Monitoring the current inner part of the Suruga Bay in Japan

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Abstract

The Suruga Bay is located on the southern coast of the main island of Japan and faces the Pacific Ocean. The Suruga Bay has a particularly deep canal, called Suruga Trough, which extends from the Nankai Trough. The Suruga Bay has a large topographic gradient from the deepest point of the bay (about 2400m depth) to the peak of Mt. Fuji (about 3300m height). The coastal oceanographic condition in the Pacific side of Japan is significantly affected by the fluctuation of the Kuroshio current. The Kuroshio is one of the principal western boundary currents in the world's oceans, like the Gulf Stream, but the path of the Kuroshio meanders widely, i.e., with a very large amplitude, unlike the Gulf Stream. The warm water from the Kuroshio frequently intrudes into Suruga Bay because of the variation of the path. In this seminar, I'll talk about the influence of Kuroshio on the flow and coastal ecosystem of Suruga Bay.