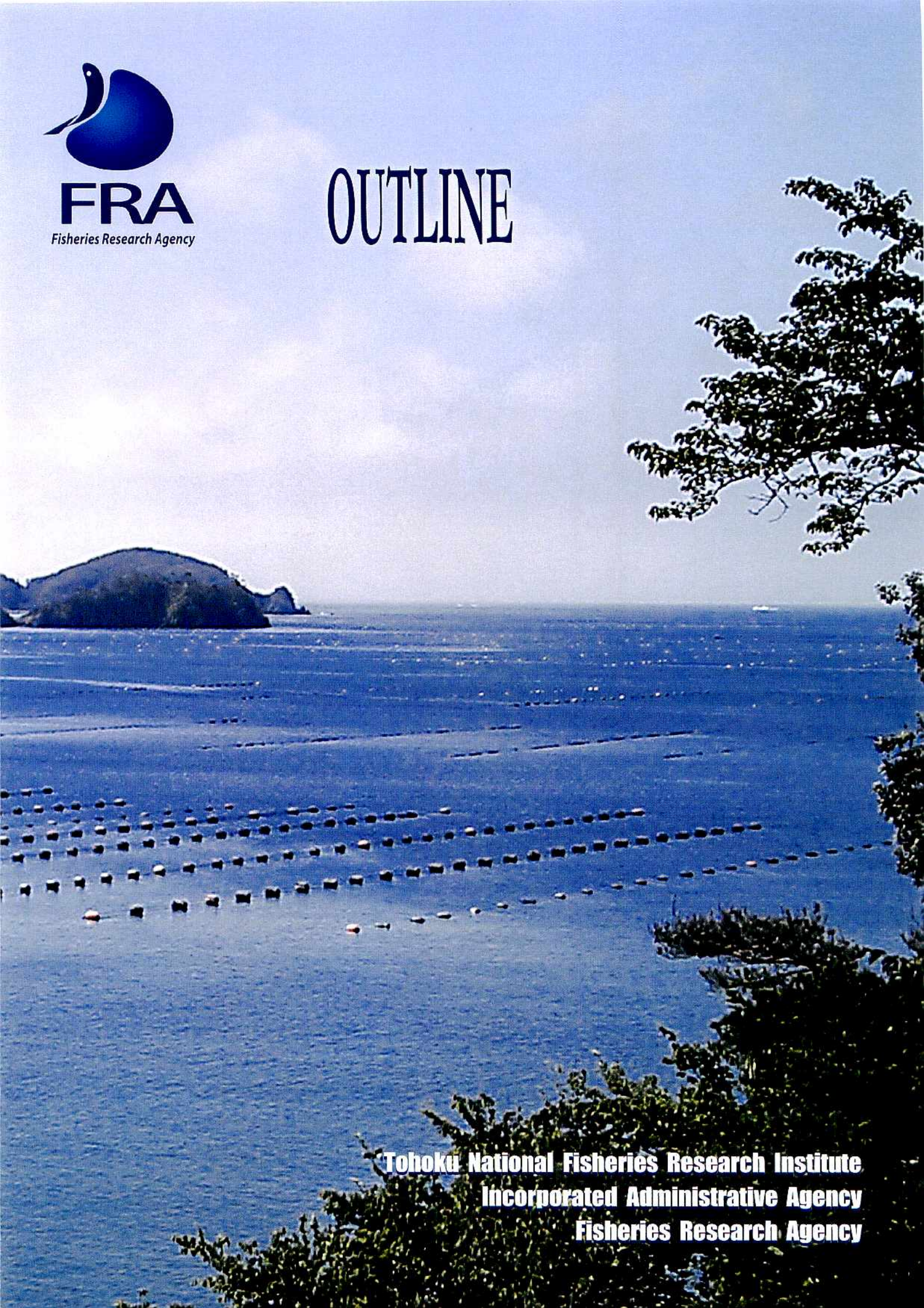
FRA
Fisheries Research Agency

OUTLINE



Tohoku National Fisheries Research Institute
Incorporated Administrative Agency
Fisheries Research Agency

Our Roles

Tohoku National Fisheries Research Institute is in charge of fisheries research in the coastal and offshore waters of the North Pacific Ocean off the Tohoku district from Aomori Prefecture to Ibaraki Prefecture. These waters are called the Mixed Water Region and have specific oceanographic conditions affected by the warm Kuroshio and cold Oyashio Currents, which provide good fishing grounds. The roles of Tohoku National Fisheries Research Institute are to (1) clarify the characteristics of ocean environments by investigating current, water temperature, salinity, etc., (2) assist the administration by presenting the scientific bases for fisheries resource management and sustainable use, and (3) conduct research to obtain basic ecological, physiological and biological knowledge for fisheries and aquaculture in the Mixed Water Region.

Organization

- **Director-General**
  - Project Management Division
    - Planning and Coordination Section
    - Salmon Resources Research Section
    - Management Section
  - Mixed Water Region Fisheries Oceanography Division
    - Physical Oceanography Section
    - Biological Oceanography Section
    - Stock Productivity Section
  - Coastal Fisheries and Aquaculture Division
    - Resources Enhancement Section
    - Coastal Fisheries Resources Section
    - Coastal Fisheries Promotion Section
  - Hachinohe Station
    - Stock Assessment Section
    - Fisheries Biology Section
  - Research Vessel Wakataka-maru

Project Management Division

This Division is responsible for supporting the planning, coordination, and promotion and maintenance of the Institute. This Division also supports research management in other divisions and sections.

Planning and Coordination Section

This section is responsible for planning, coordination, promotion, and management of research projects, management of books and information, and dissemination of information on research projects.

Salmon Resources Research Section

This section is responsible for dissemination of salmon enhancement technology, training for staff of private salmon hatcheries, and salmon biological monitoring in the hatcheries and rivers from Aomori Prefecture to Ibaraki Prefecture.

Management Section

This section is responsible for document management, personnel affairs, staff welfare, supply of goods and labor, maintenance of facilities, and budget management.

Mixed Water Region Fisheries Oceanography Division

The waters between the Oyashio and the Kuroshio Extension are called the Mixed Water Region and are outstanding fishing grounds for many pelagic fishes such as saury, sardine, skipjack and other tuna species, and groundfishes such as Pacific cod and flatfishes. This Division investigates the physical, biological and ecological features of the Mixed Water Region to understand how the ecosystem supports such high productivity. This Division also conducts research on long-term ocean variability, associated with climate change linked to variations in the fisheries resources.

Physical Oceanography Section
Research on the ocean structure and variability in the Mixed Water Region using information collected by research vessels and satellites, and forecasting of ocean conditions of coastal and offshore fishing grounds in the Mixed Water Region.

Biological Oceanography Section
Research on the nutrient cycles, primary production process by phytoplankton, zooplankton ecology and their food chain for understanding how energy flows in the ecosystem.

Stock Productivity Section
Research on micronecton and macrozooplankton such as euphausiids that affect fisheries resource production through competition for food and predator/prey relationships.

Coastal Fisheries and Aquaculture Division

This Division conducts scientific research on sea farming and resource management to establish sea farming technologies for mass seedling production of flatfishes and artificial plant technology of brown algae for enhancement of abalone and sea urchin resources. This Division also conducts research on shellfish poisoning mechanisms and detoxification methods.

Resources Enhancement Section
Research on stock identification for oyster and brown algae using genetic characteristics to promote sea farming. Research on the genetic diversity and characteristics of brown algae.

Coastal Fisheries Resources Section
Research on the ecology and habitat environments for coastal fisheries resources such as flatfish and abalone to establish effective fisheries management procedures and artificial enhancement.

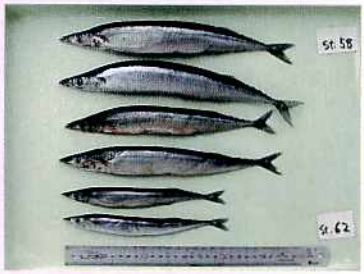
Coastal Fisheries Promotion Section
Research on phytoplankton and zooplankton dynamics in the fishing grounds, analysis of shellfish toxins, and toxin dynamics in the shellfish to support shellfish production and safety.

Hachinohe Station

Many economically important fisheries resources are distributed in the North Pacific Ocean off the Tohoku district: pelagic fishes such as saury, sardine, mackerel and squid, and demersal fishes such as Pacific cod, flatfish, rockfish and tanner crab. In the Total Allowable Catch (TAC) system, the Station is required to estimate the stock levels and trends of these species and to provide the Allowable Biological Catches (ABC) of these fisheries resources every year.

Stock Assessment Section

Research on stock assessment using bottom trawls, mechanisms of fluctuations in stock abundance, and forecasting of recruitment and fishing conditions of commercially important demersal species such as Pacific cod and tanner crab.



Fisheries Biology Section

Research on age-growth relationships using otoliths, maturation and reproductive conditions of commercially important species. Research on stock assessments using mid water trawl, relationships between ocean conditions and fish distributions, and forecasting for fishing grounds for pelagic fish such as saury.

Research Vessel Wakataka-maru

The fisheries research vessel Wakataka-maru carries out surveys and research on the resources, environment and oceanography of the North Pacific Ocean off the Tohoku district.

Particulars

Length:57.73m
Breadth:11.00m
Depth:4.50m
Gross tonnage:692 ton
Completed: March 24 1995

MAP

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