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Mineral potential of the Far Eastern seas of Russia and the prospect of its development

Andreev S.I.¹, Babaeva S.F.¹, Kaminsky D.V.¹

¹Acad. I. Gramberg VNIIOkeangeologia, Russia, St.Petersburg, sveta.babaeva@gmail.com

We are considering the shelf and deep-water aquatic areas of the Far Eastern seas: the Sea of Japan, Sea of Okhotsk and the south-western part of the Bering Sea, as well as the Bering Sea and the Pacific coastal sea area of Kamchatka and the Kuril Islands:

- Most commonly on the shelf of all these water areas two types of placers occur - those of gold, ferrous metals with Zr and V, locally - placers of platinum, cassiterite and precious stones;
- Outside the upper shelf in the Sea of Okhotsk, we know a large accumulation of infiltration barytes and gas hydrates;
- In the back-arc Okhotsk zone, there are signs of accumulations of deep sulphides associated with submarine volcanism;
- Around the Bering Sea and Pacific perimeter of Kamchatka and the Kuril Islands, we observe an active coastal erosion resulting in the offshore deposits of ferrous metals with Zr. In the area of Karaginskiy Bay we meet gold and platinum;

- In the back-arc Bering Sea area, north of the Commander Islands, an ore-bearing hydrothermal activity associated with the Pyep volcano was recorded; in the littoral zone of the Bering Island, we encounter the pellets of abrasion origin composed of native copper.

Thus, on the shelf and in the aquatic areas of the mentioned seas and in the coastal parts of the Kuril and Aleutian island arcs, we trace clear relationship of metallogeny of the marine areas adjacent to the continental regions and islands. The Kolyma gold province approaches the west coast of the Okhotsk Sea, and the South Koryak platiniferous ophiolite belt continues to the area of the Karaginskiy Bay of the Bering Sea.

The Sakhalin gas hydrate zone in the Sea of Okhotsk deserves special attention; it is interesting both in itself, and as an indicator of possible occurrence of traditional hydrocarbon deposits in the depths of the Deryugin basin.

Mineral resources of the Far East seas, along with the adjoining land, are waiting for their development. They can fully ensure a successful self-sufficient economic development of the Far Eastern border regions of Russia.

