

## Individual Projects of the Environment Subcommittee

### Research on washed-up driftage on the coast of the Northwest Pacific Region 2004 (Toyama)

#### 1. Objectives

It aims to grasp the current status of contamination by artificial articles such as plastic on the Coast of the Northwest Pacific Region. This is carried out by collecting, separating, counting, and weighing Washed-up driftage. Its findings will serve as primary data in working out measures for the protection of the marine environment and fishing grounds and countermeasures against wastes.

The Research will also make its participating residents gain a deeper understanding towards the marine environment and have a higher awareness of the importance of not throwing garbage and trying to protect it.

#### 2. Outline of the Research

(1) Period:

From September to October of every year

(2) Places:

Coasts of the Northwest Pacific Region (1 or 2 coasts in each municipality)

(3) Method:

Refer to the “Implementation Guidance for the Research of Washed-up Driftage on the Coast of the Northwest Pacific Region”

(4) Implementation of the Research

The research is carried out with the cooperation of students of elementary schools, middle schools and high schools and members of civil organizations.

#### 3. Outcome of the Research in 2003

(1) Participating Municipalities

a. The members of the Association of Northeast Asia Regional Governments

Japan (19 coasts in 10 prefectures) : Aomori, Yamagata, Niigata, Toyama, Ishikawa, Fukui, Kyoto, Hyogo, Tottori and Shimane Prefecture

Russia (5 coasts in 2 regions) : Primorsky Territory and Khabarovsk Territory

Korea (5 coasts in 2 provinces) : Gangwon and Chungcheongnam Province

China (8 coasts in 2 provinces) : Liaoning and Shandong Province

b. Others

Japan (7 coasts in 6 prefectures) : Hokkaido, Akita, Yamaguchi, Fukuoka, Saga and Nagasaki Prefecture

China (4 coasts in 2 provinces) : Hebei and Jiangsu Province

## (2) Findings

The research was conducted at 48 coasts in 4 countries of Japan, Russia, Korea and China. The number of participants was 1,620. The number and the total weight of collected articles were 70,000 and about 400kg. Plastics had the highest ratio; 74% in the number of articles and 53% in the total weight. These ratios were almost the same as the findings of the research in the previous year. As for a general feature of the distribution of wash-ed up driftage, the total number and weight tended to decrease as a researched area going up north.

【The number of the collected objects per 100m<sup>2</sup> in each area】



## (3) Others

An easy-to-understand leaflet was published in four languages, Japanese, Russian, Korean, and Chinese, with illustrations to foster the people's awareness of the environmental protection of the Northwest Pacific Region.

## 4. Research Planned for 2004

### (1) Participating Municipalities

#### a. Members of the Association of North East Asia Regional Governments

Japan (18 coasts in 10 prefectures) : Aomori, Yamagata, Niigata, Toyama, Ishikawa, Fukui, Kyoto, Hyogo, Tottori and Shimane Prefecture

Russia (9 coasts in 3 regions) : Primorsky Territory, Khabarovsk Territory, Sakhalin Region

Korea (6 coasts in 3 provinces) : Gangwon, Chungcheongnam and Gyeongsangbuk Province

China (8 coasts in 2 provinces) : Liaoning and Shandong Province

b. Others

Japan (7 coasts in 6 prefectures) : Hokkaido, Akita, Yamaguchi, Fukuoka, Saga and Nagasaki Prefecture

China (6 coasts in 2 provinces) : Hebei and Jiangsu Province

(2) Total number of coasts to be researched : 54



Japan



Russia



Japan



China



Korea



The Review meeting