Numerical simulation of the abrupt occurrence of strong current in the southeastern Japan Sea

Naoki Hirose, Yutaka Kumaki, Atsushi Kaneda, Kouta Ayukawa, Noriyuki Okei, Satoshi Ikeda, Yosuke Igeta, Tatsuro Watanabe

Continental Shelf Research, DOI: 10. 1016/j. csr. 2016. 07. 005 (2016)

Coastal set-net fisheries have been frequently damaged by the occurrence of sudden current (known as kyucho) in the Japan Sea. In this study, a high-resolution coastal ocean model is developed to provide a means to predict this stormy current. The 1.5 km-mesh model nested in a regional ocean data assimilation system is driven by mesoscale atmospheric conditions at 1-hour intervals. The modeled results show rapid changes of the coastal current along the San-in Coast, on the eastern side of the Tango Peninsula, and around the Noto Peninsula and Sado Island, mostly associated with strong wind events. These modeled coastal water responses are consistent with in-situ velocity measurements. The simulation also shows that the vortex separated from the Tango Peninsula frequently grows to a bayscale anticyclonic eddy in Wakasa Bay. Evidently, the coastal branch of the Tsushima Warm Current becomes unstable due to a strong meteorological disturbance resulting in the generation of this harmful eddy.

(京都府農林水産技術センター海洋センター業績 No.178)