

## **WALLEYE POLLOCK DISTRIBUTION AND STOCK CONDITION OFF THE SOUTHERN KURIL ISLANDS IN 2006-2007.**

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The ichthyoplankton and trawl surveys was carried out off the southern Kuril Islands in spring 2006-2007. The maximal eggs, prespawning and spawning pollock concentrations were marked in the Kunashir strait and the Prostor bay. Immature fish (1-3 years old ) was distributed off the Pacific side of the Iturup Island, and recruits (4-6 years old) gradually migrated from the Pacific to the Okhotsk side of the southern Kuril region. The spawning was practically finished in the Kunashir strait by the end of March, but it began in the Prostor bay. Therefore postspawning pollock migrated from the Kunashir strait, and pollock stock was much lower on this spawning ground, than in the Prostor bay. Pollock biomass was estimated in 2.3-2.9 th. t. in the Kunashir strait, 18.9–19.7 th. t. in the Prostor bay in 2006-2007. Pollock stock off the Pacific side of the southern Kuril Islands was estimated at highest level for last 15years - 12.4 bln. spec. and 368.9 th. t in 2006 and 6.9 bln. spec. and 492.3 th. t in 2007. 2003 year-class dominated in spawning stock, 2005 and 2006 years-classes prevailed in age-lengths composition of immature pollock. The share of the strong 2005 year-class was maximal: from 97.5 % in 2006 down to 80,3 % in 2007. In this connection, increase of pollock stock is probable in the southern Kuril region in 2009-2011, when 2005 year-class will enter the spawning stock.