AND SEASONAL DISTRIBUTIONS OF COPEPODS DURING SPRING TO SUMMER IN THE
OKHOTSK SEA OFF EASTERN HOKKAIDO, JAPAN**

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Spatial and seasonal distributions of copepods were investigated in the Okhotsk Sea off eastern Hokkaido, relating to the hydrography during spring to summer in 2002. Surveys were conducted at six stations on the fixed line off Abashiri (44-02.1N ~ 45-08.1N, 144-19.8E) established by HFES in April, June and July 2002. Zooplankton were collected by vertical haul with Norpac net (0.33mm mesh) from 150m (4 stations, >150m depth) or from near bottom (2 stations, <150m depth) to the surface at night. In 2006 and 2007, zooplankton were also sampled at a northern station from 500m depth in April, June and July. Water temperature and salinity were measured with CTD instruments. Several cold water species such as *Neocalanus* spp., *Pseudocalanus minutus*, *P. newmani*, *Metridia pacifica*, *M. okhotensis*, *Acartia longiremis*, *Oithona* spp. were predominant. *P. newmani* and *A. longiremis* tended to dominate at near-coast stations. *M. okhotensis* were the most abundant in pelagic areas. As the results of seasonal appearances of *M. okhotensis*, the spawning season might be in spring, and pass in the early copepodite stages in summer.