

International Workshop on Marine Debris, Environmental Monitoring, and Disaster Mitigation

The Secretariat of the Headquarters for Ocean Policy, the Cabinet Secretariat, and the Ministry of the Environment in Japan have shown that a huge amount of ocean debris (estimated at roughly 150 million tons) was flushed out into the North Pacific in the wake of the catastrophic tsunami of March 11, 2011. Some portion of this is now widely recognized to have become dispersed throughout wide areas of the North Pacific Ocean. In response to this situation, the Japan Cabinet Secretariat and the Ministry of the Environment immediately organized a "Japan Task Force" (JTF) to cope with this pan-pacific environmental crisis, with members consisting of national research institutes and universities. Since then, through strong links with NOAA of the USA, the JTF has conducted nowcast and forecast simulations to determine the drift path of the 3.11 tsunami debris cloud through use of a state-of-the-art ocean-atmosphere coupled simulation system.

This OKINAWA international workshop aims to report on the current status of US-Japan joint simulations and to widely disseminate the results of this collaboration. In sharing recent information on international efforts toward better ocean-emergency responses and by considering new applications in marine science and technology, we wish to make positive contributions to disaster monitoring and mitigation.

Date : October 25 , 2013

Venue : Okinawa Institute of Science and Technology (Hall)

19191-1, Tancha, Onna-son, Kunigami-gun, Okinawa, Japan 904-0495

Program:

[Session 1]

18:15-18:25 Welcome address

Mr. Masaaki Kobayashi (Director-General, Environmental Management Bureau,
Ministry of the Environment, Japan)

18:25-18:30 Greeting speech (planned)

MS. Nancy Wallace (Chief, Marine Debris Division, NOAA, USA)

18:30-18:40 Brief introduction of JAPAN-US marine debris joint simulation

Dr. Toshiyuki Awaji (Vice President, Kyoto University)

18:40-19:15 Report on the recent forecast result of the 3.11 tsunami debris distribution by
the Japan Task Force

a) Ensemble forecast of ocean-atmosphere coupled field in the North Pacific

- Norihisa Usui (Japan Meteorological Agency)
Yoichi Ishikawa (Japan Agency for Marine-Earth Science and Technology)
- b) Drift simulation with particular regard to that associated with the 3.11 tsunami
 - Hideyuki Kawamura (Japan Atomic Energy Agency)
Takuya Kobayashi (Japan Atomic Energy Agency)

Coffee Break (19:15-19:30)

19:30-19:40 Recent forecast results of the 3.11 tsunami debris distribution by US NOAA
(Video presentation planned) Dr. Amy MacFadyen, Dr. Glen Watabayashi (NOAA)

19:40-19:55 Satellite monitoring of early post-tsunami marine debris evolution
Dr. John Philip Matthews (Kyoto University)

19:55-20:15 Ocean emergency response and litter in UK
Dr. Jon Rees (Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science, UK)

20:15-20:30 Sighting information from vessels
Dr. Shigeru Fujishima (Kagoshima University)

20:30-20:50 Discussion and Comments

20:50-20:55 Closing remarks
Dr. Shiro Imawaki (Director of DrC, Japan Agency for Marine-Earth Science and
Technology)

Adjourn

Contact point:

Global Oceanographic Data Center (GODAC)

Japan Agency for Marine-Earth Science and Technology (JAMSTEC)

Toyohara, Nago City

Okinawa, Japan

TEL : +81-980—50—0111

FAX : +81-980—50—0123