

Much of Pacific Ocean Threatened by Fukushima Releases, an Area Covering 1/3 of the Globe – IAEA Begins Testing

By [ENENews](#)

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[Marshall Islands Journal](#), Jul 18, 2014 (emphasis added): **Seawater check for radioactivity**... the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) visited the Marshall Islands earlier this month to train local officials to **sample seawater for radioactive cesium**... the IAEA Project [is] called "*Marine benchmark study on the possible impact of the Fukushima radioactive releases in the Asia-Pacific Region.*"... During a field exercise on July 2, two sets of seawater samples were collected... The samples were collected on filter cartridges coated with chemicals that will bond to the cesium element... **This is the start of monitoring Marshall Islands seawater for cesium radioactivity which will be carried out every three months...**



Ambassador Glyn Davies
Permanent U.S. Representative to the IAEA

Member States in the region are understandably concerned for the safety of their marine environments [and] how recent events in Japan may affect their food and water resources... an urgent need... the United States will immediately make available \$400,000 for this new regional, Fukushima-related project.

[IAEA Board of Governors Meeting](#), Ambassador

Glyn Davies, Permanent U.S. Representative to the IAEA, 2011: Today the Secretariat has presented to us a new Technical Cooperation project entitled "*Marine benchmark study on the possible impact of the Fukushima radioactive releases in the Asia-Pacific Region.*"... **Member States in the region are understandably concerned for the safety of their marine environments.** The IAEA has unique expertise to offer in helping them to assess how recent events in Japan may **affect their food and water resources**... The United States fully supports this project... While the Secretariat has demonstrated admirable flexibility and agility in assembling this project quickly to meet an **urgent need**, we recognize... extra-budgetary resources are required... My delegation is pleased to announce that the **United States will immediately make available \$400,000 for this new regional, Fukushima-related project**... We hope this contribution will allow the project **to move forward without delay**...

[IAEA Technical Cooperation Programme 2011-15](#): *Marine benchmark study on the possible impact of the Fukushima radioactive releases in the Asia-Pacific Region*... **this radioactive contamination could be transported and circulated through the Pacific Ocean**... Member States have expressed concern about the possible impact of these releases on their

coastal zones... An **urgent** and harmonised regional **approach is essential**... **The area potentially affected may encompass much of the Pacific Ocean, which covers one third of the area of the globe.**



REGIONAL PROJECT DOCUMENT

Marine benchmark study on the possible impact of the Fukushima radioactive releases in the Asia-Pacific Region

“The area potentially affected may encompass much of the **Pacific Ocean**, which covers one third of the area of the globe.”

[IAEA Coordinated Research Activities in 2014-2015](#) (pdf): *Benchmark Ocean Models for the Dispersion and Radiological Impact of Released Radionuclides from the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant* – The accident at the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant released huge amounts of radioactive substances into the Pacific Ocean. These radionuclides **will be transferred and dispersed over the Pacific Ocean during the next years**. There are a number of different ocean dispersion models to predict the dispersion of pollutants... and uptake in biota and **to** assess the potential radiation exposure to humans and the environment... The predictions can be **used for recommendations for the Pacific Member States for measures with regard to seafood consumption or export or import of marine food**...

[IAEA Coordinated Research Activities in 2015](#) (pdf): *Benchmark Ocean Models for the Dispersion and Radiological Impact of Radionuclides Released from Nuclear Power Plants in Emergency Situations*... These radionuclides are **being dispersed and transferred through the ocean**, and numerous studies of these processes have been carried out... to predict the behaviour of the radionuclides and, further on, to **estimate doses to biota and human populations**... The **Fukushima discharges will be used as a benchmark study for the Pacific Ocean**. The simulated data will be compared with actual measurement results...

See also: [Paper: IAEA to monitor radioactive substances 7,000 km from Fukushima](#)

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