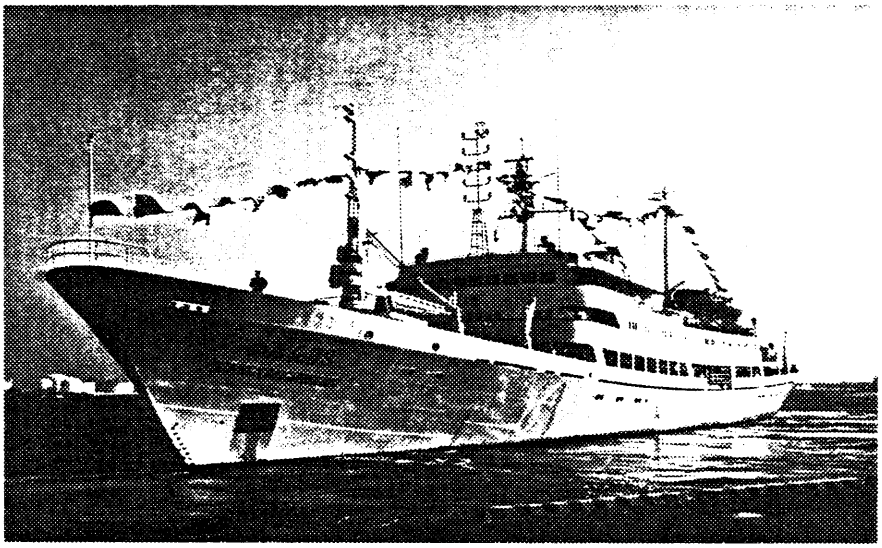
June 1986.

- Keifu Maru : Marine meteorological observations in Eastern China Sea from June to July 1986.



'R/V Xiangyanghong 09' of China State Oceanic Administration (SOA)

The data processing will be carried out jointly, and the data obtained by these vessels will be mutually exchanged between the two countries.

INAUGURATION OF OCEAN CURRENT INFORMATION SERVICE

Hydrographic Department of Japan

The Hydrographic Department of Japan is now trying to issue a weekly 'Ocean Current Information Chart' showing velocities and paths of the Kuroshio and other major currents around Japan estimated one week ahead, in response to the demand of various sectors such as shipping, fisheries, etc.

The Department has so far been supplying users in general with ocean current and water temperature data obtained by the survey vessels, patrol vessels as well as fishing boats and other volanteering ships through the media of Notices to Mariners, biweekly bulletin, radio broadcasts, and facsimile services twice a month. In recent years, however, many users of

such oceanographic data and information have been expressing their demands for more frequent supply and for the ocean current information predicted, especially as to the Kuroshio current, which has a great influence on environmental features, fishing operations and other maritime activities around Japan.

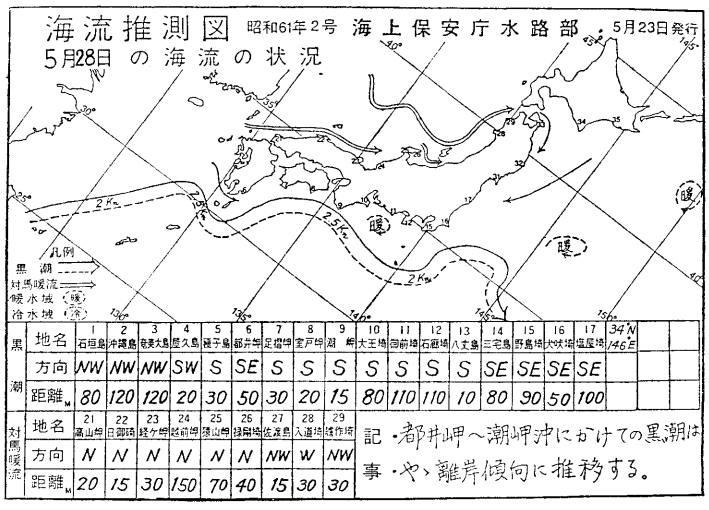
Since 1984 when the acoustic Doppler current meter became available for current observations and equipped on survey vessels and patrol vessels of the Maritime Safety Agency, the observation capability has been strengthened and data quantity has been greatly increasing by leaps and bounds. By fully utilizing the ocean current data thus obtained and those accumulated for the long space of years as well as results of studies and analyses, it now becomes possible to predict and estimate ocean currents to a certain degree. Such progress in background and in order to cope with the demand of users, the Department will start to issue the 'Ocean Current Information Chart' predicted for one week ahead and published on every preceding Friday as follows:

(1) Commencement of service: Early in October 1986

(2) Service media:

i) To be supplied to users at the service corner of the Department.

ii) To be promulgated on facsimile broadcasting every Sunday and Monday followed.



Ocean Current Information Chart issued on trial

The figure given above is a scale-down copy of the 'Ocean Current Information Chart, No. 2' showing current paths and directions estimated for the day of 28th May, issued on trial on 23 May 1986.

On the figure, the northern limit of the Kuroshio stream (current speed: 1 - 5 kn) is shown by a solid line of curves, while the southern limit by a dashed line because the latter limit may vary according to sea areas, but it does not necessarily mean that the zone between the solid and dashed lines is a width of the Kuroshio current. It is said that the strongest stream of the Kuroshio flows about 10 - 20 miles south of its northern limit. Main streams (speed: 0.5 - 1.5 kn) of Tusima Current are shown by a double-solid line. The warm water mass is shown by a dashed line, while the cold water mass by a chain line. The table shows locations of probable strongest streams of the Kuroshio and Tusima Current on the day (28 May) of prediction, giving directions in cardinal points and distances in miles from certain land points or islands.

PACIFIC RIDGE MOVING BETWEEN PLATES

The Hydrographic Department of Japan conducted a submarine topographic and geophysical survey using the survey vessel Takuyo in and around Izu-Ogasawara Trench in December last year and February this year. The results of the survey have revealed that a ridge on the floor of the Pacific Ocean that was originally on the Pacific plate is moving longitudenaly onto the Philippine Sea plate at the Izu-Ogasawara Trench about 540 miles SSE of Tokyo.

The discovery was made in a survey of the western part of the 'Uyeda Ridge' in the sea about 65 miles E of Titi Sima of the Ogasawara Islands. The Uyeda Ridge, which is reported as 150 km long, 18 km wide on average and some 4200 m high, on the 100 km thick Pacific plate is straddling the Izu-Ogasawara Trench and running onto the Philippine Sea plate. This is