

Long-term ocean bottom pressure measurement and acoustic ranging across the spreading axis of the southern East Pacific Rise

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We started long-term seafloor pressure measurement and acoustic ranging across the spreading axis of the southern East Pacific Rise at 18°25.5'S in July 1997, and successfully recovered the instruments in September 1998. The instruments were deployed on the axis and on the hills on both sides during adive of "Shinkai 6500". Differential pressure variation between the central and eastern instruments shows almost constant drift; it seems that the drift rate was slightly different from September to December 1997. Although correction for the effect of temperature variation on the central-east acoustic ranging has not been finished, the observed data indicate constant range or slight shortening; we have not fixed the problem of instrumental drift.