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Change in seismic activity in the northern part of Tohoku district after the 2011 Off the Pacific Coast of Tohoku Earthq

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We have investigated the seismic activity in the northern part of Tohoku district after the 2011 Off the Pacific Coast of Tohoku Earthquake on the basis of our manually picked locations. In the inland area the seismicity increased drastically but the activity is limited in some small clusters. The previously known active zones of seismicity are mostly inactive after the mainshock. This quiescence seems consistent with the Coulomb stress change due to the rupture of mainshock. Focal mechanisms for three major inland earthquakes in Akita prefecture are of strike-slip type, and an earthquake in the eastern part of Aomori prefecture is a type of normal faulting. These focal mechanisms are different from the typical mechanisms in the active zones before the mainshock. This suggests that the stress state within the inland crust has changed so that the previously common reverse faulting is unfavorable to a new state.

Keywords: 2011 Off the Pacific Coast of Tohoku Earthquake, hypocenter distribution, aftershock activity, focal mechanisms, stress change