BENTHIC FORAMINIFERAL PALEOHYDROLOGY IN THE SOUTHEASTERN OKHOTSK SEA OVER THE LAST 26 OOO YEARS

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Benthic foraminifera in sediments core obtained in southeastern part of Okhotsk sea from the depth of 1273 m were investigated to evaluate changes in bottom water hydrology over the last 26 000 years in the region. At present day the depth of the site corresponds to waters with temperature about 2,0-2,5 C and low oxygen content - 0,5-0,8 ml/l derived from the inflow of Intermediate North Pacific Waters. The Last Glacial-earliest deglacial assemblages between 26000 and 12180 years dominated by Alabaminella weddellensis and Uvigerina senticosa had been associated with well-oxygenated bottom waters. Oxygenation of waters during deglaciation and early Holocene (12180-6000 years) remained close to that of Glacial age. The appearance of Cassidulina laevigata in few numbers at 12180 years suggests slightly warming of bottom waters, and contemporaneous sharp increasing content of Uvigerina peregrina is evidence of enhanced surface waters productivity.The cooling events at 8000 years and between 7000 and 6000 years are marked by dissapearance of Cassidulina laevigata and decreasing share of Uvigerina peregrina.Sharp change in benthic foraminiferal community occured at 6000 years implying significantly warming and decreasing ventilation of bottom waters.Between 6000 and 2500 years in foraminiferal assemblages dominate Bolivina spissa, Cassidulina laevigata and Uvigerina peregrina.The initiation of recent water circulation pattern in the region occured only at the 2 500 years BP. At this time the dominant species in assemblages became Cassidulina teretis and Uvigerina peregrina with low share of Cassidulina laevigata.This work was supported by RFFI, Project 97-05-64924.