



Morphological and sedimentological characters of the East Sea (Japan Sea) continental margin

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Consecutive geophysical and geological surveys were conducted in the southwestern margin of the East Sea (Japan Sea) in Korea in order to investigate the complex patterns of morphological and sedimentological characters as well as to understand their relationship with various oceanographic agents. A total of 4,200 line-km seismic records and 172 samples were analyzed so that a series of maps could be made and compared. Based on the results it is revealed that the study area could be divided into five unique subenvironments according to slope changes and surface sediments; flat monotonous shelf (inner and outer), steep and irregular slope (upper and lower) and gentle basin plain. Tectonic movement, sea level change, earthquake, and regional current system are seemingly the major controlling factors to formulate the regional scale morphology and sediment distribution pattern.