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Bottom environmental changes at sand dredged area an example -at the south of Ohmishima Island, Ehime prefecture-

# Naomichi Ide[1]; Yoshio Inouchi[2]; Atsuko Amano[3]; Toshiki Nakanishi[4]

[1] Human Sci, Waseda Univ.; [2] Human, Waseda Univ.; [3] CMES, Ehime Univ.; [4] Human Sciences, Waseda Univ.

Sand dredging in the Seto Inland Sea had been carried out since 1960's until it was prohibited in 2006. An area off Ohmishima Island is one of the dredged areas and the one where sand dredging was finally stopped. In general, after the sand dredging, sand bank sometimes disappears, bottom sediments usually turns into gravelly bottom and large damages on fishery resources are remained. After sand dredging was stopped, all areas are abandoned without doing any restoration measures. On the other hand, in some areas, minor recovery of bottom sediments are reported.

We are tracing bottom environmental changes by carrying out continuous depth measuring and sediment samplings at south off Ohmishima Island where sand dredging is prohibited since April 2006.

In 2008, we took bottom sediments at 46 sites which are very near to those in 2003. The result shows that sediments became coarser at sites where sand dredging was carried out until recently and became finer at areas surrounding them. These facts indicate the influence of sand dredging carried out until recently.