



March 3, 2008

The Japan Agency for Marine-Earth Science and Technology

### **Research on Collision between MSDF DDG ATAGO and a fish boat SEITOKU MARU -Object retrieved during the search operation by the Research Vessel NATSUSHIMA-**

During the ongoing research by the Research Vessel NATSUSHIMA on the collision between MSDF DDG ATAGO and a fish boat SEITOKU MARU, the object which was spotted and press released on February 26, 2008, has been retrieved by the Japan Agency for Marine-Earth Science and Technology (JAMSTEC; Mr. Yasuhiro Kato, President) under the direction of the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT) at the request of the Ministry of Defense.

#### **About object**

##### **Photograph 1**

- (1) Location : North Latitude 34.31, East Longitude 139.49 Water depth:  
1,835m  
(Please refer to [Fig.1](#))
- (2) Photographed date and time: 16:49 March 2, 2008

JAMSTEC provided the information immediately to the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT) and we heard that the MEXT provided the information to the Crisis Center in the Prime Minister's Office and the Japan Coast Guard. Currently, we have not informed if the Japan Coast Guard makes any decision about relation between the found object and the accident.

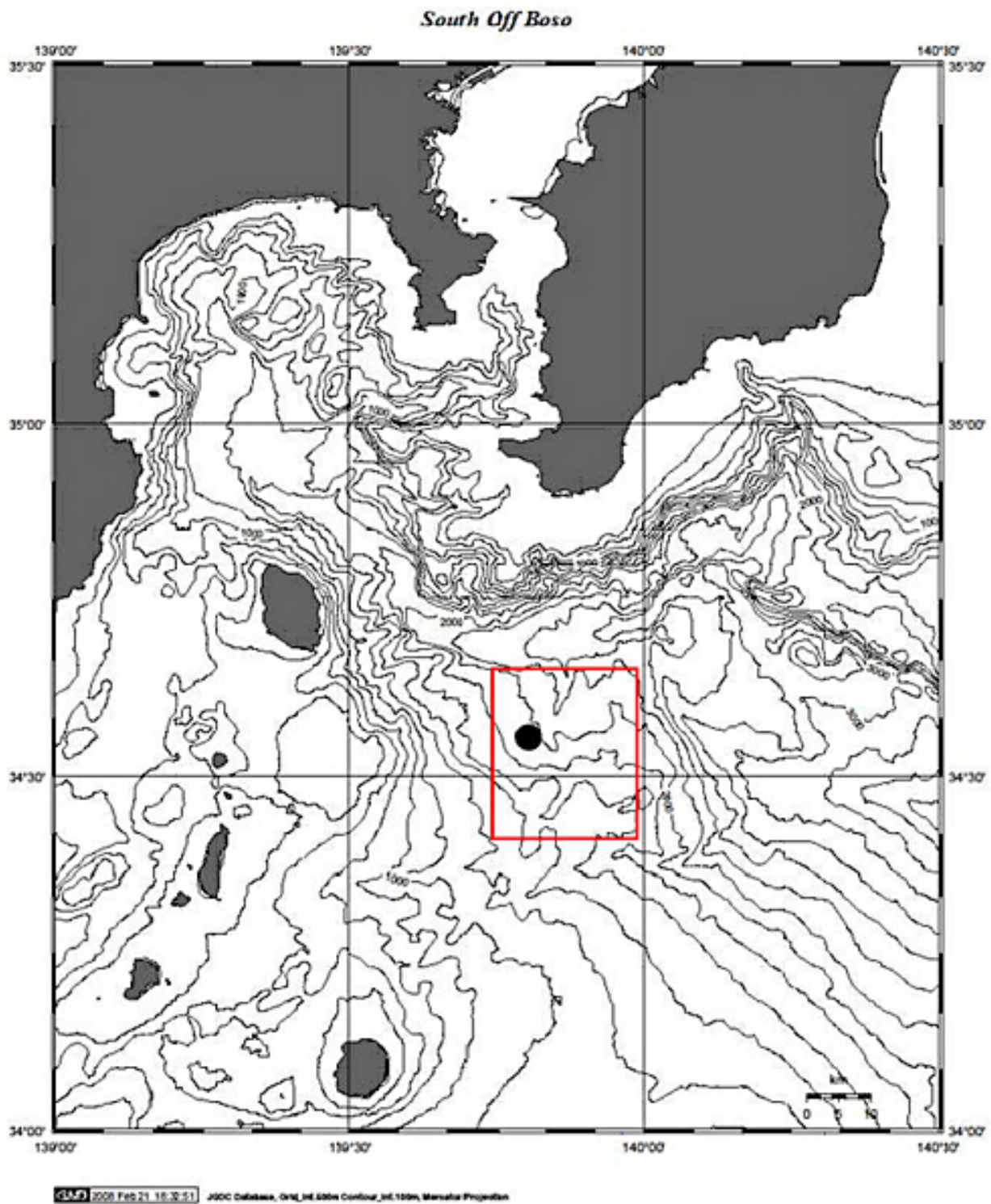
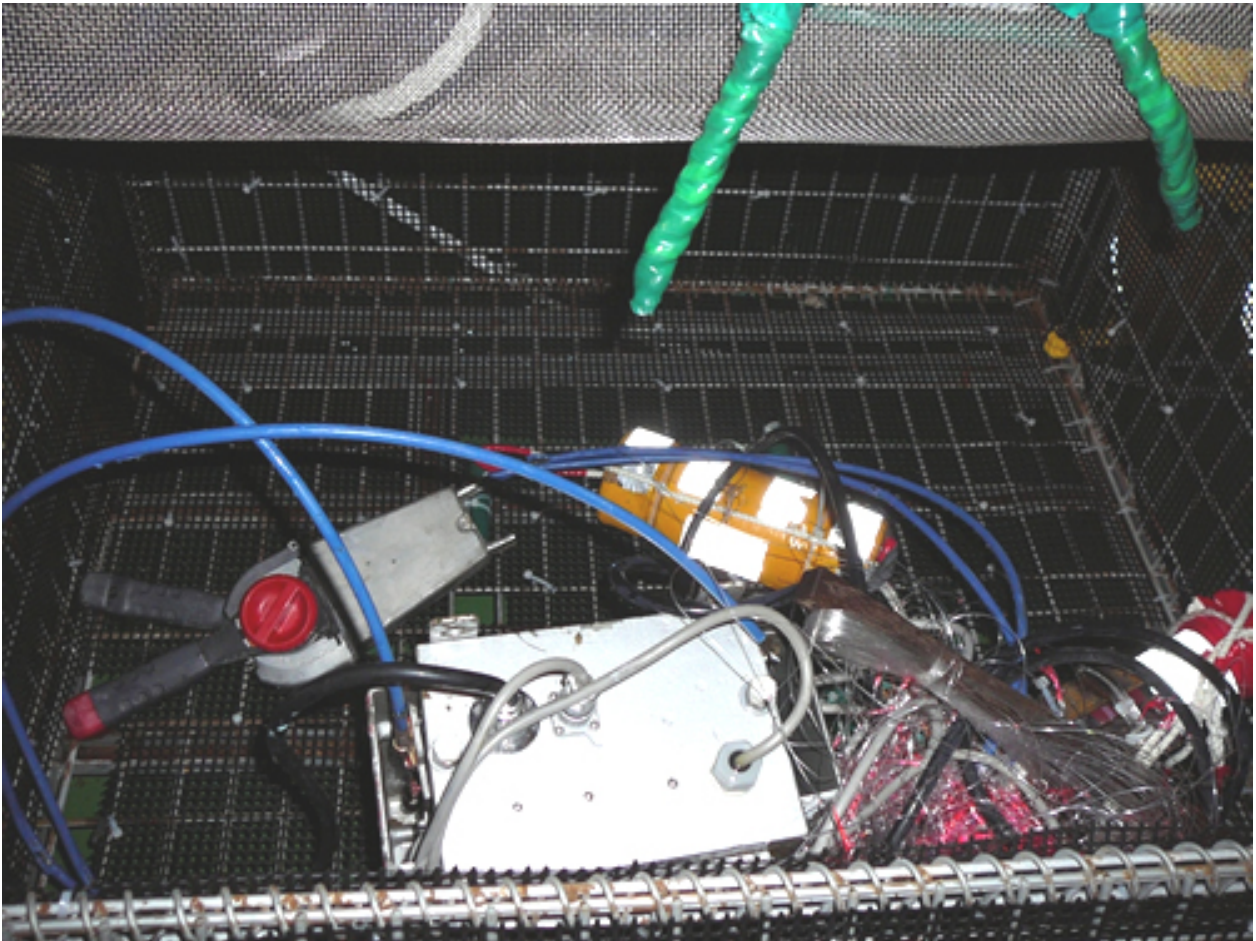


Fig.1 Research Area  
●: location of the object spotted and filmed  
□: research area



Photograph 1: Image of on-board display screen taken by a digital camera  
(North Latitude: 34.31 East Longitude:139.49 Water Depth 1,844m )

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