

## **Re: Action SCUFN 19/6.2 Saimei Seamount**

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### **1. Introduction**

This is to reply to Action SCUFN 19/6.2, which was to deal with the Emperor Seamount Chain. One of these, the Saimei Seamount (“Saimei” was a historical Japanese emperor), was proposed by JCFUN to replace for the Russian-proposed “Maksyuta Seamount” in SCUFN-18 in 2005. This was also the case for the Temmu Seamount (for the Russian-proposed “Erdman Seamount” in SCUFN-18 in 2005).

From SCUFN-19 report, the sub-committee noted that *“The chairman stated that the consensus from SCUFN/18 was that future names for unnamed seamounts along the Emperor Seamount Chain should be reserved for Japanese emperors. A. Theberge said that Robert Deitz named the Emperor Seamount Chain, and it was his intent that features along the chain be named for Japanese emperors. The HDNO re-submission for Erdman Seamount (doc. SCUFN19-5Ca) was not supported”*.

However, there was no good bathymetry data was available for the proposed “Saimei Seamount” except for low resolution Russian data. Therefore the sub-committee put this feature into a pending status, and asked N. Cherkis and Y. Ohara to look for multibeam bathymetry and magnetic data to define the proposed Saimei Seamount.

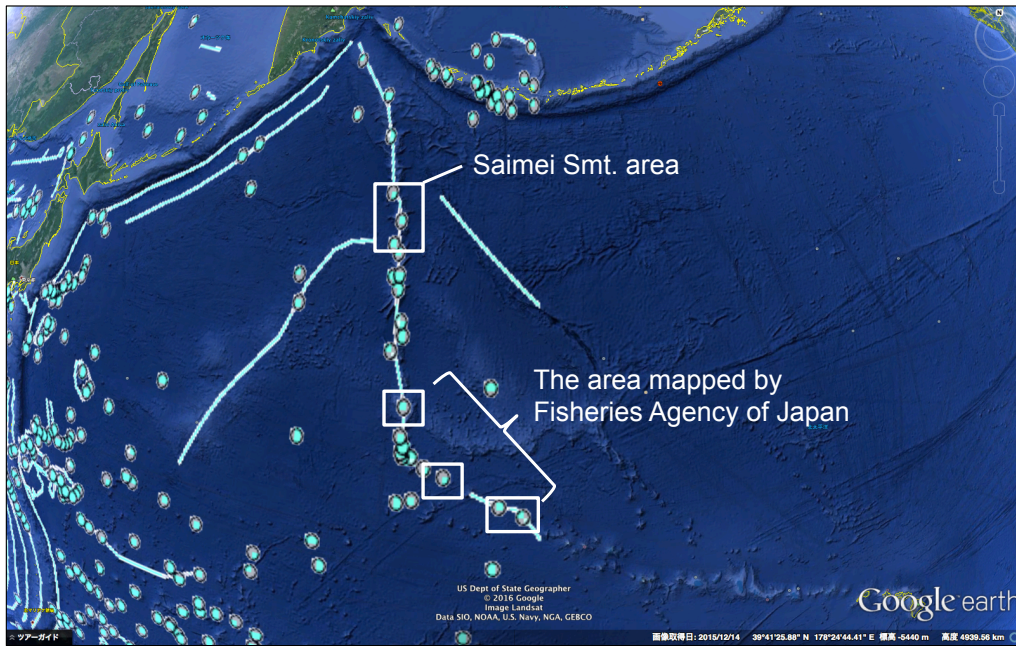
### **2. Reply**

There have been several expeditions to the Emperor Seamount Chain region by two Japanese agencies. One was Fisheries Agency of Japan, and the other was Japan Agency for Marine-Earth Science and Technology (JAMSTEC).

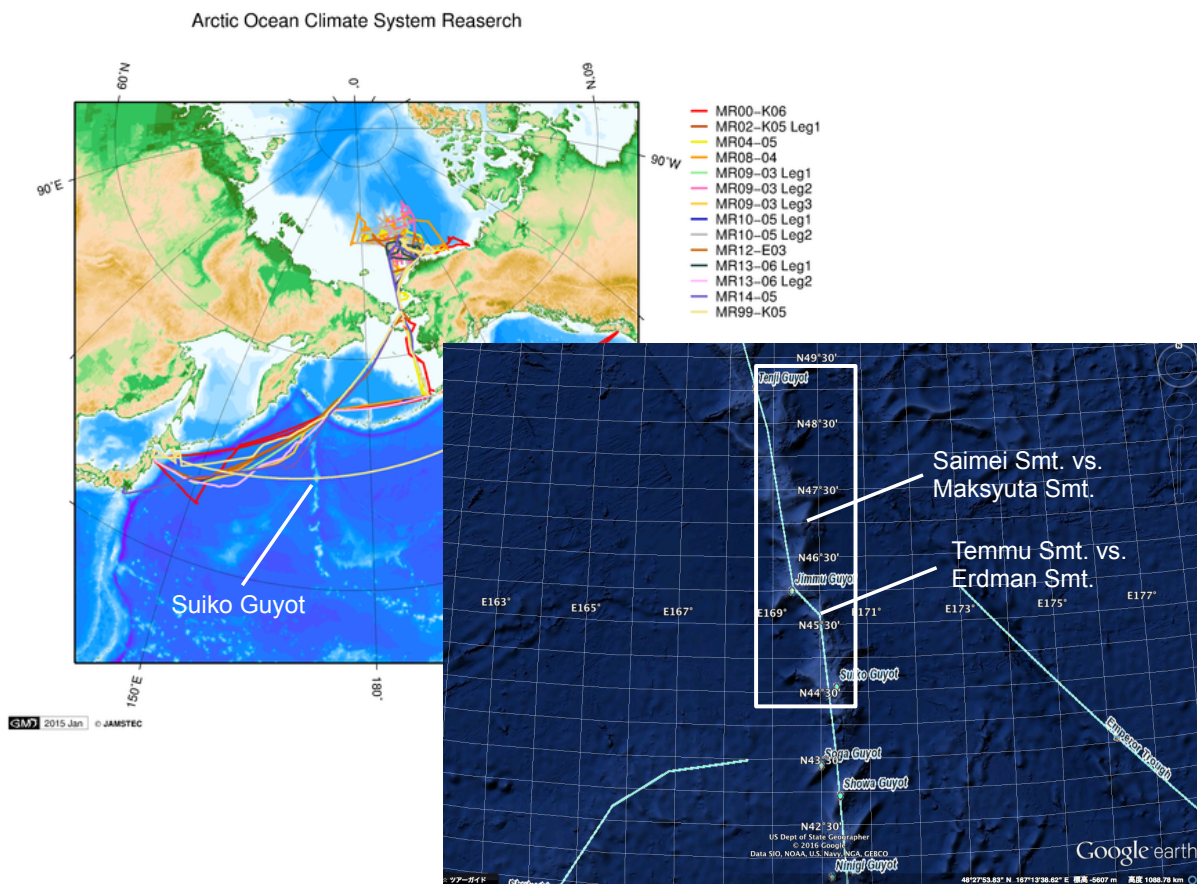
Unfortunately, the areas mapped by Fisheries Agency of Japan were the southern to southeastern part of the Emperor Seamount Chain, not relevant to the “Saimei Seamount” area.

This is also the case for the cruises by JAMSTEC. JAMSTEC has 14 cruises by R/V Mirai to the Arctic Sea area so far. During the transit from Japan to the Arctic Sea area, parts of the Emperor Seamount Chain was mapped with multibeam echo sounder of R/V Mirai. However, most cruises passed by the north of the Saimei Seamount area, and one cruise crossed the Suiko Guyot, just south of Temmu Seamount.

In conclusion, we still do not have multibeam bathymetry data for the Saimei and Temmu Seamounts, and we are willing to withdraw the proposal for Saimei Seamount and acknowledge that the name be removed from the list of pending names.



**Fig. 1. Emperor Seamount Chain, showing the Saimei Seamount area and the area mapped by Fisheries Agency of Japan.**



**Fig. 2. The cruise tracks by R/V Mirai (JAMSTEC) and the close-up view of the Saimei Seamount area.**