

What happened at the Great East Japan Earthquake

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The Great East Japan Earthquake and tsunami(GEJE) on 11 March 2011, caused immense damage to not only coastal town, city area but marine ecosystem both nearshore-offshore from surface to bottom, on the northeast Pacific coast of Japan (Tohoku area). Debris was deposited far inland and into the subtidal zone; crude oil and other toxic chemical compounds spewed into the Ocean; seaweed forests and tidelands were obliterated. Marine products (Fisheries and Aquaculture) are the mainstay of industry in Tohoku but most fishing vessels, fishing gear, aquaculture equipment and net, and offshore facilities for processing marine products were destroyed. As a consequence of these events, restoration of marine ecosystems and reconstruction of industries in the coastal areas have been urgent and important issues.

TEAMS(Tohoku Ecosystem-Associated Marine Sciences) Project has been led by Tohoku University, AORI of the University of Tokyo, and JAMSTEC, to support restoration and reconstruction, and undertake investigations and research on the marine ecosystems in the coastal and offshore areas of the Tohoku region in cooperation with local governments and relevant ministries and agencies, with the aim of reconstructing the Tohoku region.

In the present talk, I will show you what happened at the GEJE, and explain what is TEAMS project.

