



Title	Comparisons of diet and nutritional conditions in <i>Pseudopleuronectes herzensteini</i> juveniles between two nursery grounds off northern Hokkaido, Japan
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1 **Comparisons of diet and nutritional condition in *Pseudopleuronectes herzensteini***  
2 **juveniles between two nursery grounds off northern Hokkaido, Japan**

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1 Abstract

2 To characterise food-habits differences in *Pseudopleuronectes herzensteini* juveniles,  
3 we compared diets, prey diversity and nutritional states between two groups i.e., one in  
4 the Sea of Japan and the other in the Sea of Okhotsk around northern Hokkaido, Japan.  
5 Juveniles were collected with a sledge net along the sea bottom at the depths of 8–50 m  
6 in August 2010 and 2011. In the Sea of Japan, 63 were analysed (23 in 2010 and 40 in  
7 2011). In the Sea of Okhotsk, 88 were analysed (55 in 2010 and 33 in 2011). There were  
8 no differences in standard lengths of juveniles (the Sea of Japan: 27.0 mm in 2010 in  
9 median; 28.8 mm in 2011; the Sea of Okhotsk: 28.3 mm in 2010; 29.2 mm in 2011) or  
10 in bottom water temperatures at the study sites. However, stomach content volume and  
11 Fulton's condition factor  $K$  were higher in the Sea of Okhotsk than in the Sea of Japan.  
12 High feeding intensities in the Sea of Okhotsk may have led to a high nutritional status  
13 in fish collected from this sea. In both seas, the diet comprised mainly harpacticoid  
14 copepods, gammarids and polychaetes, with some additional bivalves being observed in  
15 the Sea of Japan. The value of the prey-diversity index ( $\Delta^*$ ) was lower when the  $K$  value  
16 of juveniles was higher.

17

18 **Key words:** flatfish, harpacticoid copepods, condition factor  $K$ , prey diversity, Sea of  
19 Japan, Sea of Okhotsk

20

## 1 Introduction

2  
3 Marine fish mortality is generally high during early life stages as eggs, larvae and  
4 juveniles [1], and fluctuating mortality often leads to highly unpredictable fish landings.  
5 The reasons for such fluctuations vary in different species, according to the ways in  
6 which biotic and abiotic factors affect fish populations during the early life stages [1].  
7 For improved understanding of mortality fluctuations, it is important to gain further  
8 knowledge of fish diets and food habits.

9 *Pseudopleuronectes herzensteini* is a cold-water species of pleuronectid flatfish  
10 distributed around Japan from the Boso Peninsula to Hokkaido and the Korean  
11 Peninsula to the Tatar Strait in the western Sakhalin [2]. It is a commercially important  
12 demersal fish with annual landings that fluctuate widely [3]; the annual landing of this  
13 species in northern Hokkaido varied approximately 2,000–4,000 t during 1980–2010 [4].  
14 The species spawn in the coastal area of Hokkaido in the Sea of Japan from May to June.  
15 Many eggs and larvae are transported to the Sea of Okhotsk by the Tsushima and Soya  
16 Warm Currents, but some remain in the Sea of Japan. Settlement at the most advanced  
17 larval stage occurs from July to August [2]. Juveniles that settle in the coastal areas in  
18 the Sea of Japan (hereinafter "J-bred juveniles") remain and mature in the Sea of Japan,  
19 whereas those that settle in the Sea of Okhotsk ("O-bred juveniles") return and spawn  
20 after 2 or 3 years in the Sea of Japan (Fig. 1) [5, 6]. Immature O-bred juveniles grow  
21 faster than immature J-bred juveniles [6, 7]. Growth differences in *P. herzensteini*  
22 juveniles will affect their survival and recruitment variation. The main reasons for  
23 growth differences in juveniles are water temperature and food availability [1]; however,  
24 experienced water temperatures show no difference between J-bred and O-bred  
25 juveniles (Joh *et al.*, unpubl. data 2014). Knowledge of food habits of immature and  
26 mature *P. herzensteini* have been described (mainly, polychaetes, gammarids and  
27 bivalves [8-10]), whereas those of juveniles are poorly known as well as the nutritional  
28 conditions. In juveniles, Yoshimura and Kiyokawa [11, 12] reported that J-bred  
29 juveniles of 10–30 mm body length fed mainly on copepods, bivalves and gammarids  
30 during 1995–1996, but the food habits of O-bred juveniles are not known. The present  
31 study aimed to characterize food habits of juveniles in the Sea of Japan and the Sea of  
32 Okhotsk, by comparing them from three perspectives: 1) diet and prey size distribution

1 in the gut contents, 2) prey number and volume per individual as indices of feeding  
2 intensity, and 3) prey diversity index in the diet and nutritional state index of juveniles  
3 during August 2010 and 2011. We used Warwick and Clarke's taxonomic distinctness  
4 [13] as a prey diversity index of stomach contents. This index has never, to our  
5 knowledge, been applied for the analysis of food habits of demersal fishes. We also  
6 discussed relationship between growth and food habit.

## 9 **Materials and Methods**

11 The population of *P. herzensteini* in northern Hokkaido occurs mainly at depths in the  
12 range of 20–40 m [2, 14, 15], in the coastal waters off Obira and Oumu towns, facing  
13 the Sea of Japan and the Sea of Okhotsk, respectively (Fig. 1b). We set up sampling  
14 stations at sites where the bottom depths at sampling stations off Obira and Oumu,  
15 respectively, ranged from 24 to 50 m and 8 to 50 m (Fig. 1c, d). Grain sizes of bottom  
16 sediments in these waters are fine sands to rocks without silt and clay fractions ( $> 0.063$   
17 mm) [16, 17]. Two warm currents, the Tsushima Warm Current in the Sea of Japan,  
18 whose name changes to the Soya Warm Current in the Sea of Okhotsk, cover these areas  
19 throughout the year (Fig. 1b), with their speeds being highest from June to August and  
20 lowest from October to November [18].

21 Sampling was performed on board the *Hakuei-maru* (4.9 t) in the Sea of Japan and  
22 the *Seiwn-maru* (9.7 t) in the Sea of Okhotsk during the hours of 05:58–14:00, in mid  
23 and late August 2010–2011 (Table 1) as part of the annual recruitment monitoring  
24 program of flatfishes by the Hokkaido Research Organization Fisheries Research  
25 Department. Bottom water temperatures at all sampling stations were measured with a  
26 data logger (TidbiT v2, Onset Computer Corp.) in the Sea of Japan and a  
27 salinity-temperature-depth profiler (ASTD650, JFE Advantech Co., Ltd.) in the Sea of  
28 Okhotsk. Young-of-the-year juveniles were collected by bottom towing of a sledge net  
29 (1.8 m wide, 0.3 m height, and 13 mm cod-end mesh) for 10 min, after which the  
30 samples were counted and recorded on board. In 2010, the juveniles were immediately  
31 stored in 90% ethanol, and several days after sampling, they were measured and  
32 weighed. A slide calliper was used to measure the standard length (SL), to the nearest

1 0.01 mm, after which the fish were weighed on an electronic balance to determine wet  
2 body weight (BW) to the nearest 0.01 g. In 2011, juveniles were taken to the laboratory  
3 on ice and measured for SL and BW on the same day. After these procedures had been  
4 completed, the abdomens (which included stomachs) were preserved in 90% ethanol.

5 In the Sea of Japan, in 2010 25 juveniles were collected, and the stomach contents of  
6 23, excluding two damaged juveniles, were analysed. They were grouped together  
7 (because of the small sample size) and analysed as “All”. In 2011, 61 juveniles were  
8 collected and the stomach contents of 40, excluding 21 damaged juveniles, were  
9 analysed. These were divided into two groups: “J1” and “Others”, which respectively  
10 consisted of 19 and 21 juveniles collected from J1 (31 m bottom depth) and other  
11 sampling stations (Fig. 1c).

12 In the Sea of Okhotsk, the stomach contents of 55 juveniles at station O1 (36 m  
13 bottom depth), O2 (43 m) and O3 (37 m) were analysed in 2010. A total of 33 juveniles  
14 at O4 (31 m) and O5 (45 m) were analysed in 2011.

15 The stomach contents were extracted and sorted to the lowest possible taxa, and prey  
16 items were counted. Each prey item in the diet was measured three dimensionally  
17 (Fig. 2), using a binocular microscope with an attached micrometre, marked at 0.01 mm  
18 intervals. Measurements were performed for prey-size comparison and volume  
19 estimation. Digested prey items were not counted as diet. For prey that were missing  
20 body parts, body length were estimated from linear regression formulae from prey  
21 lengths obtained from undigested prey items. The stomach content weights, parts by  
22 prey item, were not measured because they were too light (< 0.1 mg). If prey items were  
23 cut off (e.g. polychaetes), the largest length to the stump was measured (Fig. 2).  
24 Whether a prey item is swallowed by a predator is not restricted by the largest prey  
25 length (e.g. L in harpacticoid copepods; Fig. 2), but usually by the second-largest length  
26 (SLL) [19]. For this reason, we used SLLs (shown in Fig. 2) to compare prey sizes.

27 Data on stomach contents in each sampling station or sample group were expressed  
28 as percent occurrence frequency ( $\%F_i$ : the percentage of juveniles that consumed prey  
29 type  $i$ ) and number and volume percent [ $\%N_i$  and  $\%V_i$  being respectively the percent of  
30 each prey type (of the total number), and volume of prey  $i$ ]. Volumes of prey items were  
31 calculated from simple geometric formulae following Nishiyama and Hirano [20],  
32 Takatsu *et al.* [21] and Komoto *et al.* [22] (Fig. 2). An index of relative

1 importance, %IRI<sub>i</sub> [23] was also calculated, for each sampling station, sample group or  
2 sampling area, to determine the dominant diet as follows:

$$3 \quad IRI_i = (\%N_i + \%V_i) \times \%F_i$$

$$4 \quad \%IRI_i = IRI_i \times 100/\Sigma IRI$$

5 Prey diversity was determined by juveniles, using Warwick and Clarke's taxonomic  
6 distinctness  $\Delta^*$  [13], which express taxonomic diversity and includes taxonomic  
7 distance between prey items as follows:

$$8 \quad \Delta^* = \frac{\sum_{i < j} w_{ij} \cdot n_i \cdot n_j}{\sum_{i < j} n_i \cdot n_j}$$

9 Where,  $w_{ij}$  is the taxonomic distance between species  $i$  and  $j$ ;  $n_i$  and  $n_j$  are the %N of  
10 prey species  $i$  and  $j$  in stomach contents of juveniles at each station, respectively. If  
11 species  $i$  and  $j$  are within the same genus but of different species,  $w_{ij}$  is 1. Likewise, if  
12 they are within the same family but of different genera,  $w_{ij}$  is 2.  $\Delta^*$  ranges from 1 to  
13  $L_V - 1$ , where  $L_V$  is the number of hierarchical taxonomic levels (which, in the present  
14 study, was 14). A large value for  $\Delta^*$  means that the diversity is high. In this study,  $\Delta^*$   
15 values were calculated for all stomach contents comprising more than one prey type.

16 Total numbers and volumes of prey items per juvenile were used to indicate feeding  
17 intensities, with the aim of comparing results among sampling stations and sample  
18 groups.

19 Fulton's condition factor  $K$  was used as a nutritional condition index and was  
20 calculated as follows:

$$21 \quad K = Bw \times 100/Sl^3$$

22 where  $Bw$  is body weight of the juvenile in g and  $Sl$  is standard length in cm.  $K$  values  
23 among sampling stations and sample groups were compared in the same year, because  
24 BW measurements were performed under different storage conditions in 2010 (ethanol  
25 solution) and 2011 (cooling on ice).

26 The Kruskal-Wallis test was used to compare SLs among sampling stations and  
27 sample groups, and to compare the SLL of prey items among prey types. Scheffe's  
28 multiple comparison was used to compare  $K$ s and feeding intensities between the two  
29 areas. Mann-Whitney  $U$  test was used to compare SLLs between prey types by area or  
30 year. Spearman's rank correlation was used to compare the relationship between  $\Delta^*$  and

1 K. Statistical analyses were conducted using R 3.1.0 (The R Foundation for Statistical  
2 Computing) or Microsoft Office Excel 2007 (Microsoft Corporation).

## 3 4 5 **Results**

### 6 7 Water temperature and body length

8  
9 A total of 86 *P. herzensteini* juveniles in the Sea of Japan and 558 in the Sea of Okhotsk  
10 were collected in August in 2010 and 2011 (Table 1). Median bottom temperatures of all  
11 sampling stations where juveniles were collected in 2010 were 20.1°C and 20.0°C in the  
12 Sea of Japan and the Sea of Okhotsk, respectively. Those in 2011 were 17.1°C and  
13 18.8°C in the Sea of Japan and the Sea of Okhotsk, respectively. Temperature  
14 differences were smaller between areas than between years.

15 In 2010, median SLs of juveniles collected were 27.0 mm in the Sea of Japan and  
16 28.3 mm in the Sea of Okhotsk. In 2011, those were 28.8 mm in the Sea of Japan and  
17 29.2 mm in the Sea of Okhotsk. Juvenile SLs did not differ between areas in both years  
18 (*U* test;  $p = 0.13$  in 2010 and  $p = 0.31$  in 2011).

19 In 2010, the median SLs of juveniles that had been subjected to stomach content  
20 analysis were 27.0 mm (All), 27.5 mm (O1), 28.5 mm (O2), and 29.7 mm (O3). In 2011,  
21 they were 28.8 mm (J1), 30.9 mm (Others), 29.6 mm (O4) and 29.3 mm (O5). The SLs  
22 of juveniles that had been subjected to stomach content analysis did not differ among  
23 sampling stations and sample groups in 2010 (Kruskal-Wallis test;  $p = 0.18$ ) and 2011  
24 ( $p = 0.13$ ).

### 25 26 Prey items

27  
28 Juveniles from the Sea of Japan and the Sea of Okhotsk fed on 51 taxa + 2  
29 unidentifiable crustaceans and 82 taxa + 15 unidentifiable crustaceans and eggs,  
30 respectively (both years combined, Online Resource 1).

31 In the Sea of Japan, %*IRI* showed that harpacticoid copepods comprised 11.0% and  
32 34.0% of the diets in 2010 and 2011, respectively. Polychaetes accounted for relatively



1 high %IRI, 61.5% and 7.7%. These values were followed by bivalves (22.0% and  
2 13.6%) and gammarids (3.9% and 8.8%).

3 In the Sea of Okhotsk, harpacticoid copepods (%IRI: 19.3% and 81.7%) and  
4 gammarids (40.2% and 18.5%) dominated, and these values were higher than those of  
5 polychaetes (12.2% and 7.0%) and other prey items.

6 Bivalves showed higher representation in the Sea of Japan with respect to their %F  
7 and %N values (%F = 74 and 65 and %N = 33.8 and 17.6) than in the Sea of Okhotsk  
8 (%F = 47 and 18 and %N = 4.1 and 0.5). In the juvenile diet, all bivalve prey were  
9 found in their shells, indicating that the juveniles swallowed them whole.

10 Among harpacticoid prey, *Halectinosoma* spp. showed the highest values for %F  
11 and %V in the Sea of Japan (%F = 26 and 35, %V = 0.2 and 2.4, Online Resource 1),  
12 and *Amphiascus* spp. showed the highest values for %N (%N = 1.0 and 26.2). In the Sea  
13 of Okhotsk, *Longipedia* spp. represented the highest percentages in harpacticoid  
14 copepods (%F = 64 and 76, %N = 11.1 and 45.4, %V = 1.6 and 26.5).

15 Among gammarid prey, *Cerapus* spp. represented the highest percentages in the Sea  
16 of Okhotsk in 2010 (%F = 47, %N = 20.4, %V = 34.8). There were no dominant  
17 gammarids in the Sea of Japan.

18 Harpacticoid copepods (in two stations and one group), gammarids (in three stations)  
19 and polychaetes (in one station and one group) represented the highest percentage  
20 (> 30%) of %IRI in eight stations or groups (Fig. 3). Bivalves did not dominate (show  
21 the highest %IRI) in any stations or groups, and %IRI values of bivalves in the Sea of  
22 Japan showed higher %IRI values (16.2–23.6%) than those in the Sea of Okhotsk  
23 (0.02–4.7%).

#### 24 25 Prey size

26  
27 Median SLLs of all prey items were 240 µm in the Sea of Japan and 223 µm in the Sea  
28 of Okhotsk in 2010, and SLLs were not significantly different between seas (*U* test;  
29  $p = 0.57$ ). In 2011, median SLLs were 374 µm in the Sea of Japan and 250 µm in the  
30 Sea of Okhotsk, and SLLs in the Sea of Japan were significantly larger than those in the  
31 Sea of Okhotsk (*U* test;  $p = 0.003$ ).

32 Median (range) SLLs of major prey taxa were as follows: harpacticoid copepods,

1 180  $\mu\text{m}$  (90–380  $\mu\text{m}$ ); gammarids, 220  $\mu\text{m}$  (110–1040  $\mu\text{m}$ ); polychaetes, 265  $\mu\text{m}$   
2 (51–2282  $\mu\text{m}$ ) and bivalves, 403  $\mu\text{m}$  (210–1300  $\mu\text{m}$ ). Among these SLLs, there was a  
3 significant difference (Kruskal-Wallis test,  $p < 0.001$ ), harpacticoid copepods being the  
4 smallest and bivalves being the largest. The size range of polychaetes was greater than  
5 those of other prey taxa (Fig. 4). There was no significant difference among SLLs of  
6 bivalves between the Sea of Japan (median, 420  $\mu\text{m}$ ; range, 210–1300  $\mu\text{m}$ ) and the Sea  
7 of Okhotsk (370  $\mu\text{m}$  and 217–1260  $\mu\text{m}$ ;  $U$  test;  $p = 0.18$ ). As juveniles grew, they fed on  
8 an increasingly larger size range of prey. Larger juveniles fed on both small and large  
9 prey.

#### 10 11 Feeding intensity

12  
13 In 2010, feeding intensities (number of prey individuals per stomach) of juveniles in O1,  
14 O2 and O3 in the Sea of Okhotsk [medians: 26, 21 and 42 individuals (inds.) juvenile<sup>-1</sup>]  
15 were significantly higher than those in “All” in the Sea of Japan (7 inds. Juvenile<sup>-1</sup>;  
16 Scheffe’s multiple comparison:  $p < 0.001$ ; Fig. 5a). Similarly, in 2011, those in O4 and  
17 O5 (68 and 21 inds. juvenile<sup>-1</sup>) were significantly higher than those in J1 and “Others”  
18 (6 and 3 inds. juvenile<sup>-1</sup>;  $p < 0.001$ ). Feeding intensities, indicated by prey volume per  
19 stomach in the Sea of Okhotsk (median: 0.81, 1.76 and 2.07 mm<sup>3</sup> juvenile<sup>-1</sup>), were  
20 significantly higher in the Sea of Japan in 2010 (0.40 mm<sup>3</sup> juvenile<sup>-1</sup>; Scheffé’s multiple  
21 comparison:  $p = 0.02$ ; Fig. 5b). Similarly, in 2011, those in the Sea of Okhotsk (1.06  
22 and 1.19 mm<sup>3</sup> juvenile<sup>-1</sup>) were significantly higher than those in the Sea of Japan (0.66  
23 and 0.08 mm<sup>3</sup> juvenile<sup>-1</sup>;  $p = 0.003$ ).

#### 24 25 Condition factor

26  
27 Fulton’s condition factor  $K$  values were significantly higher in O1, O2 and O3 in the  
28 Sea of Okhotsk (median: 1.33, 1.38 and 1.26) than in “All” in the Sea of Japan (0.97) in  
29 2010 (Scheffé’s multiple comparison;  $p < 0.001$ ; Fig. 5c). In 2011, the  $K$  values in O4  
30 and O5 (1.54 and 1.51) were also significantly higher than those in J1 and “Others”  
31 (1.41 and 1.45;  $p = 0.008$ ).

32 The taxonomic distinctness  $\Delta^*$  in juvenile stomach showed significantly negative

1 correlation with  $K$  value in 2010 (Spearman's rank correlation;  $\rho = -0.32$ ;  $p = 0.006$ ;  
2 Fig. 6) and in 2011 ( $\rho = -0.27$ ;  $p = 0.03$ ). The median  $\Delta^*$  values for prey in 2010 were  
3 12.43 at All, 10.71 at O1, 9.09 at O2, and 11.56 at O3. In 2011, the median  $\Delta^*$  values  
4 were 11.94 at J1, 11.00 at Others, 8.28 at O4 and 10.32 at O5. The highest median of  $\Delta^*$   
5 was recorded at All where the highest %N was 33.8% for bivalves, followed by 23.2%  
6 for harpacticoid copepods. The lowest median  $\Delta^*$  value was recorded at O4 in 2011,  
7 where harpacticoid copepods dominated, with a %N of 81.5%, whereas other taxa  
8 comprised < 18.5%.

## 11 Discussion

13 The diet of *P. herzensteini* juveniles in the Sea of Okhotsk was clarified for the first time.  
14 Stomach content analyses revealed that the major prey taxa were harpacticoid copepods,  
15 gammarids and polychaetes in both the Sea of Japan and the Sea of Okhotsk, with  
16 bivalves being a major prey taxon in the Sea of Japan around northern Hokkaido in  
17 August 2010 and 2011. In addition, the juveniles fed on a wide size range of prey.  
18 Yoshimura and Kiyokawa [11, 12] reported that *P. herzensteini* juveniles of 10–30 mm  
19 in body length fed mainly on copepods, bivalves and gammarids in the Sea of Japan  
20 during 1995–1996, and these items were confirmed as important prey organisms for  
21 maintaining juveniles in the Sea of Japan. These results agree with that of the present  
22 study.

23 In previous study, off Niigata prefecture, *P. herzensteini* juveniles (ca. 30 mm in body  
24 length) fed on polychaetes with > 70% in %F [24]. However, in our study, we found  
25 that juveniles were not highly dependent on polychaetes in %F (70% and 33% in the  
26 Sea of Japan, and 58% and 61% in the Sea of Okhotsk; Online Resource 1). Juveniles in  
27 both seas around northern Hokkaido fed on various prey items, and prey items differed  
28 geographically.

29 Prey items were larger in the Sea of Japan than in the Sea of Okhotsk in 2011. This  
30 size difference may have been due to the relatively high dietary composition of bivalves  
31 in the Sea of Japan (22.0% and 13.6% in %IRI; Online Resource 1). Bivalves represent  
32 large prey (Fig. 4), and thus are important prey items for *P. herzensteini* juveniles.

1 However, the maximum %IRI value for bivalves was 24% in the Sea of Japan, where  
2 the opportunity of feeding may have been lower than that for harpacticoid copepods,  
3 gammarids or polychaetes. It is not clear why prey sizes did not differ significantly  
4 between the two seas in 2010.

5 One-year-old fish grow faster in the Sea of Okhotsk than in the Sea of Japan [6, 7].  
6 Juvenile sizes (SLs) were similar between the two seas in August during both years of  
7 our study period, but the juveniles in the Sea of Okhotsk showed larger nutritional  
8 condition ( $K$ ) than those in the Sea of Japan (Fig. 5c). Thus, growth differences may  
9 start from the difference in feeding intensities in the juvenile stage (0 year; Fig. 5a, b).  
10 The difference in feeding intensities between the two seas is the most reasonable factor  
11 accounting for differences in nutritional difference. Different feeding intensities are  
12 generally caused by differences in predator size, time of day, prey size, water  
13 temperature and prey abundance in the environment [25]. In the present study, the  
14 predator size (SLs) difference in both seas was detected during August, and this explains  
15 the difference in feeding intensities. There may have been no differences in feeding time  
16 between the two seas, given that *P. herzensteini* is a visual day feeder [26] and we  
17 sampled juveniles at similar times during the daytime. The active feeding temperature  
18 of immature and mature *P. herzensteini* individuals is within the range of 17.8–19.0°C  
19 [27] and bottom temperatures in both seas were within or near this temperature range.  
20 Thus, the temperature difference cannot explain the cause of the difference in feeding  
21 intensity.

22 Mean calorie consumption per day positively correlates with the nutritional  
23 condition factor  $K$  and growth rate in the winter flounder *P. americanus* [28]. Growth  
24 differences of 0-year plaice, *Pleuronectes platessa*, in the Wadden Sea were affected by  
25 food availability, but not by temperature [29]. Growth differences in the northern rock  
26 sole *Lepidopsetta polyxystra* around Kodiak Island in Alaska were affected not only by  
27 temperature but also by food availability [30].

28 We propose that taxonomic diversity in diet affects the nutritional condition of  
29 predators. The nutritional condition ( $K$ ) of *P. herzensteini* juveniles was higher when the  
30 value of  $\Delta^*$  was lower in each sampling year (Fig. 6). Various animals, including fishes,  
31 tend to concentrate their predation on a specific prey taxon, if available prey in the  
32 environment are abundant. *P. herzensteini* juveniles with low values of  $\Delta^*$  showed

1 feeding success on a narrow taxonomic range of prey items, which might have a lower  
2 catch cost than feeding on a wide taxonomic range of prey. Future studies should  
3 compare the growth of juveniles in both seas by examining otolith and also examining  
4 stomach contents.

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1 **Fig. 1** Study locations in the Sea of Japan and the Sea of Okhotsk; **a** schematic  
2 illustration of distribution of juveniles or immature fish; **b** spawning area of  
3 *Pseudopleuronectes herzensteini* (modified from Maruyama and Yamamoto [14],  
4 Watanobe [2, 15]); **c, d** sampling stations with isobaths. Stars indicate the locations of  
5 Oumu Town and Obira Town; open and solid circles indicate sampling stations, and  
6 solid circles indicate stations where stomach content analyses of collected *P.*  
7 *herzensteini* were performed. J1 and O1–O5 show station numbers. Bottom isobaths are  
8 based on data from the Japan Oceanographic Data Centre  
9 ([http://www.jodc.go.jp/index\\_j.html](http://www.jodc.go.jp/index_j.html); accessed 5 December 2012)

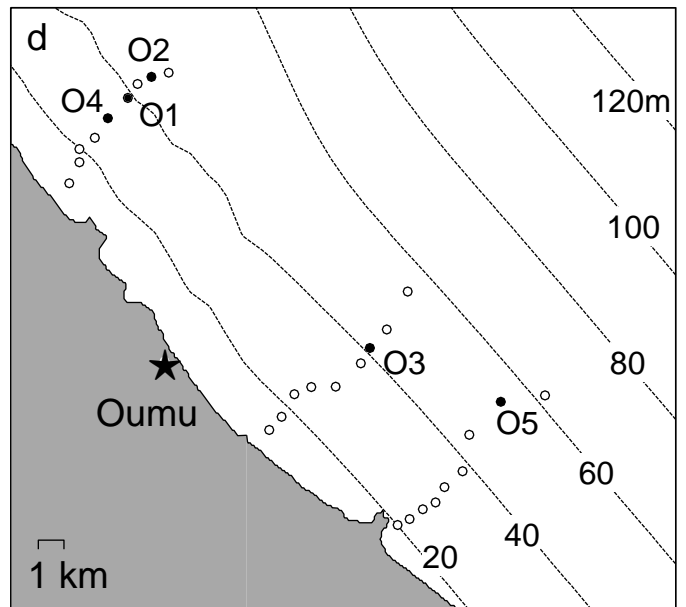
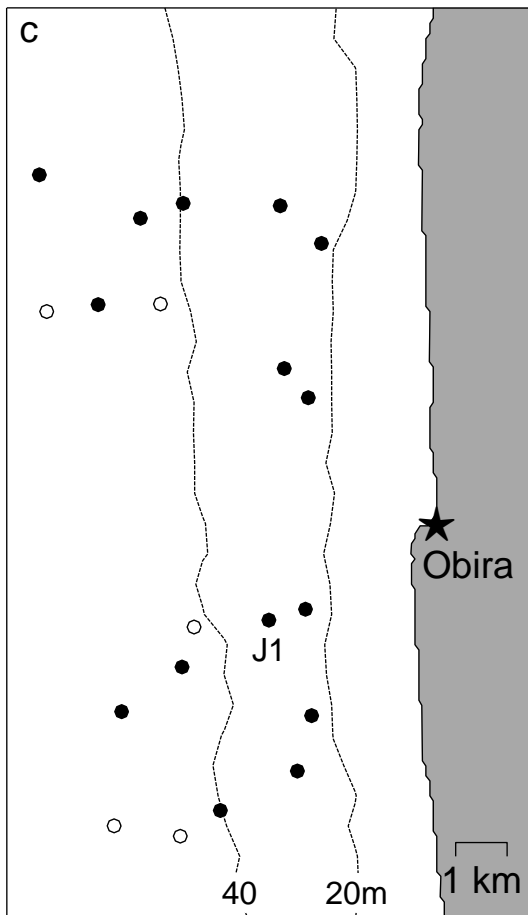
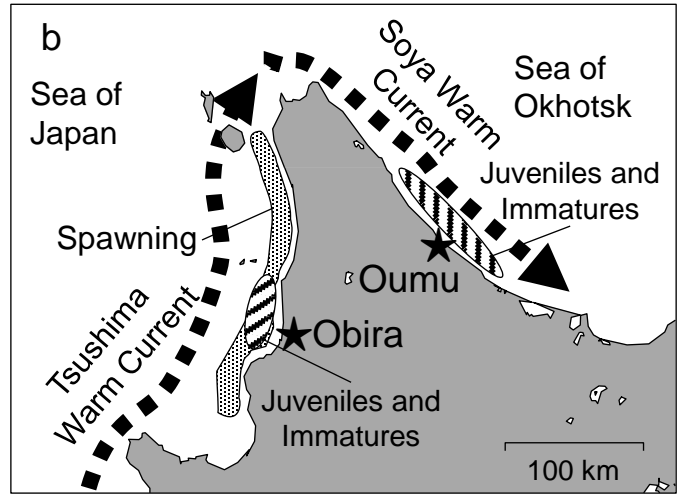
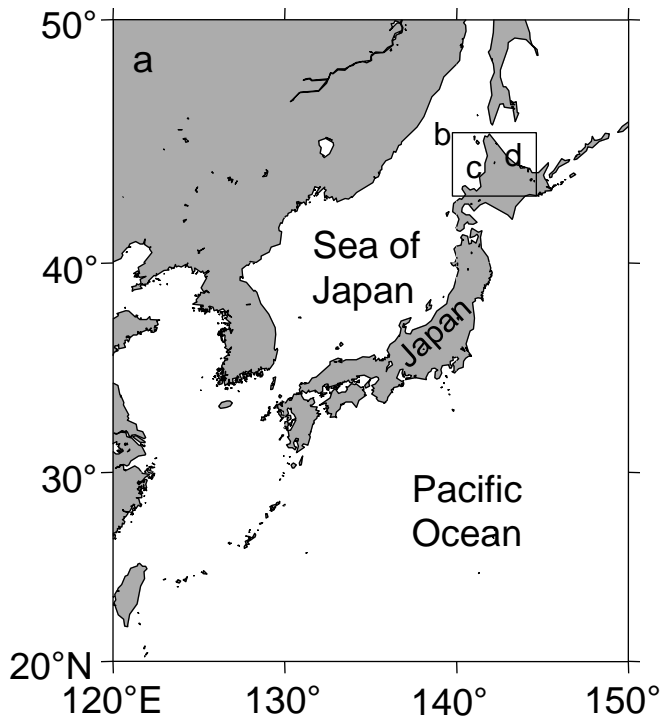
10 **Fig. 2** Shapes of prey species and body sizes measured. Second largest lengths (SLLs)  
11 are indicated by abbreviations (underlined). SLLs of polychaetes are shown as *W* or *D*  
12 to indicate shapes of specific species

13 **Fig. 3** Stomach contents of juveniles represented by %*IRI* for each sampling station or  
14 group, with bottom depth, median (range) of bottom temperature and area. Numerals  
15 above bars indicate numbers of juveniles examined

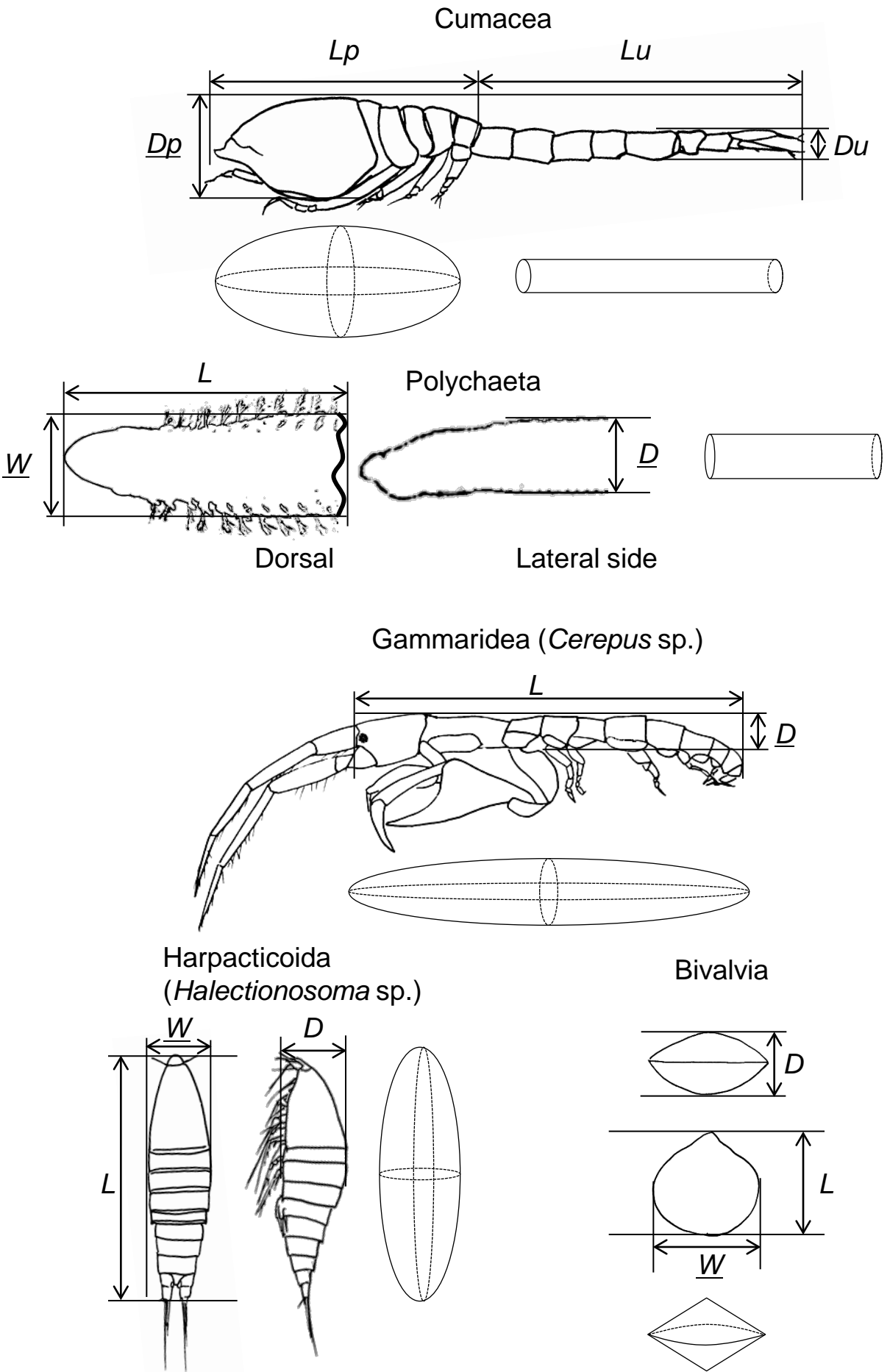
16 **Fig. 4** Plot of juvenile standard length (SL; mm) and second-largest length ( $\mu\text{m}$ ) of four  
17 major prey items (gammarids, harpacticoid copepods, polychaetes and bivalves)

18 **Fig. 5** Box plots of food-item numbers per juvenile stomach (individual juvenile<sup>-1</sup>; **a**),  
19 prey volume per juvenile stomach ( $\text{mm}^3$  juvenile<sup>-1</sup>; **b**), and Fulton's condition factor *K*  
20 of juveniles by sampling station or group and area (**c**). Numerals above boxes indicate  
21 number of juveniles examined

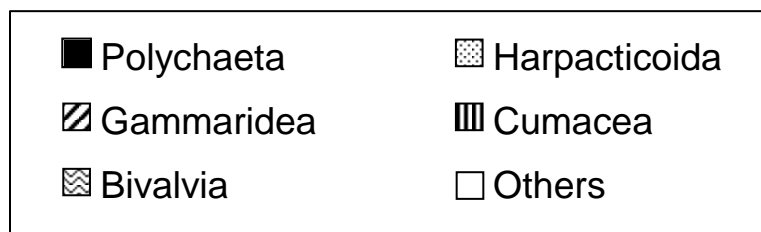
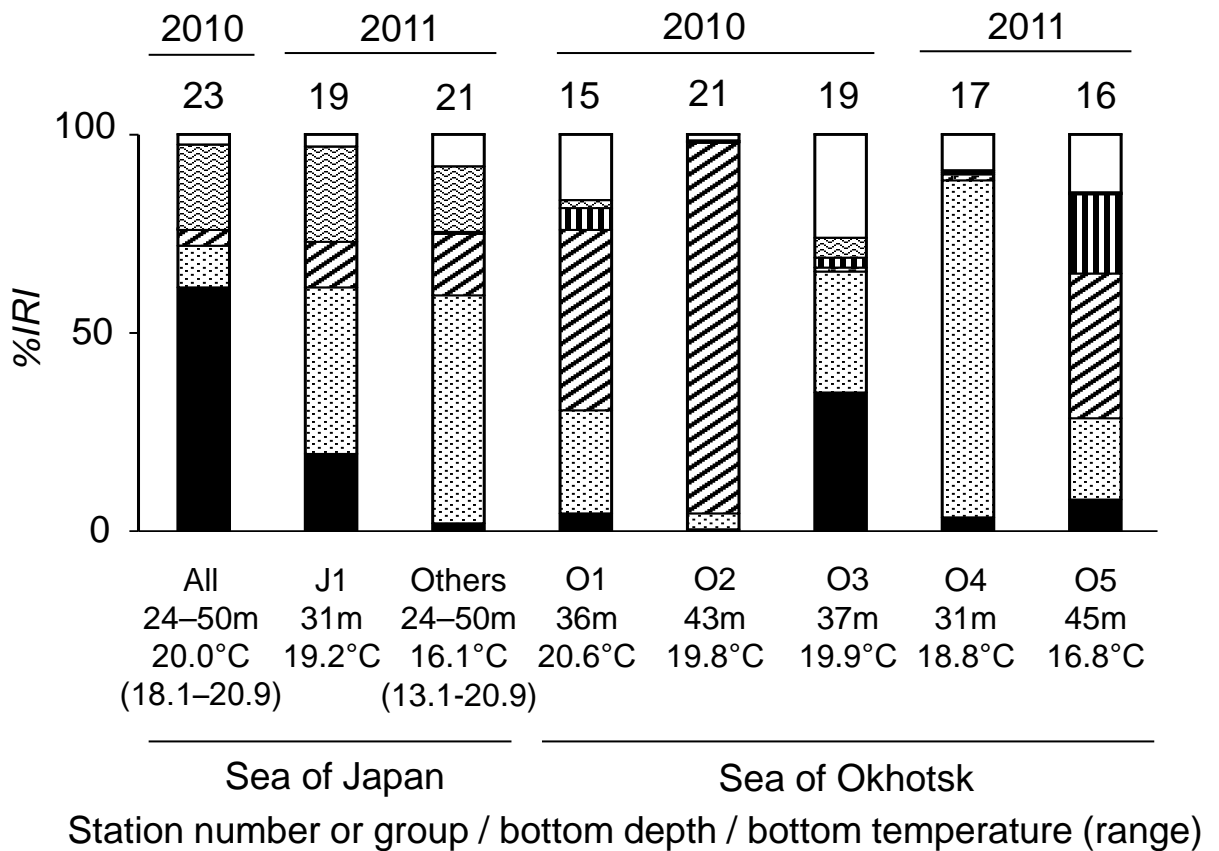
22 **Fig. 6** Plot of Fulton's condition factor *K* and Warwick and Clarke's diversity index with  
23 taxonomic distance  $\Delta^*$ . Open characters: 2010, solid characters: 2011

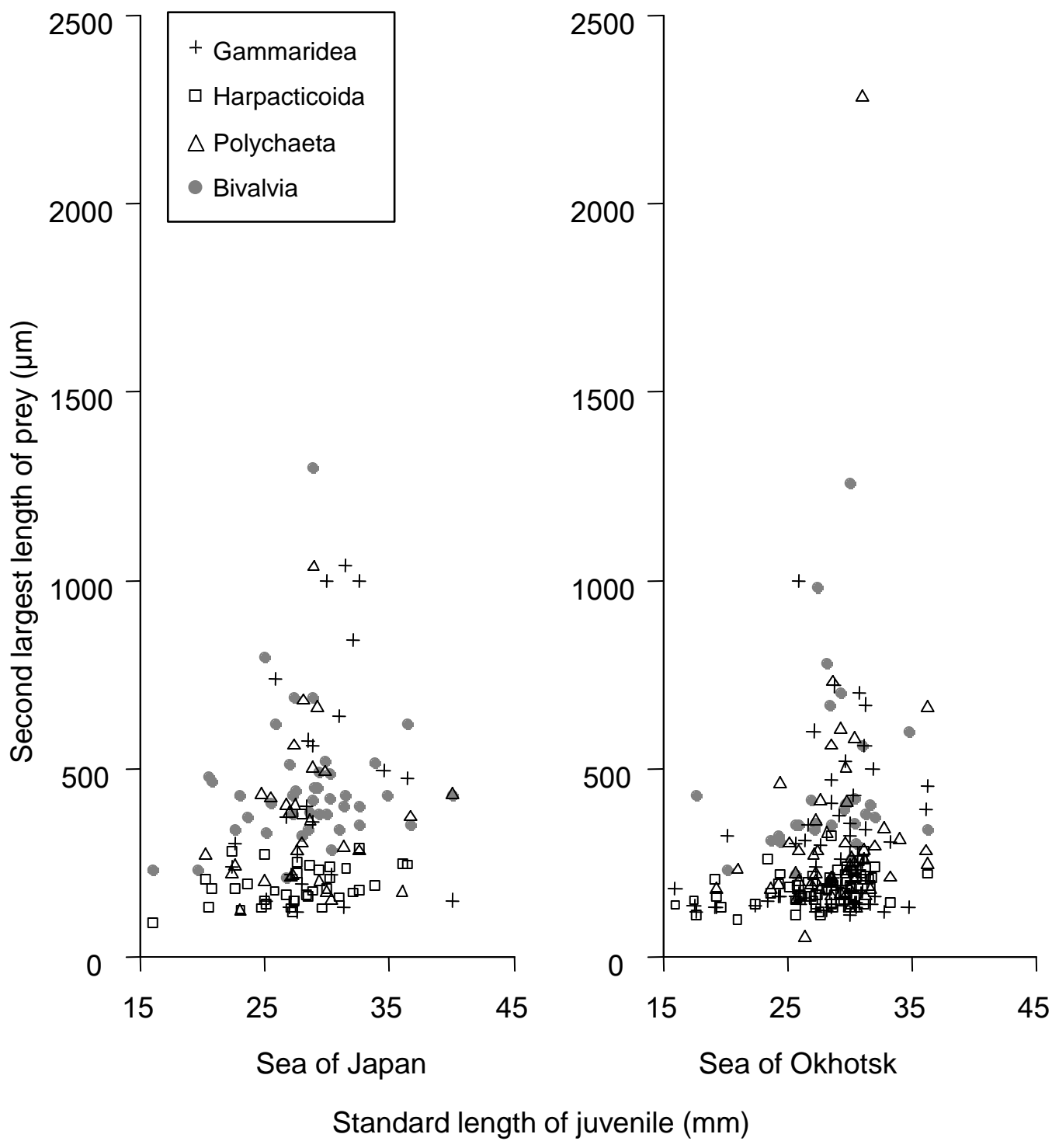


Kobayashi et al. Fig. 1 (8.5 cm width)

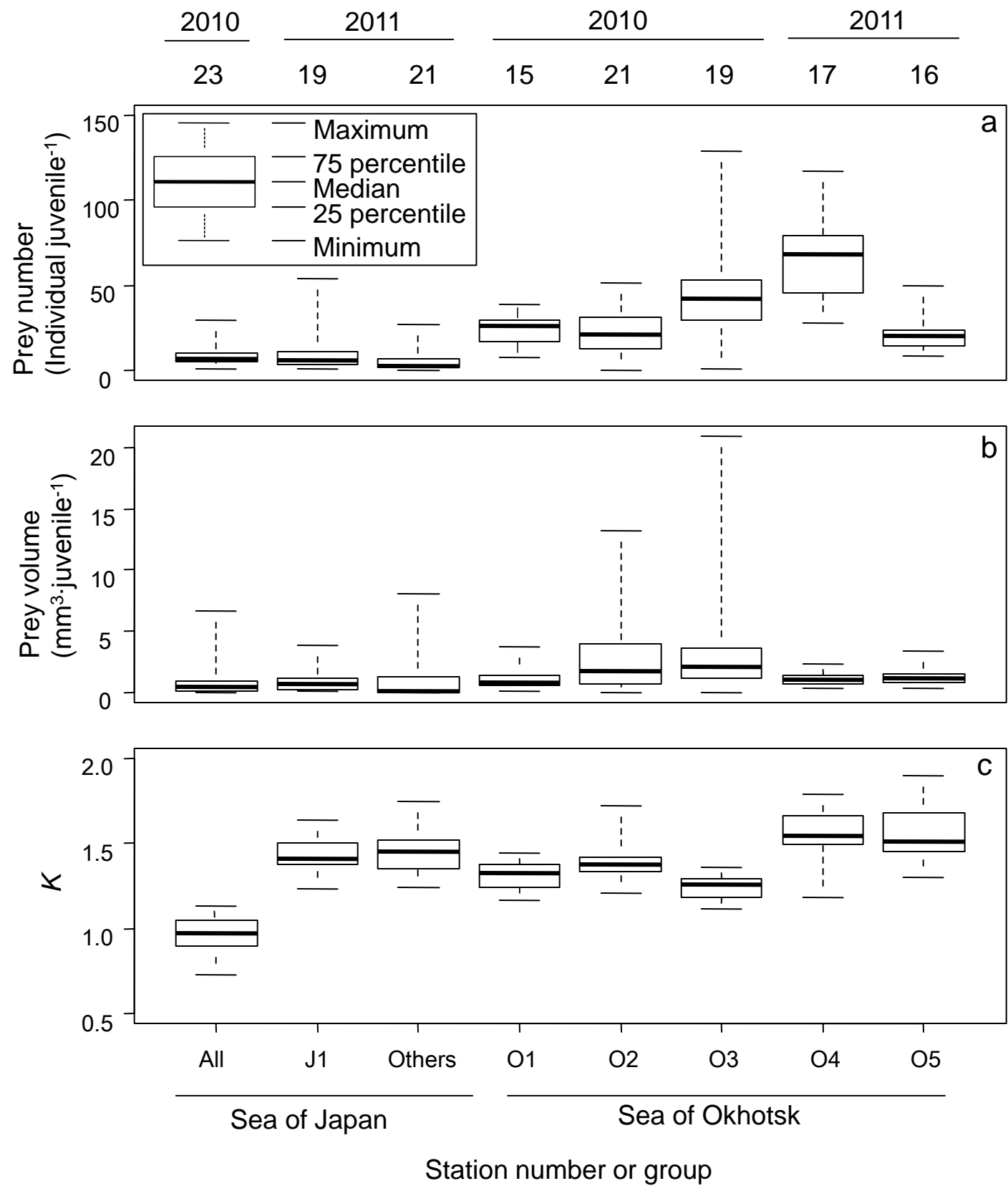


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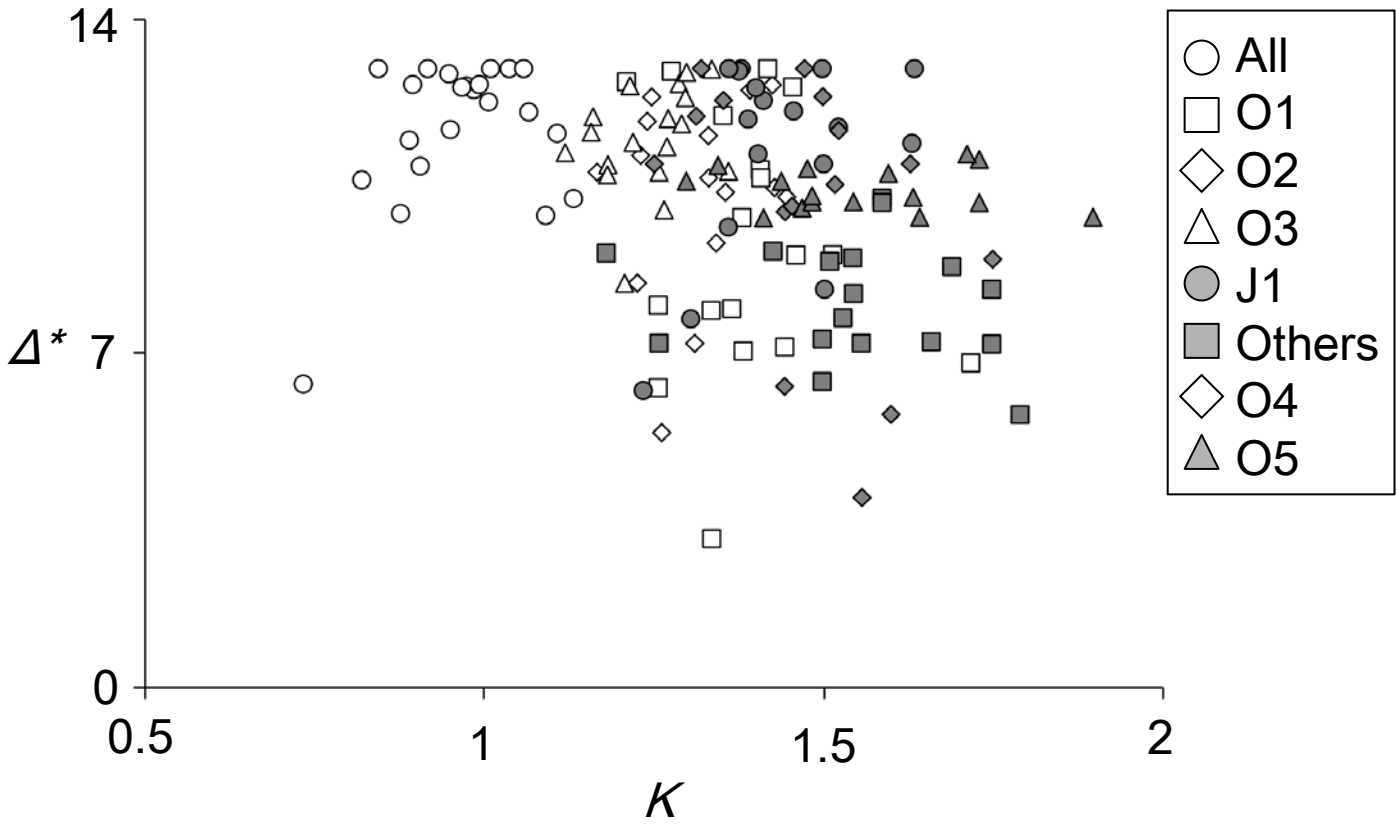




Kobayashi *et al.* Fig. 4 (8.5 cm width)



Kobayashi *et al.* Fig. 5 (8.5 cm width)



Kobayashi *et al.* Fig. 6 (8.5 cm width)

**Table 1.** Collection records of *Pseudopleuronectes herzensteini* in the two seas around northern Hokkaido

Area	Time	Date	Number of sampling sta.	Bottom depth (m)		Bottom temperature (°C)		Number of juvenile collected	SL (mm)*
				All sta.*	Juvenile collected*	All sta.*	Juvenile collected*		
Sea of Japan	05:58–12:34	Aug. 18, 2010	15	39 (24–50)	39 (24–48)	20.0 (12.5–22.0)	20.1 (12.8–22.0)	25	27.0 (16.0–40.1)
Sea of Japan	06:03–13:33	Aug. 17–18, 2011	20	39 (24–50)	31 (24–48)	14.9 (12.7–20.9)	17.1 (13.1–20.9)	61	28.8 (19.4–36.4)
Sea of Okhotsk	06:00–14:00	Aug. 25–26, 2010	27	30 (8–50)	30 (8–50)	20.0 (18.0–20.9)	20.0 (18.0–20.9)	260	28.3 (15.8–38.2)
Sea of Okhotsk	06:00–14:00	Aug. 24–25, 2011	27	30 (8–50)	31 (8–50)	18.8 (14.3–20.2)	18.8 (14.3–20.2)	298	29.2 (20.4–39.5)

\*: median (range)