

The land surface mildly contaminated by Hg

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Abstract. The Hg content in the waters of Jiaozhou Bay was within 0.010-0.060 $\mu\text{g/L}$ in May, September and October 1993, which conforms to the seawater quality standards of Class I and II. It indicates that in the entire waters of Jiaozhou Bay, there were some water areas that did not get contaminated by Hg while some areas got mild contamination by Hg in May, September and October. In May, the variation range of Hg content in the waters of Jiaozhou Bay was 0.010-0.046 $\mu\text{g/L}$. In September, it ranged within 0.007-0.011 $\mu\text{g/L}$. And in October, the content of Hg detected in the waters of Jiaozhou Bay was 0.060 $\mu\text{g/L}$. There were three sources to transport Hg content, open sea currents, Licun river and the surface runoff. The Hg content from the transportation of open sea currents was 0.046 $\mu\text{g/L}$, from the Licun river was 0.011 $\mu\text{g/L}$ and from the surface runoff was 0.060 $\mu\text{g/L}$. This paper builds a model block diagram to present the different paths and Hg contents that were input in the Jiaozhou Bay. In May, the open sea currents did not get any contamination of Hg; in August, the Licun river did not get any contamination of Hg as well; while in September, the surface runoff was mildly contaminated by Hg. The author concluded two points about the migration of Hg content: 1) Human activities discharge Hg to the land so that the Hg content could directly run to the ocean through the surface runoff. As the Hg content transported by surface runoff was relatively high, it resulted that the nearshore waters got mild contamination of Hg content. On the other hand, the surface runoff transported Hg to rivers, resulting relatively low content of Hg. Then rivers delivered the Hg content to nearshore waters, leading to a non-contaminated condition of rivers. 2) Human activities input Hg content to the ocean in a long period, resulting the increase of Hg content in the ocean. As the accumulation of Hg content in the ocean, the ocean got close to the mild contamination status.

1 Introduction

With the release of large amounts of Hg from land to the environment by many industries, Hg content has appeared on land, atmosphere, and oceans. The pollution degree and source of Hg content in the coastal waters has become everyone's concern [1-14]. Based on the survey data in 1993, the author studied the content, horizontal distribution and sources of Hg in the water body of Jiaozhou Bay. Further the author determined the water quality, source background and quantity of Hg in the water body of Jiaozhou Bay, providing scientific theoretical basis for the protection of the marine environment and the maintenance of sustainable ecological development.

2 Survey waters, materials and methods

2.1 The natural environment of Jiaozhou Bay

Jiaozhou Bay is located in the southern part of Shandong Peninsula. Its geographical position is between 120°04'-120°23'E and 35°58'-36°18'N. It is bounded by the line connecting Tuan Island and Xuejia Island, and is

connected to the Yellow Sea. With an area of about 446km² and an average water depth of about 7 m, it is a typical semi-enclosed bay. There are more than a dozen rivers entering the sea in Jiaozhou Bay, among which the Dagu River, Yang River and the Haibo River, Licun River and Loushan River in Qingdao City with larger runoff and sand content. These rivers are all seasonal rivers, and the river hydrological characteristics have obvious seasonal changes [12, 13].

2.2 Materials and methods

The survey data of PHC content in Jiaozhou Bay in May, September and October 1993 used in this study are provided by the North Sea Monitoring Center of the State Oceanic Administration. Seven stations were set up in the waters of Jiaozhou Bay to take water samples: stations H3101, H3102, H3103, H3104, H3105, H3106 and H3107 (Figure 1). Sampling was conducted three times in May, September and October 1993, respectively. Water samples were taken by the water depth (surface and bottom layers were taken when the depth >10m, and only the surface layer was taken when the depth <10m) for investigation and sampling. The survey of Hg content in Jiaozhou Bay water body was carried out according to the national

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standard method, recorded in the national Marine Monitoring Code (1991) [14].

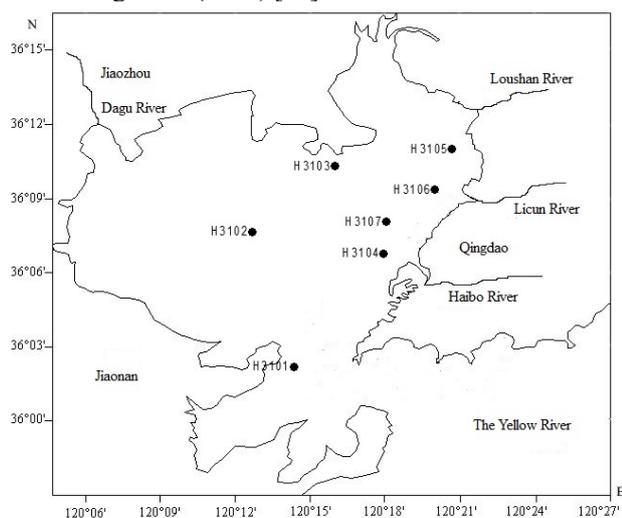


Fig.1 Investigation sites in Jiaozhou Bay

3 Results

3.1 Hg content

In terms of Hg content in the ocean, the nation has put forward the national seawater quality standards for Class I (0.05 $\mu\text{g/L}$), Class II (0.20 $\mu\text{g/L}$), and Class IV (0.50 $\mu\text{g/L}$). In May, September and October, the range of Hg content was 0.010-0.060 $\mu\text{g/L}$, which had achieved the seawater quality standards of Class I and II.

In May, the variation range of Hg content in the waters of Jiaozhou Bay was 0.010-0.046 $\mu\text{g/L}$ (Table 1), where the high value appeared in the month waters of Jiaozhou Bay. In the mouth waters of Jiaozhou Bay, station H3101, the Hg content in the waters was relatively high, which was 0.046 $\mu\text{g/L}$, conforming to the seawater quality standard of Class I (0.05 $\mu\text{g/L}$). Except for the month waters, the Hg content was relatively low, less than 0.034 $\mu\text{g/L}$, in other water areas such as the northeastern part, the northern part and the central part. It indicates that the water quality in the northeastern area, northern area and the central area, in terms of Hg, was great and achieved the national seawater quality standard of Class I.

In September, the variation range of Hg content in the waters of Jiaozhou Bay was 0.007-0.011 $\mu\text{g/L}$ (Table 1), where the high value appeared in the coastal waters of the estuary of Licun river. In the coastal waters of the estuary of Licun river, station H3106, the Hg content in the waters was very low, which was 0.011 $\mu\text{g/L}$, conforming to the seawater quality standard of Class I (0.05 $\mu\text{g/L}$). Except for the coastal waters in the estuary of Licun river, the Hg content was relatively low, less than 0.008 $\mu\text{g/L}$, in other water areas such as the northern part and the southern part, conforming to the seawater quality standard of Class I. In terms of Hg, the waters quality was great and achieved the national seawater quality standard of Class I.

In October, the variation range of Hg content in the waters of Jiaozhou Bay was 0.060 $\mu\text{g/L}$ (Table 1), where

the high value appeared in the coaster waters of the north of Jiaozhou Bay. In the coaster waters of the north of Jiaozhou Bay, station H3103, the Hg content in the waters was relatively high, which was 0.060 $\mu\text{g/L}$, conforming to the seawater quality standard of Class II (0.05 $\mu\text{g/L}$). It indicates that the water quality in the northern coaster area, in terms of Hg, achieved the national seawater quality standard of Class II (5.00 $\mu\text{g/L}$).

Therefore, the variation range of Hg content in the waters of Jiaozhou Bay in May, September and October was 0.010-0.060 $\mu\text{g/L}$, conforming to the seawater quality standards of Class I and II. It indicates that in terms of Hg, the waters quality in the entire waters of Jiaozhou Bay in May, September and October achieved seawater quality standard of Class I and II. The water did not get any pollution and mild contamination by Hg.

Table 1 The surface water quality in Jiaozhou bay in May, September and October

| | May | September | October |
|--|-------------|-------------|---------|
| Hg content in seawaters/ $\mu\text{g}\cdot\text{L}^{-1}$ | 0.010-0.046 | 0.007-0.011 | 0.060 |
| National seawater quality standards | Class I | Class I | Class I |

3.2 Horizontal distribution in the surface layer

In May, in the mouth waters of Jiaozhou Bay, station H3101, the Hg content reached a relatively high level of 0.046 $\mu\text{g/L}$. A high-content area of Hg was formed with the mouth water area as the center, forming a series of parallel lines with different gradients. The Hg content decreased from the high content of 0.046 $\mu\text{g/L}$ in the center to the bay along the gradient, to 0.030 $\mu\text{g/L}$ in the eastern waters of the bay, to 0.010 $\mu\text{g/L}$ in the northeastern waters (Figure 2).

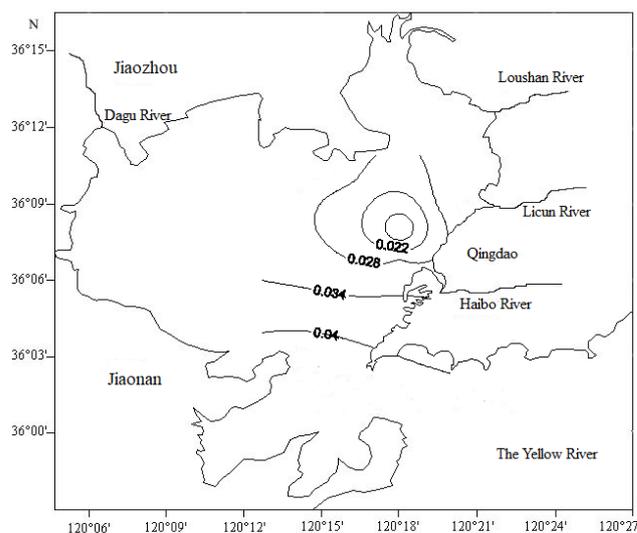


Fig.2 Hg content distribution in the surface layer of Jiaozhou Bay in May ($\mu\text{g/L}$)

In September, in the coastal waters of the Licun River in Jiaozhou Bay, station H3106, the Hg content reached a relatively high value, 0.011 $\mu\text{g/L}$, forming a high Hg

content area with the eastern waters as the center, and a series of semi-concentric circles with different gradients. The Hg content decreased from the high content of 0.011 $\mu\text{g/L}$ in the center along the gradient to 0.007 $\mu\text{g/L}$ in the southwest waters (Figure 3).

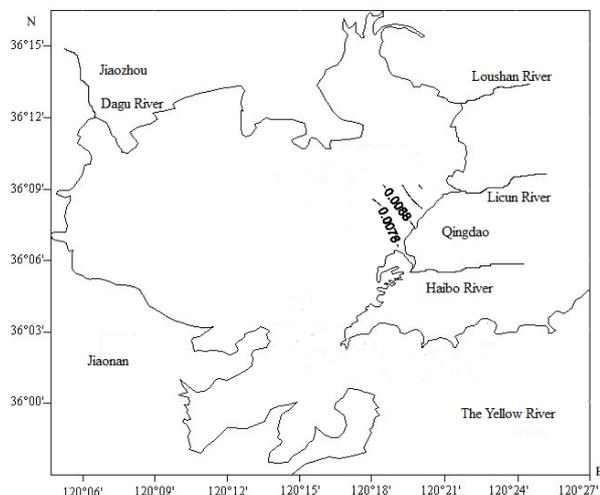


Fig.3 Hg content distribution in the surface layer of Jiaozhou Bay in September ($\mu\text{g/L}$)

In October, in the coastal waters of northern part of Jiaozhou Bay, station H3103, the Hg content in the water body was relatively high, 0.060 $\mu\text{g/L}$. A high content area of Hg was formed with the northern waters of the bay as the center, forming a series of parallel lines with different gradients. The Hg content decreased from the high content of 0.060 $\mu\text{g/L}$ in the center to the waters of the southeast of the bay along the gradient.

4 Discussion

4.1 Water quality

The variation range of Hg content in the waters of Jiaozhou Bay in May, September and October was 0.010-0.060 $\mu\text{g/L}$, conforming to the seawater quality standards of Class I and II. It indicates that in terms of Hg, in the entire waters of Jiaozhou Bay in May, September and October, some water areas did not get any contamination by Hg, while some areas were mildly contaminated by Hg.

In May, the variation range of Hg content in the waters of Jiaozhou Bay was 0.010-0.046 $\mu\text{g/L}$, indicating that the waters of Jiaozhou Bay did not get any contamination by Hg. In the mouth waters of Jiaozhou Bay, the Hg content reached a relatively high value, 0.046 $\mu\text{g/L}$, which indicated that the water quality achieved the seawater quality standard of Class I and the water did not get any contamination by Hg. Except for the waters in the southwest of Jiaozhou Bay, the Hg content was relatively low in other parts of Jiaozhou Bay, far meeting the seawater quality standard of Class I. The water was clean and did not get any contamination of Hg.

In September, the variation range of Hg content in the waters of Jiaozhou Bay was 0.007-0.011 $\mu\text{g/L}$, indicating that the waters of Jiaozhou Bay did not get any

contamination by Hg. In the coastal water of the estuary of Licun river, the Hg content reached a very low level, 0.011 $\mu\text{g/L}$, which indicated the water quality achieved the seawater quality standard of Class I and the water did not get any contamination by Hg. Except for the coastal waters of the estuary of Licun river, the Hg content was much lower, far meeting the seawater quality standard of Class I. The water was clean and did not get any contamination of Hg.

In October, the variation range of Hg content in the waters of Jiaozhou Bay was 0.060 $\mu\text{g/L}$, which indicated that the waters of Jiaozhou Bay did get contaminated by Hg. The Hg content in the northern waters of Jiaozhou Bay reached a relatively high level, 0.060 $\mu\text{g/L}$, presenting that the water quality achieved the seawater quality standard of Class II and the water quality was mildly contaminated by Hg.

4.2 Sources

In May, it formed a high Hg content area in the mouth of southwest of Jiaozhou Bay, which indicated that the Hg was sourced from the transportation of open sea currents with a relatively low content of 0.046 $\mu\text{g/L}$.

In September, it formed a high Hg content area in the coastal waters of the estuary of Licun river, which indicated that the Hg was sourced from the transportation of Licun river with a relatively low content of 0.011 $\mu\text{g/L}$.

In October, it formed a high Hg content area in the coastal waters of the north of Jiaozhou Bay, which indicated that the Hg was sourced from the surface runoff with a relatively high content of 0.060 $\mu\text{g/L}$.

Therefore, the Hg content transported by the open sea currents to Jiaozhou Bay was 0.046 $\mu\text{g/L}$ in May, conforming to the national seawater quality standard of Class I, 0.05 $\mu\text{g/L}$. It indicated that the open sea currents did not get any contamination of Hg (Table 2). The Hg content transported by the Licun river was 0.011 $\mu\text{g/L}$ in September, conforming to the national seawater quality standard of Class I, 0.05 $\mu\text{g/L}$. It indicated that the Licun river did not get any contamination of Hg (Table 2). The Hg content transported by the surface runoff was 0.060 $\mu\text{g/L}$ in October, conforming to the national seawater quality standard of Class II, 0.05 $\mu\text{g/L}$. It indicated that the land surface runoff did get mild contamination of Hg (Table 2).

Table 2 The Hg contents from different sources in Jiaozhou bay

| Time | May | August | October |
|--|----------------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Various sources | Open sea currents transportation | Licun River transportation | Surface runoff transportation |
| Hg content / $\mu\text{g}\cdot\text{L}^{-1}$ | 0.046 | 0.011 | 0.060 |

4.3 The model block diagram of transportation

There were three sources to transport Hg content, open sea currents, Licun river and the land surface runoff. The Hg content from the transportation of open sea currents was 0.046 $\mu\text{g/L}$, from the Licun river was 0.011 $\mu\text{g/L}$ and from

the surface runoff was $0.060\mu\text{g/L}$. This paper establishes a block diagram to present different paths and contents of Hg during the input process (Figure 4). Thus, it is able to quantitatively reveal the migration of Hg content through the discharge of human activities to land and ocean.

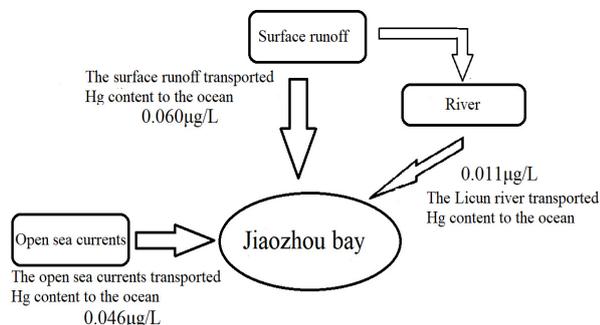


Fig.4 Main sources of Hg content transported to Jiaozhou bay ($\mu\text{g/L}$)

In May, the Hg content transported by the open sea currents was $0.046\mu\text{g/L}$, revealing that the Hg content transported by this way was relatively low and the open sea currents did not get contaminated by Hg.

In September, the Hg content transported by the Licun River was $0.011\mu\text{g/L}$, revealing that the Hg content transported by this way was very low and the Licun River did not get contaminated by Hg.

In October, the Hg content transported by the land surface runoff was $0.060\mu\text{g/L}$, revealing that the Hg content transported by this way was relatively high and the land surface runoff did get mildly contaminated by Hg.

4.4 The variation in content transported

In May, the Hg content transported by the open sea currents was $0.046\mu\text{g/L}$, and the open sea currents did not get contaminated by Hg. This reveals that after a long period of time, humans input Hg into the ocean, resulting in an increase in the Hg content of the ocean. Although it was not polluted by the Hg content, the Hg content made the ocean close to mild contamination.

In September, the Hg content transported by the Licun River was $0.011\mu\text{g/L}$, and the Licun River did not get contaminated by Hg. This reveals that humans first discharged Hg to the land, and then Hg was transported through rivers to the coastal waters of the ocean, and then the Hg content was relatively low when imported into the ocean through a long path.

In October, the Hg content transported by the land surface runoff was $0.060\mu\text{g/L}$, and the land surface runoff did get mildly contaminated by Hg. This reveals that the Hg content discharged by humans to the land was relatively high, and the land surface was at least slightly polluted by the Hg content. The direct discharge of Hg content to the ocean through surface runoff was also relatively high. In this way, the coastal waters in the northern part of Jiaozhou Bay were mildly contaminated by Hg content.

Therefore, the author concluded two conclusions: 1) From the perspective of the path of discharge, human activities discharge Hg to the land so that the Hg content

could directly run to the ocean through the surface runoff. As the Hg content transported by surface runoff was relatively high, it resulted that the nearshore waters got mild contamination of Hg content. On the other hand, the surface runoff transported Hg to rivers, resulting relatively low content of Hg. Then rivers delivered the Hg content to nearshore waters, leading to a non-contaminated condition of rivers. 2) Human activities import Hg content to the ocean in a long period, resulting the increase of Hg content in the ocean. As the accumulation of Hg content in the ocean, the ocean got close to the mild contamination status.

5 Conclusion

The variation range of Hg content in the waters of Jiaozhou Bay in May, September and October was $0.010\text{--}0.060\mu\text{g/L}$, conforming to the seawater quality standards of Class I and II. It indicates that in terms of Hg, in the entire waters of Jiaozhou Bay in May, September and October, some water areas did not get any contamination by Hg, while some areas were mildly contaminated by Hg.

In May, the variation range of Hg content in the waters of Jiaozhou Bay was $0.010\text{--}0.046\mu\text{g/L}$, indicating that the waters of Jiaozhou Bay did not get any contamination by Hg. In the mouth waters of Jiaozhou Bay, the Hg content reached a relatively high value, $0.046\mu\text{g/L}$, while in other parts of Jiaozhou Bay, the Hg content was relatively low.

In September, the variation range of Hg content in the waters of Jiaozhou Bay was $0.007\text{--}0.011\mu\text{g/L}$, indicating that the waters of Jiaozhou Bay did not get any contamination by Hg. In the coastal water of the estuary of Licun River, the Hg content reached a very low level, $0.011\mu\text{g/L}$, while in the other parts of Jiaozhou Bay, the Hg content was much lower.

In October, the variation range of Hg content in the waters of Jiaozhou Bay was $0.060\mu\text{g/L}$, which indicated that the waters of Jiaozhou Bay did get contaminated by Hg. The Hg content in the northern waters of Jiaozhou Bay reached a relatively high level, $0.060\mu\text{g/L}$, and the water quality was mildly contaminated by Hg.

There were three sources to transport Hg content, open sea currents, Licun River and the land surface runoff. The Hg content from the transportation of open sea currents was $0.046\mu\text{g/L}$, from the Licun River was $0.011\mu\text{g/L}$ and from the surface runoff was $0.060\mu\text{g/L}$. This paper establishes a block diagram to present different paths and contents of Hg during the input process. Thus, it is able to quantitatively reveal the migration of Hg content through the discharge of human activities to land and ocean.

Therefore, in May, the open sea currents did not get any contamination of Hg; in August, the Licun River did not get any contamination of Hg as well; while in September, the surface runoff was mildly contaminated by Hg.

The author concluded two points about the migration of Hg content: 1) Human activities discharge Hg to the land so that the Hg content could directly run to the ocean through the surface runoff. As the Hg content transported by surface runoff was relatively high, it resulted that the nearshore waters got mild contamination of Hg content. On the other hand, the surface runoff transported Hg to

rivers, resulting relatively low content of Hg. Then rivers delivered the Hg content to nearshore waters, leading to a non-contaminated condition of rivers. 2) Human activities input Hg content to the ocean in a long period, resulting the increase of Hg content in the ocean. As the accumulation of Hg content in the ocean, the ocean got close to the mild contamination status.

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