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Assessment on marine environmental impact from artificial radionuclides in the coastal waters of Liaodong Bay

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1. Background on Marine Radioactivity Monitoring and Assessment

Worldwide Distribution of Nuclear Power Plants (NPP)





Effect of the accident at Fukushima NPP



- Accident caused massive amount of radionuclides leaking into the sea;
- Total quantity of leaked radioactivity matter published by Japanese Authority is 630 thousand trillion Bq.

2. Status of marine radioactivity monitoring and assessment after Fukushima nuclear accident

Japan



In the early days after
FNA, near-coast Cs-137
activity peaked at
6.8x10⁶ Bq/m³;

 In the later stages, openwater Cs-137 activity as high as 10 Bq/m³.

(Inoue M et.al, 2012,2013; Oikawa S et.al, 2013; Kumamoto Y et al, 2013,2014)

USA



Two years after FNA, Hawaii's surrounding waters recorded Cs-137 activity range at 1~4Bq/m³, 2~3 times higher than pre-FNA level.

(Povinec P et.al, 2013; Buesseler K O et.al, 2012; Kamenik J et.al, 2013)

Korea



No radionuclide
signal from FNA
had been observed
in the coastal waters
of Korea during
March to July 2011.

Russia



Cs-137 inventory in waters to the east of Japan is 4.6 times higher than pre-FNA level.

(Ramzaev V et.al, 2014)

China



 No radionuclide signal from FNA has been detected so far in China's coastal waters.
(Wu J et.al, 2013)

Summary

- Radioactive materials from FNA migrated and dispersed along horizontal and vertical directions, contamination radius kept increasing, while radionuclide activity kept decreasing due continuous dilution;
- The highest level of Cs-137 activity in open ocean waters is around 10Bq/m³, apparently higher than pre-FNA Cs-137 base level in North Pacific waters, which was around 1~2Bq/m³;
- 3. Cs-137 activity in North Pacific waters is far lower than the limit specified by different countries.

3. Radioactivity Monitoring in coastal waters of Liaodong Bay

Study area and stations



Samples: 15 surface water, 9 surface sediment, 1 fish sample of a dominant species

Time: May 2014

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Results-sea water





• The average level of Cs-137 is 1.02 Bq/m³

• The background range of Cs-137 in water of Bohai sea is 0.2~2.55 Bq/m³

Results—sediment



- The level of Cs-137 in sediment is 0.48~2.01 Bq/kg dry weight
- ► The average level of Cs-137 is 1.22 Bq/kg dry weight
- The background range of Cs-137 in sediment of Bohai sea is 1.2~15.75 Bq/kg dry weight

Result—Fish

Cynoglossus semilaevis (半滑舌鳎)



• The level of Cs-137 is 0.024 Bq/kg wet weight

The background range of Cs-137 in biota of Bohai sea is 0.01~0.24 Bq/kg wet weight

Conclusions

- 1. Cs-134, Co-58,60 and Ag-110m is not detected in seawater, fish nor sediment;
- The levels of Cs-137 in seawater, fish and sediment is 0.69~1.53 Bq/m³, 0.024 Bq/kg wet weight, and 0.48~2.01 Bq/kg dry weight, respectively;
- 3. The levels of Cs-137 in seawater, fish and sediment are all within background ranges of Bohai sea;
- 4. Cs-137 activity is nearly uniform throughout the study area in sediment, however it is more concentrated in water further from shore;
- 5. The coastal waters of Liaodong Bay have not been contaminated by artificial radionuclides.

Thank You!



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