THE OKHOTSK SEA COASTAL LAGOONS: TYPES, EVOLUTION AND USE OF RESOURCES

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As part of the sea, separated form it by an accumulative feature, lagoons have particular hydrology and specific conditions for bottom sediment accumulation. Marine organisms in the lagoon are exposed to water temperature and salinity fluctuations of significant amplitude.

The Okhotsk Sea lagoons are grouped by their size into large (100-500 km^2), medium (10-200 km^2), small (1-10 km^2) and very small (less than 1 km^2) ones. The largest lagoons in terms of square area are Baikal, Schastya, Piltun, Perevolochnaya. Many small lagoons are linked with river estuaries. In terms of water depth, lagoons are grouped into shallow ones, less than 1 m deep, medium-depth (1-5 m), deep (5-20 m) and very deep (more than 20 m) ones.

The evolution of Okhotsk Sea lagoons is associated with the Holocene transgression, as a result of which they had come into existence. As evidenced by well-studied coastal-marine depositions, large sea water bodies, separated by sand banks and morphologically close to modern lagoons, came into existence at a higher level in the sub-boreal period. During subsequent sea level fluctuations above the modern level, the inner shoreline contour of lagoons was reshaping. Some lagoons are separated from the sea, partly filled with alluvial-marine, eolian, biogenic depositions and have turned into lakes.

The lagoons are used as shelter harbors for small fishing and transport vessels. There are aquaculture farms cultivating fish, seaweeds, scallop in some of the lagoons. The lagoons are a convenient recreational resource for developing sports, tourism, health cure and recreation. The best-studied lagoons of the Okhotsk Sea are Nabil, Chayvo, Busse, Saroma.