

## **Sea-ice flow from the Okhotsk Sea to the Pacific Ocean through the Nemuro Strait in 2008**

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Observations from the satellite, Multi-functional Transport Satellite (MTSAT)-1R, show that Okhotsk sea ice flowed southward in the Nemuro Strait and reached the northern coast of the Nemuro peninsula on 25 February 2008. Wind data observed at Cape Nossapu and Rausu town indicate that a northwesterly winter monsoon wind with an approximate speed of  $5 \text{ ms}^{-1}$  blew the sea ice continuously, consistent with southward sea-ice flow.

The sea-ice drift from the Nemuro Strait through the Goyoumai Pass into the Pacific Ocean was clearly observed on 28 and 29 February by MTSAT-1R. The observed direction of the sea-ice drift was southwestward during this period against a continuous west-northwesterly wind of speed  $2\text{-}8 \text{ ms}^{-1}$ . The southwestward coastal Oyashio and Oyashio currents might be the main factors controlling the sea-ice drift on 28 and 29 February. The sea-ice flow from the Nemuro Strait through the Goyoumai Pass and the drift in the Pacific Ocean were also observed on 2, 3, 7, 8 and 9 March by MTSAT-1R. In this case, the path of drift was near the coast. Sea ice finally reached near Tokachi and parts landed on the Pacific coast of southeast Hokkaido around Kushiro on 8 March due to  $1\text{-}10 \text{ ms}^{-1}$  westerly and southwesterly winds which started on 7 March and continued until 9 March.