Drifting seaweed may be an ideal carrier for the transport pathway of harmful algae

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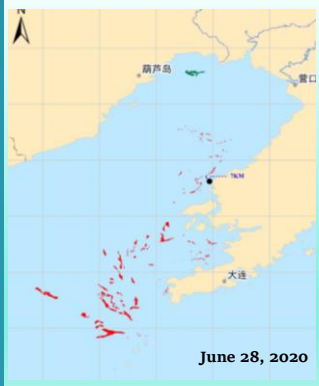
BACKGROUND & METHODS

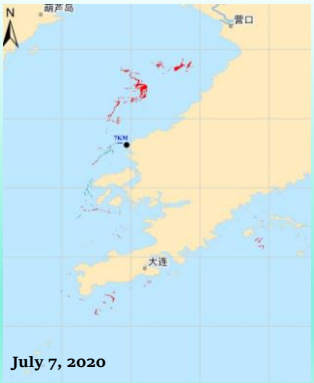
From 2015 to 2020, satellite remote sensing methods were used to monitor the distribution area and drift path of drifting seaweed. The measurement frequency is once every 3 days. As of mid August 2020, monitoring results showed that the distribution area of planktonic seaweed (Sargasum horneri) in Liaodong Bay in **2020** was the largest in six years since 2015.



RESULTS

On June 28, 2020, the maximum distribution area of Sargasum horneri in Liaodong Bay was detected to be 640 square kilometers;

On July 7, 2020, a drift source was detected from the northern Yellow Sea, with a transmission distance of approximately **300 km** from the starting point of the Yellow Sea to the discovery point in the Liaodong Bay of the Bohai Sea.



DISCUSSION

- On August 8, 2020, an investigation in Liaodong Bay found that there were still Sargassum drifting.
- Many young fish can be seen under the sargassum community.
- Drifting seaweed and its carried fish eggs or juveniles, as well as phytoplankton, drift and spread over long distances in the ocean. Wherever they go, the non native species (NIS) may be an ideal carrier for studying harmful algal transport pathways.

CONCLUSION

- Harmful algae may attach to drifting seaweed and transport for a long distance.
- Long-distance transport of drifting seaweed may be beneficial to the large-scale distribution of other organisms which attached to it.