Gradually increasing Petroleum content in Jiaozhou Bay waters

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Abstract: Based on the survey data of Jiaozhou Bay in May, August and October 1992, this paper studied PHC content in Jiaozhou Bay and its horizontal distribution in the surface layer. The results showed that PHC content in the waterbody of Jiaozhou Bay in May, August and October ranged from 0.006mg/L to 0.075mg/L, which met the first-class, second and third seawater quality standard in China. This fact indicated that the waters of Jiaozhou Bay were slightly polluted by PHC during this period. In May, PHC content in the waterbody of Jiaozhou Bay ranged from 0.006mg/L to 0.070mg/L, showing that it was slightly polluted by PHC. The PHC content in the coastal water at the entrance of Haibo River was 0.070mg/L, being slightly polluted; The PHC content in the other waters of Jiaozhou Bay ranged from 0.006mg/L to 0.042mg/L, not polluted. In August, PHC content in the waterbody of Jiaozhou Bay ranged from 0.019mg/L to 0.056mg/L, slightly polluted by PHC. The PHC content in the central water of the eastern bay was 0.056mg/L, slightly polluted; The PHC content in the other waters of Jiaozhou Bay ranged from 0.019 mg/L to 0.048mg/L, not polluted. In October, PHC content in the waterbody of Jiaozhou Bay ranged from 0.028mg/L to 0.075mg/L, showing that it was slightly polluted by PHC. The PHC content in the coastal waters at the entrance of Loushan River and Licun River ranged from 0.055mg/L to 0.075mg/L, slightly polluted; The other waters inside Jiaozhou Bay were not polluted. The PHC content in the water at the bay mouth of Jiaozhou Bay was 0.054mg/L, slightly polluted. There were three main sources of PHC in the waters of Jiaozhou Bay, namely oil spill transportation at sea, open sea current transportation and river flow transportation. The PHC content transported through oil spill ranged from 0.042mg/L to 0.056mg/L, that transported through open sea current was 0.054 mg/L, and that transported through river flow ranged from 0.046mg/L to 0.075mg/L. Among them, the PHC content transported through river flow from Loushan River was 0.075mg/L, that from Haibo River was 0.070mg/L, and that from Dagu River was 0.046mg/L. The PHC content transported through oil spills at sea, open sea currents and river flows caused slight pollution. Therefore, from May to August and then to October, the continuous transportation of much PHC content into the waters of Jiaozhou Bay kept elevating the low level of PHC content in the waters of Jiaozhou Bay.

1 Introduction

The transportation of petroleum (PHC) to the coastal waters of Jiaozhou Bay through rivers would lead to high PHC content areas forming in the coastal waters of Jiaozhou Bay. There were many incoming and outgoing ships in Jiaozhou Bay, and oil spills sometimes occurred. As a result, PHC high content areas formed in some of the central waters of Jiaozhou Bay. Much PHC was transported to Jiaozhou Bay through the currents from polluted open seas. In this way, the PHC transported to the waters of Jiaozhou Bay through river flow transportation, oil spill transportation at sea and open sea current transportation [1-11]. Based on the investigation data in 1992, this paper analyzed the amount, horizontal distribution and source of PHC in Jiaozhou Bay, studied the water quality of Jiaozhou Bay, and the source of PHC in the waters and its amount and identified the source and pollution degree of PHC in Jiaozhou Bay, so as to provide a scientific basis for marine environment protection and a theoretical basis for maintaining ecological sustainable development.

2 Materials and Methods Used in the Investigation of the Waters

2.1 Natural Environment of Jiaozhou Bay

Located in the southern part of Shandong Peninsula, between 120°04'-120°23′ E and 35°58’-36°18′N, Jiaozhou Bay is a typical semi-enclosed bay with an area of 446 km2 and an average water depth of 7m. With the line between Tuan Island and Xuejia Island as the boundary, Jiaozhou Bay is adjacent with the Yellow Sea. There are more than a dozen seagoing rivers in Jiaozhou Bay, among which Dagu River and Yanghe River is of larger runoff amount and silt content, Haibo River, Licun
River and Loushan River in Qingdao City belong to seasonal stream and show hydrological characteristics varying with seasonal changes [12,13].

2.2 Materials and Methods

The data of PHC in the waterbody of Jiaozhou Bay in May, August and October 1992 used in this study were provided by the North China Sea Monitoring Center, the State Oceanic Administration. Water samples were taken from thirteen stations set in Jiaozhou Bay in May, August and October respectively and were marked as H52, H53, H54, H55, H56, H57, H58, H59, H60, H61, H2104, H2105 and H2106 (Fig. 1). When the water depth is more than 10m, it is supposed to take samples from surface layer and bottom layer; when it is less than 10m, it is supposed to take from the surface layer only. This is the national standard method of sampling included in the national document “The Specification for Marine Monitoring” (1991) [14].

3 Results

3.1 Content level

The national standards for PHC content in first-class seawater and second-class seawater (0.05mg/L), third-class seawater (0.30mg/L) and forth-class seawater (0.50mg/L) were put forward.

In May, PHC content in the waters of Jiaozhou Bay ranged from 0.006mg/L to 0.070mg/L, which met the first-class, second-class and third-class seawater quality standard in China. In August, PHC content in the waters of Jiaozhou Bay ranged from 0.019mg/L to 0.056mg/L, which met the first-class, second-class and third-class seawater quality standard in China. In October, PHC content in the waters of Jiaozhou Bay ranged from 0.028mg/L to 0.075mg/L, which met the first-class, second-class and third-class seawater quality standard in China. According to what has been mentioned above, PHC content in the waterbody of Jiaozhou Bay in May, August and October ranged from 0.006mg/L to 0.075mg/L, which met the first-class, second-class and third-class seawater quality standard in China. This fact indicated that the whole water of Jiaozhou Bay was slightly polluted by PHC during this period in terms of PHC content (Table 1).

|        | May       | August    | October   |
|--------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| PHC content in seawater /mg L⁻¹ | 0.006-0.070 | 0.019-0.056 | 0.028-0.075 |
| seawater standard in China | first-class, second-class and third-class seawater | first-class, second-class and third-class seawater | first-class, second-class and third-class seawater |

3.2 Horizontal Distribution at Surface

In May, PHC content at Station 59 in the coastal water at the entrance of Haibo River in eastern Jiaozhou Bay reached a relatively high level of 0.070mg/L. A high PHC content area formed around the eastern coastal waters, and a series of concentric semicircles with different gradients formed around the high PHC content area. The high level of 0.070mg/L in the center decreased along the gradient to 0.012mg/L in the northern coastal water, 0.010mg/L in the southeast water and 0.006mg/L in the water at the southern bay mouth (Fig. 2). PHC content at Station 55 in central Jiaozhou Bay reached a relatively high level of 0.042mg/L. A high PHC content area formed around central Jiaozhou Bay, and a series of concentric circles with different gradients formed around the high PHC content area.
the Station 55. The high level of 0.042 mg/L in the center decreased along the gradient to 0.012 mg/L in the northern coastal water, 0.012 mg/L in the northwest water and 0.010 mg/L in the southeast water (Fig. 2).

In August, PHC content at Station 2106 in the central water of eastern Jiaozhou Bay reached a relatively high level of 0.056 mg/L. A high PHC content area formed around the central water of eastern Jiaozhou Bay, and a series of concentric circles with different gradients formed around the Station 2106. The high level of 0.056 mg/L in the center decreased along the gradient to 0.024 mg/L in the central water, 0.027 mg/L in the northern water and 0.026 mg/L in the southeast water (Fig. 3). PHC content at Station 56 in the coastal water at the entrance of Dagou River in northwest Jiaozhou Bay reached a relatively high level of 0.046 mg/L. A high PHC content area formed around the northeast coastal water, and a series of parallel lines with different gradients formed around the high PHC content area. The high level of 0.046 mg/L in the center decreased along the gradient to 0.024 mg/L in the central water, 0.027 mg/L in the northern water and 0.026 mg/L in the southeast water (Fig. 3).

Fig. 3 PHC content distribution at the surface in August (mg/L)

In May, the PHC content in the waterbody of Jiaozhou Bay ranged from 0.006 mg/L to 0.070 mg/L, which indicated that the waters of Jiaozhou Bay were slightly polluted by PHC. PHC content at Station 59 in the coastal water at the entrance of Haibo River (Fig. 2) was 0.070 mg/L, which indicated that the quality of this water reached the third-class water quality standard in terms of PHC content. In view of the fact that the content of PHC was higher than 0.050 mg/L, it was concluded that there was a slight pollution of PHC in this water. PHC content in the other waters of Jiaozhou Bay ranged from 0.006 mg/L to 0.042 mg/L, which indicated that the quality of these waters reached the first-class and second-class water quality standards in terms of PHC content and that these waters were free of PHC.

In August, the PHC content in the waterbody of Jiaozhou Bay ranged from 0.019 mg/L to 0.056 mg/L, which indicated that the waters of Jiaozhou Bay were slightly polluted by PHC. PHC content in the central water of eastern Jiaozhou Bay (Fig. 3) was 0.056 mg/L, which indicated that the quality of this water reached the third-class water quality standard in terms of PHC content. In view of the fact that the content of PHC was higher than 0.050 mg/L, it was concluded that there was a slight pollution of PHC in this water. PHC content in the other waters of Jiaozhou Bay ranged from 0.019 mg/L to 0.048 mg/L, which indicated that the quality of these waters reached the first-class and second-class water quality standards in terms of PHC content and that these waters were free of PHC.

In October, the PHC content in the waterbody of Jiaozhou Bay ranged from 0.028 mg/L to 0.075 mg/L, which indicated that the waters of Jiaozhou Bay were slightly polluted by PHC. PHC content in the station 2104 and Station 58 in Jiaozhou Bay (Fig. 4) ranged from 0.055 mg/L to 0.075 mg/L, which indicated that the quality of these waters reached the third-class water quality standard in terms of PHC content. In view of the fact that the content of PHC was higher than 0.050 mg/L,
it was concluded that there was a slight pollution of PHC in this water. PHC content in the other waters of Jiaozhou Bay ranged from 0.028 mg/L to 0.046 mg/L, which indicated that the quality of these waters reached the first-class and second-class water quality standards in terms of PHC content and that these waters were free of PHC. The PHC content in the water at the bay mouth of Jiaozhou Bay was 0.054 mg/L, which indicated that the quality of the water reached the third-class water quality standard in terms of PHC content. In view of the fact that the content of PHC was higher than 0.050 mg/L, it was concluded that there was a slight pollution of PHC in this water.

In summary, in May, there was a slight pollution of PHC in the coastal water at the entrance of Haibo River, while the other waters of Jiaozhou Bay were free of PHC. In August, there was a slight pollution of PHC in the central water of eastern Jiaozhou Bay, while the other waters of Jiaozhou Bay were free of PHC. In October, there was a slight pollution of PHC in the coastal water at the entrance of Loushan River and the coastal water at the entrance of Licun River, while the other waters of Jiaozhou Bay were free of PHC; there was a slight pollution of PHC in the water at the bay mouth of Jiaozhou Bay.

4.2 Time and Location of Sources

In May, a high PHC content area formed in the coastal water at the entrance of Haibo River in the eastern waterbody of Jiaozhou Bay, which indicated that the source of PHC was river flow transportation and the content was 0.070 mg/L. During transportation, PHC content decreased along the gradient to 0.012 mg/L in the northern coastal water, 0.010 mg/L in the southeast water, and 0.006 mg/L in the water at the southern bay mouth. A high PHC content area formed in the central waterbody of Jiaozhou Bay, which indicated that the source of PHC was oil spill transportation at sea and the content was 0.042 mg/L. During transportation, PHC content decreased along the gradient to 0.012 mg/L in the northern coastal water, 0.012 mg/L in northwest water, and 0.010 mg/L in the southeast water.

In August, a high PHC content area formed in the central waterbody of eastern Jiaozhou Bay, which indicated that the source of PHC was oil spill transportation at sea and the content was 0.056 mg/L. During transportation, PHC content decreased along the gradient to 0.024 mg/L in the central water, 0.027 mg/L in the northern water and 0.026 mg/L in the southeast water. A high PHC content area formed in in the coastal water at the entrance of Dagu River in the northwest waterbody of Jiaozhou Bay, which indicated that the source of PHC was river flow transportation and the content was 0.046 mg/L. During transportation, PHC content decreased along the gradient to 0.024 mg/L in the central water, 0.027 mg/L in the northern water and 0.026 mg/L in the southeast water.

In October, a high PHC content area formed in the coastal water at the entrance of Loushan River in the northeast waterbody of Jiaozhou Bay, which indicated that the source of PHC was river flow transportation and the content was 0.075 mg/L. During transportation, PHC content decreased along the gradient to 0.055 mg/L in the coastal water at the entrance of Licun River, 0.042 mg/L in the coastal water at the entrance of Haibo River and 0.035 mg/L in the central water. A high PHC content area formed in the waterbody at the bay mouth of Jiaozhou Bay, which indicated that the source of PHC was open sea current transportation and the content was 0.054 mg/L. During transportation, PHC content decreased along the gradient to 0.035 mg/L in the central water.

4.3 Types and Contents of Sources

There were three main sources of PHC in the waters of Jiaozhou Bay, namely oil spill transportation at sea, open sea current transportation and river flow transportation (Table 2). The PHC content transported through oil spill ranged from 0.042 mg/L to 0.056 mg/L, that transported through open sea current was 0.054 mg/L, and that transported through river flow ranged from 0.046 mg/L to 0.075 mg/L. Among them, the PHC content transported through river flow from Loushan River was 0.075 mg/L, that from Haibo River was 0.070 mg/L, and that from Dagu River was 0.046 mg/L. (Table 3).

| Source       | Oil spill transportation at sea | River flow transportation | Open sea current transportation |
|--------------|--------------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------------|
| PHC content/mg L-1 | 0.042-0.056                  | 0.046-0.075               | 0.054                          |

Table 2 The PHC contents from the different sources in Jiaozhou bay

| Source     | Loushan River | Haibo River | Dagu River |
|------------|---------------|-------------|------------|
| PHC content/mg L-1 | 0.075         | 0.070       | 0.046      |

Table 3 The PHC contents from the different river flows in Jiaozhou bay

4.4 Pollution Degree of the Sources

There were three main sources of PHC in the waters of Jiaozhou Bay, namely oil spill transportation at sea, open sea current transportation and river flow transportation (Table 2).

The PHC content transported through oil spill at sea, open sea currents and river flows to Jiaozhou Bay exceeded the first-class, second-class and third-class seawater quality standard in China (0.05 mg/L for the first-class and the second-class, 0.30 mg/L for the third-class), which indicated that there were slight
pollution of PHC in the open sea currents and the river flows, and further revealed that the PHC content transported through oil spills at sea, open sea currents and river flows caused slight pollution in the seawater. The polluted open sea currents in particular caused the pollution of PHC in the whole body.

The PHC content transported through the river flows was higher than that through oil spill transportation at sea, and the PHC pollution degree of the river flow transportation was worse than that of oil spill transportation at sea. These facts indicated that the pollution in the seawater caused by river flow transportation was worse than that by oil spill transportation at sea. The PHC content transported through river flows was higher than that through oil spill transportation at sea.

The PHC content transported through the river flows of Loushan River was higher than that through the river flows of Haibo River, and the latter was higher than that through the river flows of Dagu River. The PHC content in the river flows from Loushan River was more than that in the river flows of Haibo River, and the latter was more than that from the river flows of Dagu River. These facts indicated that the pollution degree in different river flows were not same. There was a slight pollution of PHC in both the river flows of Loushan River and the river flows of Haibo River, but the river flows of Dagu River were free of PHC.

4.5 Content Variation in the Sources

In May, August and October, there were three main sources of PHC in the waters of Jiaozhou Bay, namely oil spill transportation at sea, open sea current transportation and river flow transportation;

In May, the source of PHC was river flow transportation from Haibo River and the content was 0.070mg/L; the source of PHC was oil spill transportation at sea and the content was 0.042mg/L;

In August, the source of PHC was oil spill transportation at sea and the content was 0.056mg/L; the source of PHC was river flow transportation from Dagu River and the content was 0.046mg/L;

In October, the source of PHC was river flow transportation from Loushan River and the content was 0.075mg/L; the source of PHC was open sea current transportation and the content was 0.054mg/L.

In the same month, the PHC content of different sources was completely different. In different months, the PHC content in different river flows was completely different.

4.6 Low Value Variation

From May to August, and then to October, oil spill transportation at sea, open sea current transportation and river flow transportation was continuously transporting PHC into the waters of Jiaozhou Bay. The PHC content transported through oil spill ranged from 0.042mg/L to 0.056mg/L, that transported through open sea current was 0.054 mg/L, and that transported through river flow ranged from 0.046mg/L to 0.075mg/L. It can be concluded that there was a relatively high level of PHC content in the three sources, and they were judged as slightly polluted. In May, the low value of PHC content was 0.006 mg/L; in August, the low value of PHC content was 0.019 mg/L; in October, the low value of PHC content was 0.028 mg/L. Therefore, from May to August and then to October, the continuous transportation of much PHC content into the waters of Jiaozhou Bay kept elevating the low level of PHC content in the waters of Jiaozhou Bay.

5 Conclusion

PHC content in the waterbody of Jiaozhou Bay in May, August and October ranged from 0.006mg/L to 0.075mg/L, which met the first-class, second-class and third-class seawater quality standard in China. This fact indicated that the waters of Jiaozhou Bay were slightly polluted by PHC during this period.

In May, PHC content in the waterbody of Jiaozhou Bay ranged from 0.006mg/L to 0.070mg/L, which indicated that the waters of Jiaozhou Bay were slightly polluted by PHC. The PHC content in the coastal water at the entrance of Haibo River was 0.070mg/L, which indicated that the water was slightly polluted; The PHC content in the other waters of Jiaozhou Bay ranged from 0.006mg/L to 0.042mg/L, which indicated that these waters were not polluted. In August, PHC content in the waterbody of Jiaozhou Bay ranged from 0.019mg/L to 0.056mg/L, which indicated that the waters of Jiaozhou Bay were slightly polluted by PHC. The PHC content in the central water of the eastern Jiaozhou Bay was 0.056mg/L, which indicated that the water was slightly polluted; The PHC content in the other waters of Jiaozhou Bay ranged from 0.019 mg/L to 0.048mg/L, which indicated that these waters were not polluted. In October, PHC content in the waterbody of Jiaozhou Bay ranged from 0.028mg/L to 0.075mg/L, which indicated that the waters of Jiaozhou Bay were slightly polluted by PHC. The PHC content in the coastal waters at the entrance of Loushan River and Licun River ranged from 0.055mg/L to 0.075mg/L, which indicated that the waters were slightly polluted; The other waters inside Jiaozhou Bay were not polluted. The PHC content in the water at the bay mouth of Jiaozhou Bay was 0.054mg/L, which indicated that the water was slightly polluted.

There were three main sources of PHC in the waters of Jiaozhou Bay, namely oil spill transportation at sea, open sea current transportation and river flow transportation. The PHC content transported through oil spill ranged from 0.042mg/L to 0.056mg/L, that transported through open sea current was 0.054 mg/L, and that transported through river flow ranged from 0.046mg/L to 0.075mg/L. Among them, the PHC content transported through river flow from Loushan River was 0.075mg/L, that from Haibo River was 0.070mg/L, and that from Dagu River was 0.046mg/L. The PHC content transported through oil spills at sea, open sea currents and river flows caused slight pollution.

In the same month, there were different sources of
PHC and the content was completely different. In different months, there were different river flows transporting PHC and the content was completely different. Therefore, from May to August and then to October, the continuous transportation of much PHC content into the waters of Jiaozhou Bay kept elevating the low level of PHC content in the waters of Jiaozhou Bay. Thus, the PHC content in the waters of Jiaozhou Bay was gradually increasing.

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