

Introduction of Tohoku Ecosystem-Associated Marine Science (TEAMS) Project

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The mega earthquake, which occurred on March 11th in 2011, caused high-intensity ground shaking and a massive tsunami, resulting in a disaster of a scale unprecedented in the history of Japan. Therefore, it is totally unknown how seriously the marine ecosystems and environment have been affected by the pile-up of a large amount of debris, loss of seaweed beds and tidelands, which serve as habitats for aquatic organisms, sand and mud deposited on reefs, destruction of transitional zones between land and sea due to ground subsidence, and spread of heavy oil and radioactive substances. To achieve recovery and reconstruction of the fishing ground and industry of the affected area, it is essential to conduct surveys to identify the damage and launch new industries. The TEAMS project is mainly constructed with Tohoku University as its representative, the University of Tokyo's Atmosphere and Ocean Research Institute and the Japan Agency for Marine-Earth Science and Technology as deputy representatives. Under the collaboration of these research institutes, the four research projects were planned to survey the impacts of the disaster on the marine environment and ecosystem, and Tohoku Univ. has conducted the project "Elucidation of the process of change in the fishery environment". I would like to introduce the outline and current results of the TEAMS project.



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Project Professor. My research fields are conservation genetics and breeding science genetics of Pacific saury, Japanese flounder and Pacific abalone using genetic markers. The study of population structure and close species relations of Pacific abalone was effective in genetic management of the wild resources carried out in reproduction. Also, as basicly genetic data, linkage maps for Pacific abalone with microsatellite DNA markers were constructed in order to perform efficient breeding. Now, I have worked as a coordinator of Tohoku Marine Science Project.