Application of marine-GIS for visualization of the long-term fisheries and oceanographic dataset HUFO-DAT

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Since 1957, Hokkaido University has carried out regular oceanographic and fishery surveys with the fisheries training vessels Oshoro maru and Hokusei maru. Biological and environmental data collected on these surveys are published annually in the "Data Record of Oceanographic Observations and Exploratory Fishing". The Hokkaido University has collaborated closely with the Japan Oceanographic Data Center (JODC) to assemble close to 50 years of these data in a Long-Term Fisheries and Oceanographic Data Base (HUFO-DAT). Volume 1 contains hydrographic station data, nutrients, oxygen, zooplankton wet weight, and chlorophyll-a concentration. Volume 2, currently in preparation, will include experimental fishing and associated biological data. In this paper, we introduce an oceanographic research application of the HUFO-DAT using marine-GIS. Since 1995, Hokkaido University has carried out grid observations in the continental shelf region of southwestern Bering Sea. We analyzed those data in HUFO-DAT for understanding interannual variations of oceanographic structure and biological production in summer using 3-D visualization method. Surface warm layer (>9C) in 1997, 1998, 2000 and 2002 may be related El Niño events. Thermal stratification will restrict the transport of the nutrients from the bottom and following high chlorophyll-a in the euphotic zone. In 1995, 1997, 1999 and 2001, relatively weak stratification might be promoted high chlorophyll-a production.