

Re: Action SCUFN 15 Items 46 & 47 (on the Raicho, Tancho & Toki Escarpments)

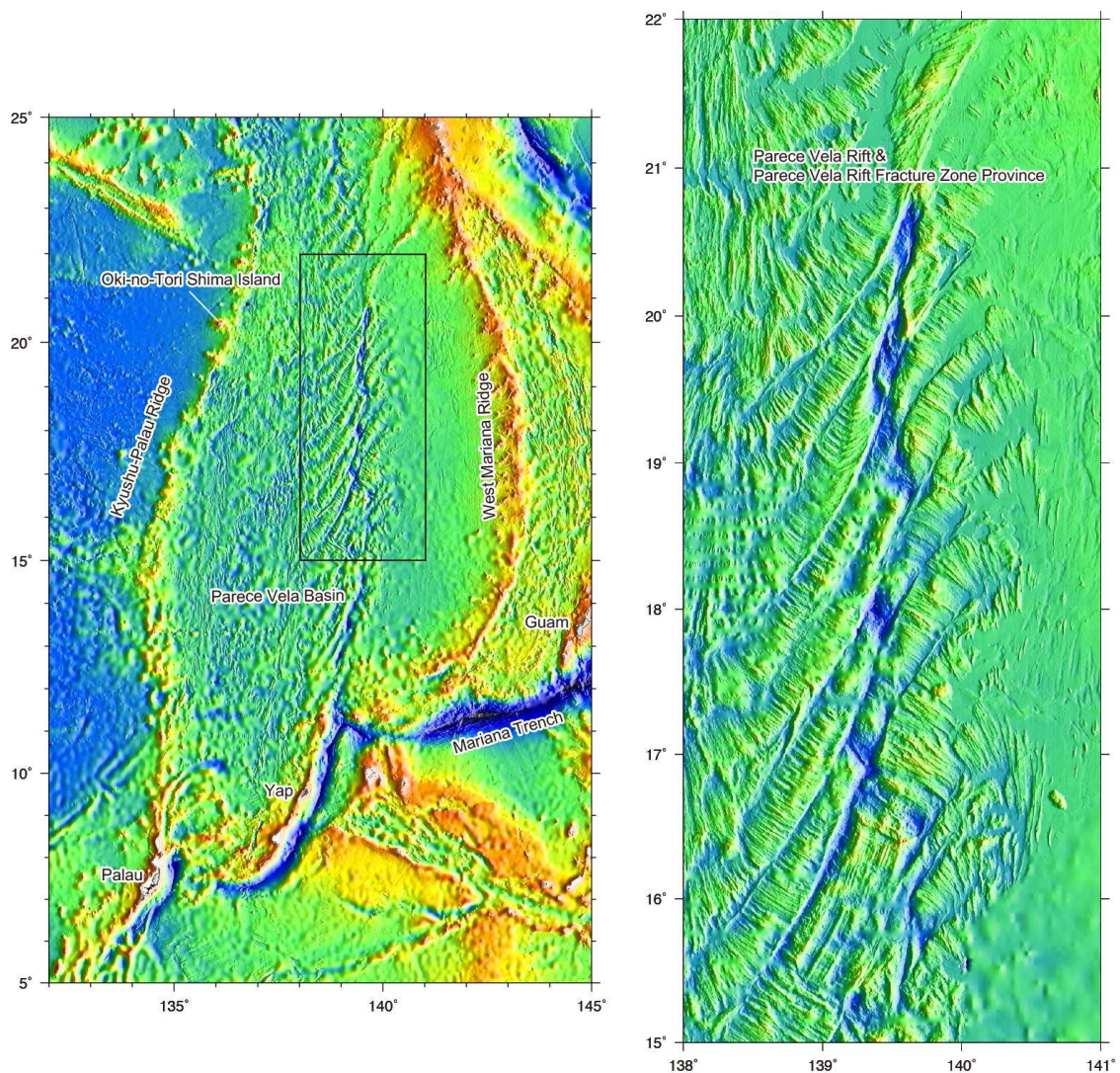
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These features, located in the Parece Vela Basin, were proposed by JCUFN in 2001 (at SCUFN-14, Tokyo), but deferred because “not topographically obvious” (see also SCUFN-15 report, Monaco).

During SCUFN-19 (2006, AWI), the decision was made as follows (see page 13-14): “Y. Ohara will officially propose names for the escarpments at SCUFN/20. As there may not be an appropriate generic term to adequately describe this kind of area, a proposal may need to be submitted to add a new generic term to Publication B-6. Meanwhile, the three unnamed escarpments to be kept in the reserve section of the GEBCO Gazetteer.”

It should be noted that we (JCUFN) failed to revisit this issue during the reviewing work task on the reserve section of the GEBCO Gazetteer that occurred last year, since these three features were dropped from the reserve section for unknown reason.



JCUFN now reconsidered these features and concluded that these should be named as “fracture zone”, instead of escarpment. Since these features are associated with the Parece Vela Rift, JCUFN also wants to submit a proposal for the Parece Vela Rift. Furthermore, since the Parece Vela Rift accompanies numerous fracture zones, JCUFN also defined the region as the “Parece Vela Rift Fracture Zone Province”.

In summary, as the reply to this action item, JCUFN prepared the followings:

- (1) The appropriate generic term for Raicho, Tancho and Toki Escarpments is “fracture zone”.
- (2) New proposal for “Parece Vela Rift”
- (3) New proposal for “Parece Vela Rift Fracture Zone Province”

Proposals for each name are presented on the separate documents.

46	RAICHO Escarpment	20°45'N 139°35'E	19°25'N 138°30'E	Relief: 900-1100m.
47	TANCHO Escarpment	20°20'N 139°32'E	18°50'N 138°50'E	Relief: 600-1700m.
48	TOKI Escarpment	20°25'N 139°55'E	18°00'N 138°30'E	

Deferred. Not topographically obvious.

Action: Japanese Committee on U.F.N. to confirm topographic significance of the above three features.

“Raicho” means Ptarmigan (Snow Grouse) in Japanese.

“Tancho” means Japanese Crane in Japanese.

“Toki” means Japanese Crested Ibis in Japanese.

Page 56 of SCUFN-14 Report (2001), Tokyo

Paragraph 4.2.4 (Bathymetric Chart N° 6722) – Items 46 and 47 – Confirmation of topographic significance for the following names is still awaited. SCUFN-14 considered that they were not topographically obvious. Secretary to follow-up. Meanwhile, to be kept in RESERVE Section of the Gazetteer.

- **Raicho Escarpment** (20°45'N - 139°35'E to 19°25'N - 138°30'E),
- **Tancho Escarpment** (20°20'N - 139°32'E to 18°50'N - 138°50'E), and
- **Toki Escarpment** (20°25'N - 139°55'E to 18°00'N - 138°30'E)

Page 7 of SCUFN-15 Report (2002), Monaco

§ 2.2.2. Raicho, Tancho, and Toki Escarpments, and associated troughs
PENDING

During SCUFN/14, naming of these three escarpments was deferred because they are not topographically obvious. The Japanese Continental Shelf Survey Project completed mapping the concerned region, and found that these escarpments are part of the fracture zones (or transform faults) of the Parece Vela Basin, and the associated troughs are fossil spreading segments of the basin (Okino et al., 1998; Ohara et al., 2001). The survey identified more than eight fracture zones in the concerned area. During the last JCUFN meeting (March, 2006), it was decided to propose a single name for this group of fracture zones.

Associated references:

Okino, K., S. Kasuga, and Y. Ohara., a new scenario of the Parece Vela Basin genesis, Marine Geophysical Researches, 20, 21-40, 1998.

Ohara, Y., T. Yoshida, Y. Kato, and S. Kasuga, Giant megamullion in the Parece Vela backarc basin, Marine Geophysical Researches, 22, 47-61, 2001.

Y. Ohara will officially propose names for the escarpments at SCUFN/20. As there may not be an appropriate generic term to adequately describe this kind of area, a proposal may need to be submitted to add a new generic term to Publication B-6. Meanwhile, the three unnamed escarpments to be kept in the reserve section of the GEBCO Gazetteer.