

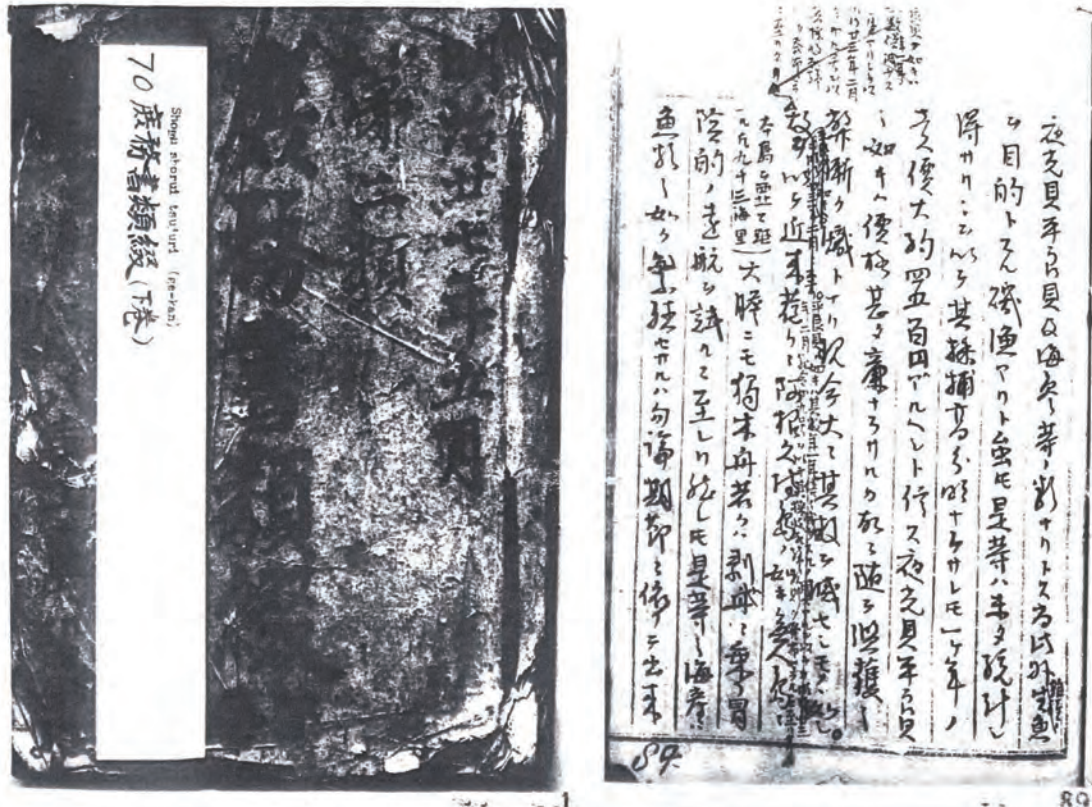
Period II (3) – ii. Documents showing or suggesting attempts by Okinawa Prefecture to manage the Senkaku Islands

A survey document that shows the fact that Okinawa Prefecture was aware of the fisheries situation around the Senkaku Islands

No.16 A list of investigation reports as requested by Hiroshi HARA, a technical assistant of the Agriculture and Commerce Ministry

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May 3, 1894



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Overview

The documents were made by the Yaeyama Islands Public Office upon the request from Hiroshi HARA, a technical assistant of the Agriculture and Commerce Ministry, and report on agriculture and forestry, fisheries, and mining activities in the Yaeyama Islands. The section entitled “fisheries” mentions that overfishing has occurred due to the soaring prices of such shells as green turban and pearl oyster, leading to a decline in the shellfish population. It says that exploratory pelagic fisheries were recently attempted around such uninhabited islands as the Akon-kuba Islands, located 93 nautical miles northwest of Ishigaki Island, even with dugout canoes or timber boats. It is considered that “the Akon-kuba Islands” refers to the Senkaku Islands.

Excerpt [English translation]

A list of investigation reports as requested by Hiroshi HARA, a technical assistant of the Agriculture and Commerce Ministry (text omitted)

For this reason, in recent times (fishermen) have often boldly attempted adventurous journeys in dugout canoes or timber boats to distant uninhabited islands like the Akon-kuba Islands (the Senkaku Islands), approximately 93 nautical miles northwest of this island (Ishigaki Island). (text omitted)

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