

Seismogenic plate boundary zone east off NE Japan

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Subduction of the Pacific plate beneath the NE Japan arc causes extremely high seismic activity along the plate boundary zone east off NE Japan. Recent seismic and GPS observations provide more detailed information on the variation of the coupling along the plate boundary both in space and in time. Seismic profiling studies made in this region suggests that the inhomogeneous structure in the plate boundary zone affects the slip pattern there. Thus we are now at the gateway to much deeper understanding of the subduction process in this arc. Here we survey the present situation of the research on this topic.