

## Seafloor spreading system in the northern Mariana Trough

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Bathymetrical mapping with side-scan images using SeaBeam 2112 multi-narrow-beam echo sounder, onboard magnetic vector measurements, and gravity measurements were conducted in the northern part of the Mariana Trough between N19deg 15min and N22deg 30min during the JAMSTEC "Kairei" KR98-12 cruise in last December. Transition from rifting to seafloor spreading occurs at about 22N. The spreading system is segmented into relatively short ridges, and shows structures characteristic of slow-spreading ridges.