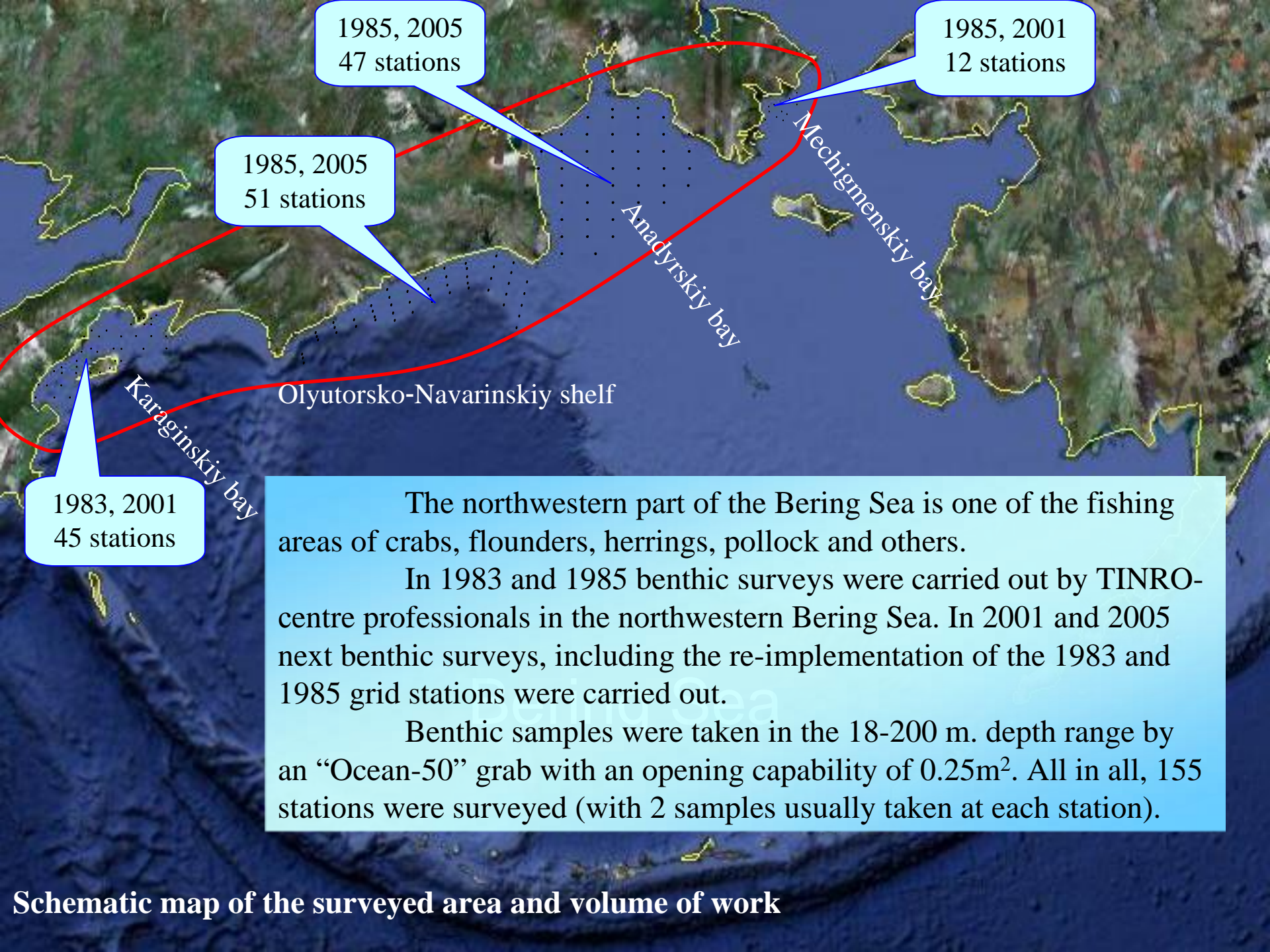


# Current condition of fauna of Polychaeta of the northwestern shelf of the Bering sea



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1985, 2005  
47 stations

1985, 2001  
12 stations

1985, 2005  
51 stations

1983, 2001  
45 stations

The northwestern part of the Bering Sea is one of the fishing areas of crabs, flounders, herrings, pollock and others.

In 1983 and 1985 benthic surveys were carried out by TINRO-centre professionals in the northwestern Bering Sea. In 2001 and 2005 next benthic surveys, including the re-implementation of the 1983 and 1985 grid stations were carried out.

Benthic samples were taken in the 18-200 m. depth range by an “Ocean-50” grab with an opening capability of 0.25m<sup>2</sup>. All in all, 155 stations were surveyed (with 2 samples usually taken at each station).

**Schematic map of the surveyed area and volume of work**

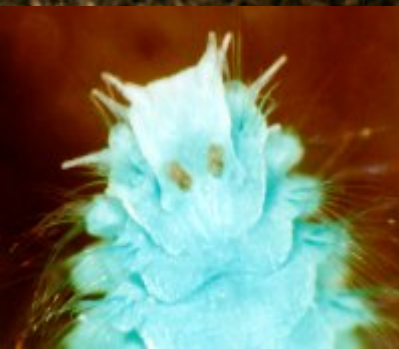


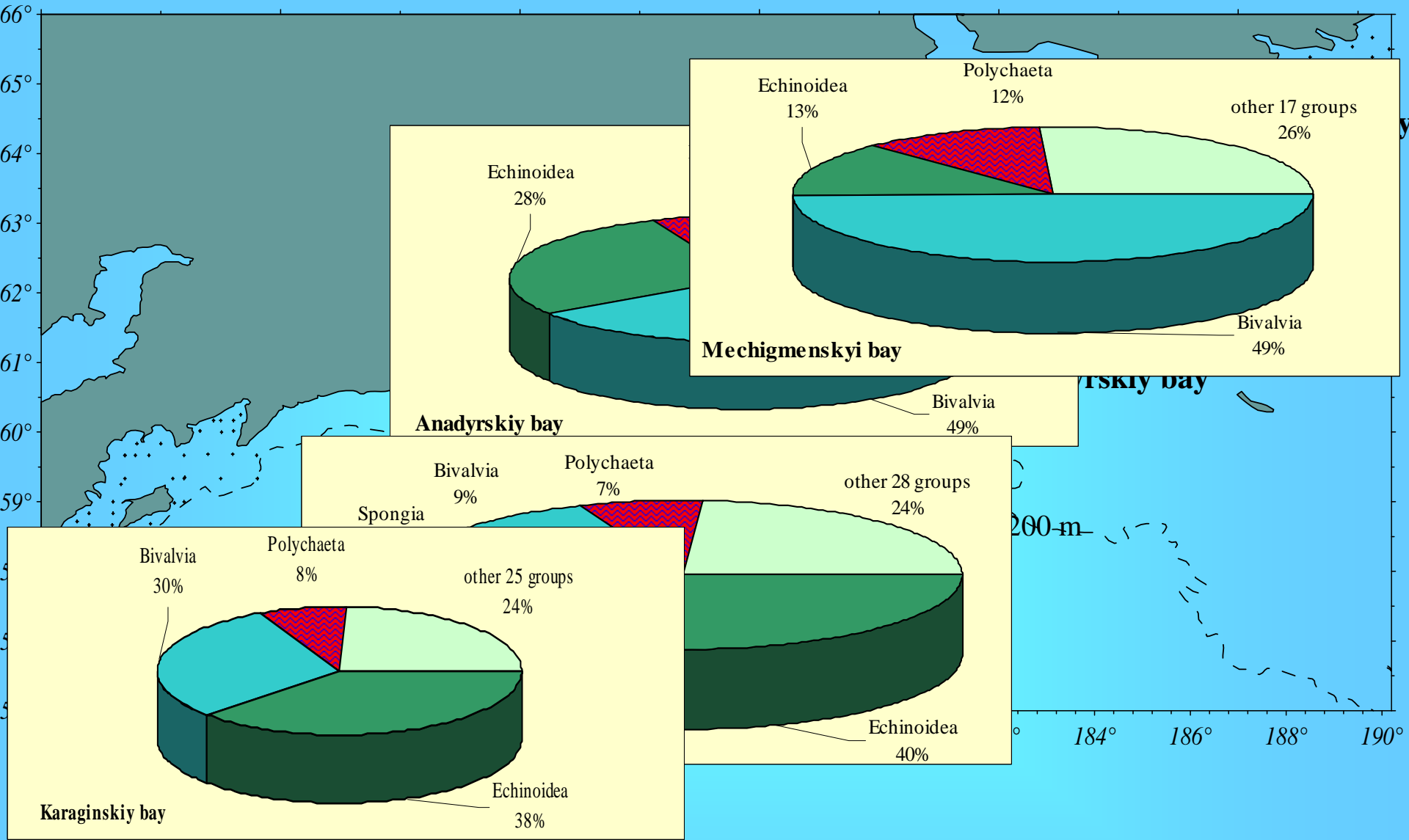
The study is based on the results of processing samples of *Polychaeta* collected on the northwestern Bering Sea shelf in 2001 and 2005.

The aim of this work is to study the quantitative distribution of *Polychaeta* of the northwestern Bering Sea and comparison of the current data with the data of previous research.

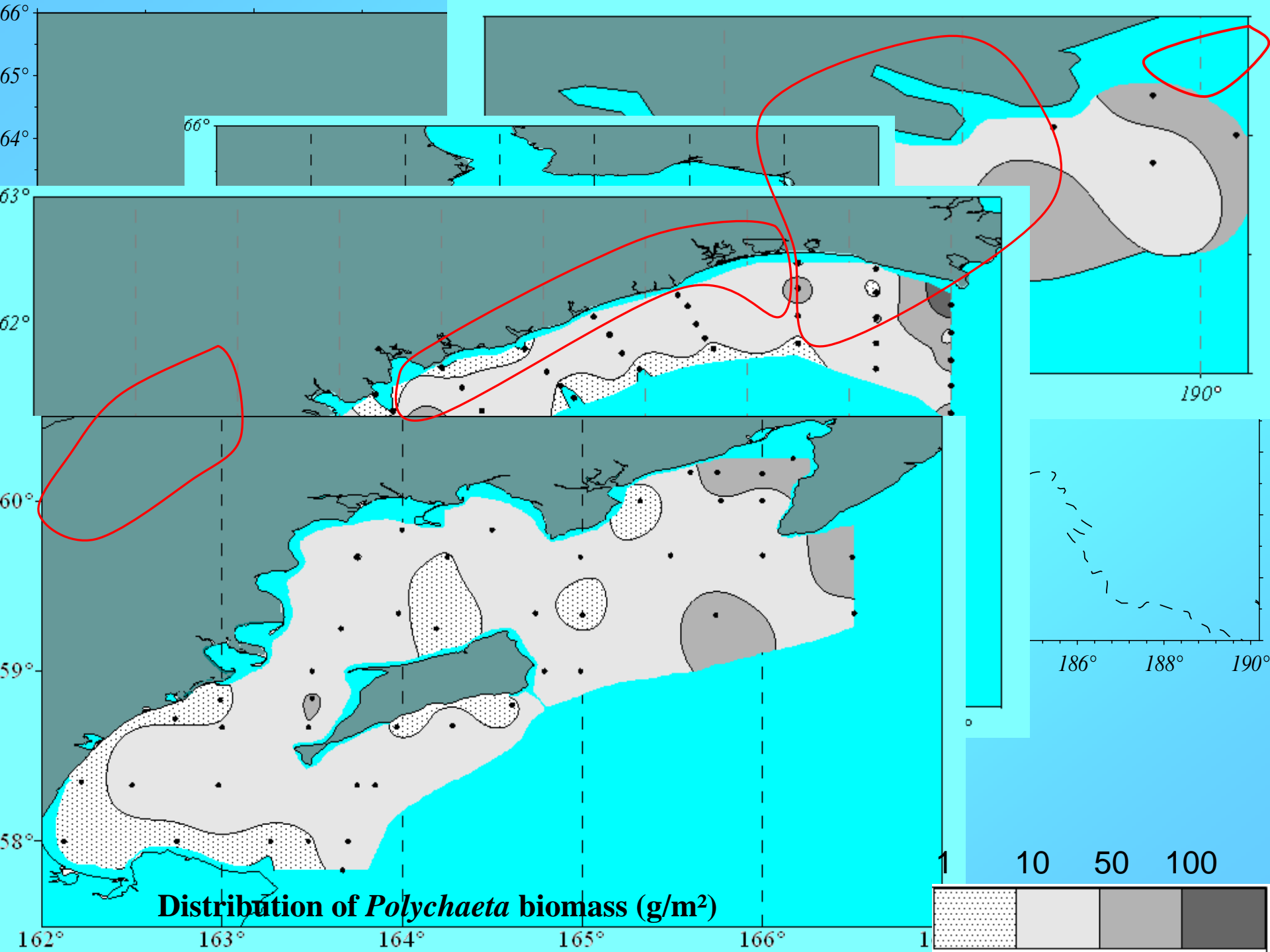


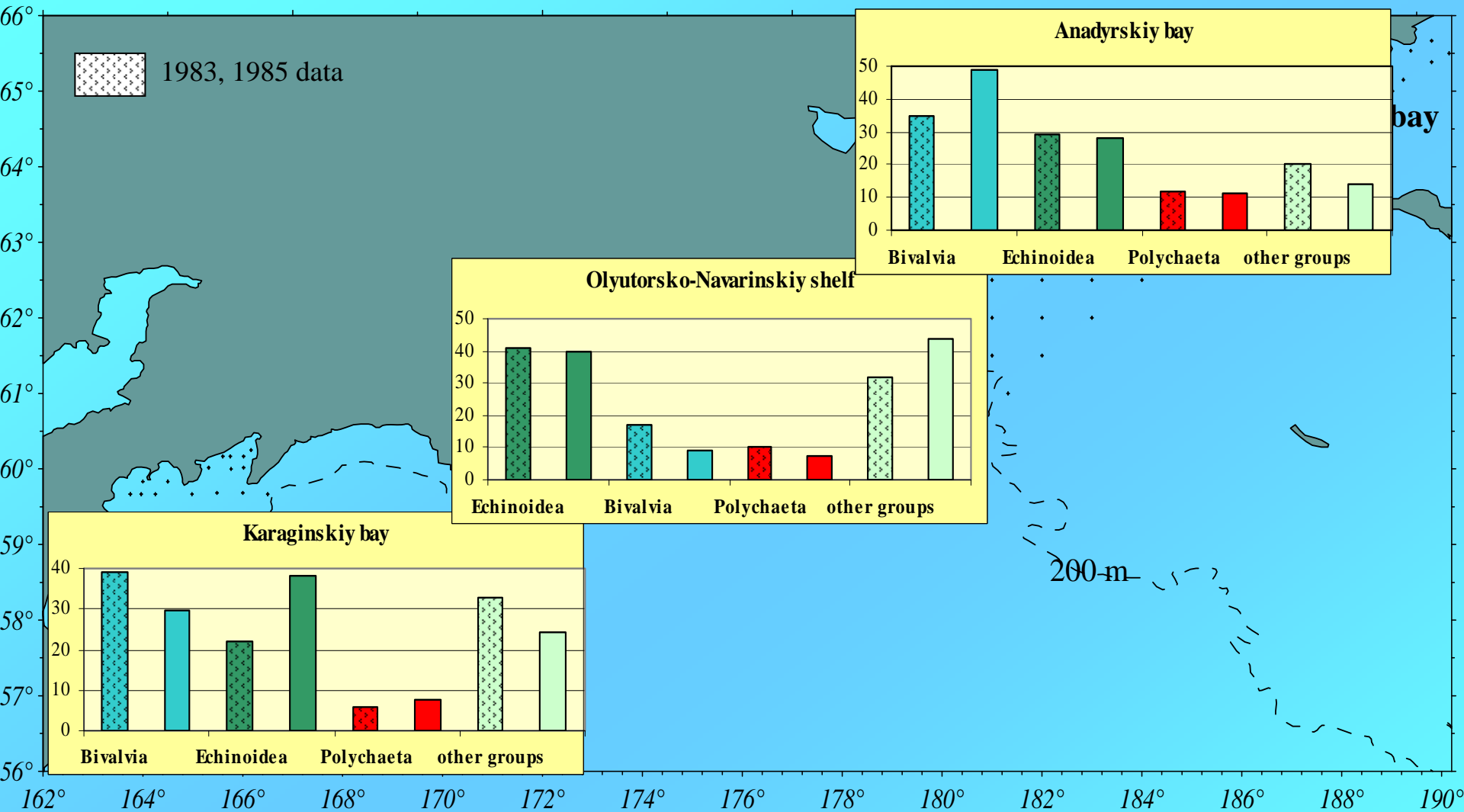
*Polychaeta* is one of the most important, numerous and diverse groups of marine macrobenthos in any region of the Far Eastern seas. They are an important component in the diet of many commercial species of fish and crabs. They can inhabit almost all underwater landscapes and form a mass settlements.



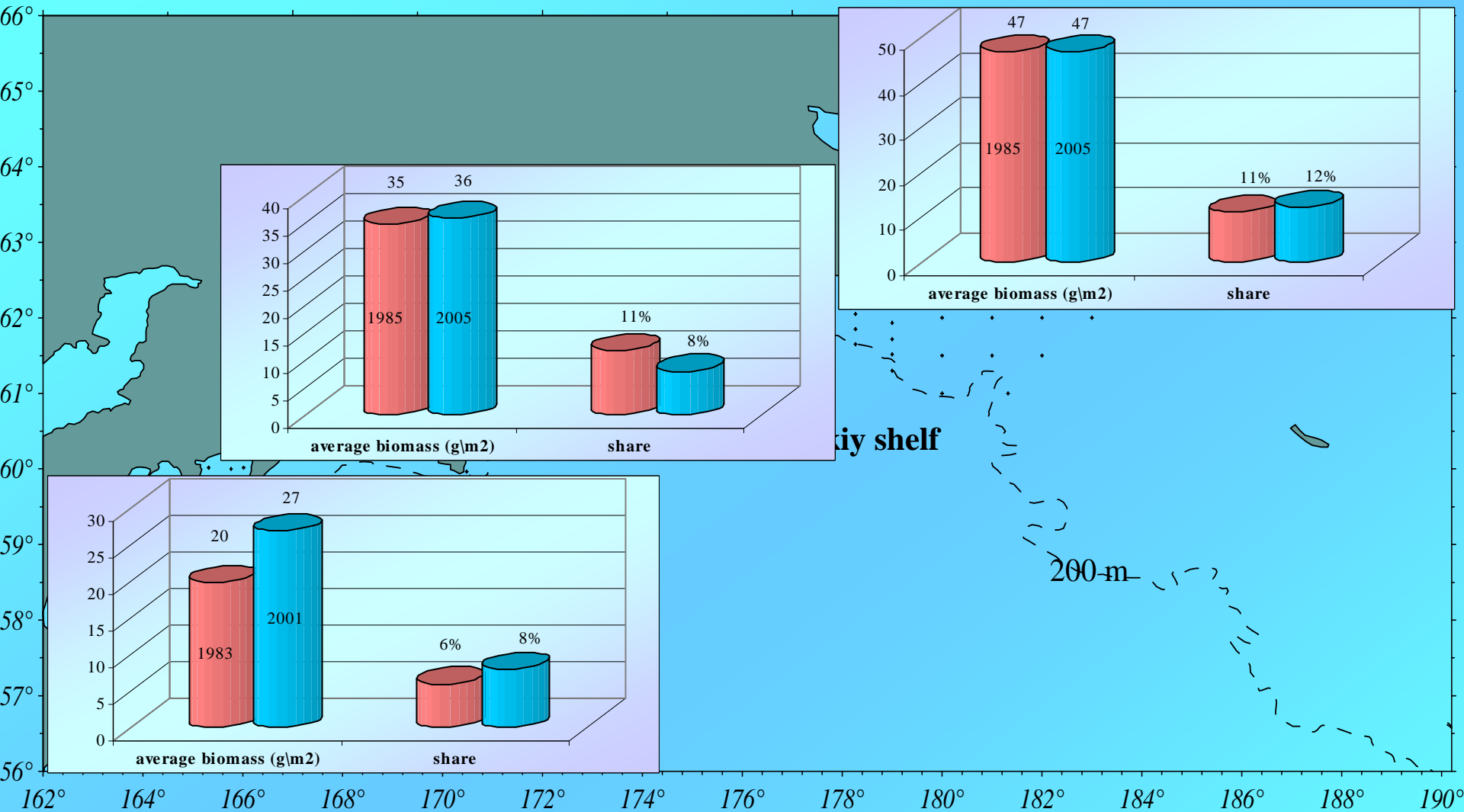


**Percentage ratio of the basic taxonomic groups of benthos (2001, 2005)**





**Percentage ratio of macrobenthos basic groups biomass  
(comparing the current data with the data of previous research)**



**Average biomass (g/m<sup>2</sup>) and the share of *Polychaeta* in the total benthos (comparing the current data with the data of previous research)**

# CONCLUSIONS

- ✎ In the surveyed area bristle worms are the third basic group of benthos after clams and sea urchins.*
- ✎ Share of polychaetes in the total biomass of benthos is about 10%.*
- ✎ The northwestern shelf of the Bering Sea is characterized by the settlement of polychaetes with a biomass of 10-50 g/m<sup>2</sup>.*
- ✎ When comparing our data with the data of previous researches, it occurs that there are no significant changes in the rate of polychaete's biomass. Their share in the total benthos biomass has also remained the same.*
- ✎ Apparent differences of quantitative indicators on the figures are within the error of the mean, and therefore are unimportant. All this proves the well-known fact, that the benthic communities in the absence of active anthropogenic pressure are stable.*



THANK YOU FOR ATTENTION

