

KANMON KAIKYO STRAIT

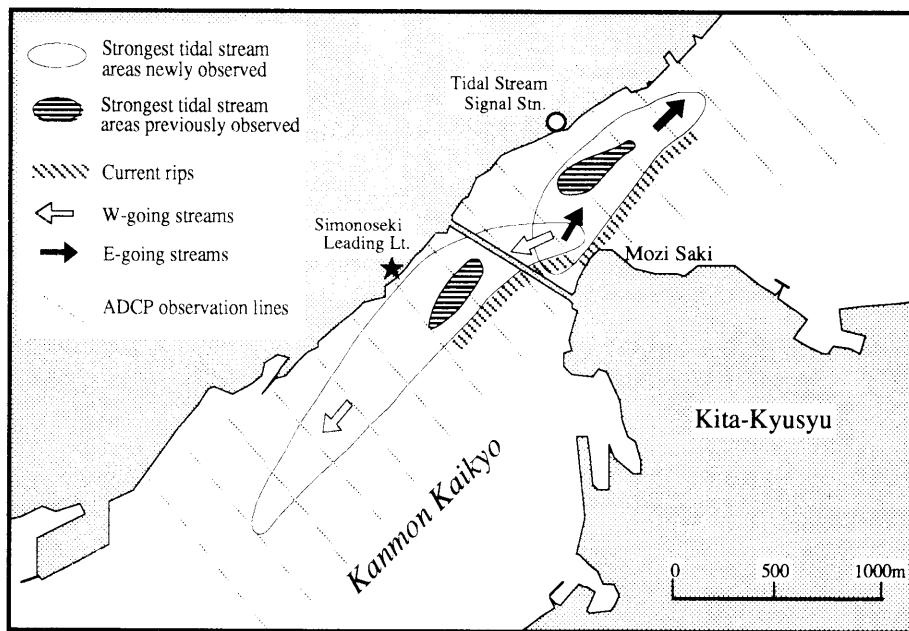
STRONGEST TIDAL STREAM AREAS FOUND RATHER EXTENDING

The Hydrographic Department of the 7th Regional Maritime Safety Headquarters situated at Mozi, Kita-Kyusyu, has recently carried out a tidal stream observation using Acoustic Doppler Current Profiler (ADCP) in Kanmon Kaikyo strait, and the final result of its subsequent data processing shows that the strongest tidal streams are rather widespread over the areas extending than those previously observed and estimated.

The Kanmon Kaikyo strait is widely noted among mariners from old times for its important route connecting East China Sea and Seto Inland Sea but the most perilous passage with its narrowest part of 500 meters in width, where the strongest stream attains 10 knots, about 700 ships and boats plying in the strait everyday.

The tidal stream observation was carried out along 16 observation lines running across the strait, by using 7th RMS Hqs' Survey Vessel "HS 33 Hayatomo", 27 gross tons, equipped with a shipborne ADCP, for the total number of 24 days in 1993 and 94. The result of observation revealed that certain areas in the strait, especially in the offing of Mozi Saki, covered with the E-going and W-going strongest streams unexpectedly extend over the area, in which the previous observation was carried out by tracking drifting buoys. These areas, streams and current rips are as shown on the chart below.

The 7th RMS Hqs. has started calling mariners' attention to the fact found, and the cautionary notes currently given on the nautical charts, Tide Tables, and the other publications concerned will be amended accordingly.



Hi-no-Yama Sita Tidal Stream Signal Station

Mozi Saki Lighthouse



Current rips at E-going stream of 8 knots in Kanmon Kaikyo strait