

## Article reporting the Japanese fishermen's strong desire to resume fishing operations on Takeshima

### No.44 "Takeshima", the treasure within the Ma-Line\*

FY2017/P8

#### The Fisheries Associations actively appeal for the removal of the prohibited area

March 10, 1951, Mainichi Shimbun, Shimane Edition

\* "Ma-Line" is an abbreviation for the "The MacArthur Line"

#### Overview

Fishermen from Oki had been engaging in fishery around Takeshima with the Japanese government's permission from the pre-WWII period, but after WWII fishery around Takeshima was prohibited due to the MacArthur Line. And on September 16, 1947, the General Headquarters designated Takeshima as a maritime bombing range for the U.S. Forces.

This newspaper article reports that under such circumstances, in a meeting of the fishery co-operative association presidents in Oki, the presidents adopted a resolution to call for the resuming of fishery around Takeshima, and began actively campaigning for this goal. The same article also includes specific testimonies about fishery around Takeshima in the pre-WWII period, such as "Mr. Tadashige HASHIOKA from Goka village 'captured 35 sea lions alive over the summer of 1940, and 30 of them in 1941 ...'" Tadashige HASHIOKA used to have permission for sea lion hunting before WWII, and after the expiration of the fishing permit around Takeshima in November 1948, applied for the permit again and was given one from Shimane Prefecture in June 1953. Hashioka said, "I cannot be happier that the permit has been issued. I am determined to work hard while making use of my past experience. (text omitted) Although I have sufficient materials prepared, we have no information about the state of the buildings and facilities that we previously built in Takeshima due to the 12 years or so gap before and after the war, so we will not be able to operate until the facilities on the site becomes fully functional (\*1)."

Furthermore, Hashioka received some information about people from the Republic of Korea landing on Takeshima, and on June 25, 1953, he joined a group of officials visiting Takeshima on board the training ship Otori Maru of the Fishery Course at Oki High School to confirm. During this visit, Hashioka, looking at the hillsides of Takeshima, said, "We planted 200 pine seedlings 13 years ago but they have not grown."

In this article, it is stated that Takeshima was "discovered" by fishermen of Oki in 1667, but this is assumed to be based on the descriptions in "Takeshima oyobi Utsuryo-to (Takeshima and Utsuryo Island)" by Hekiun OKUHARA (pp. 14-15) that quoted "Inshu shicho goki," a geography book about the Oki Islands in the 17th century. Other documents from the Edo period suggest that Japanese people had been using the current Takeshima for many years before 1667.

\*1 "Goka village excited about sea lion hunting: Remembering their pre-war experience, the locals can hardly wait to start but first must prepare the local facilities Reference article (June 18, 1953. Mainichi Shimbun (Osaka Head Office), Shimane edition



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#### Excerpt [English translation]

It has been six years since Takeshima, or the treasure of the Sea of Japan, which belongs to Goka village in Oki Island, was included in the MacArthur Line through the Cabinet Order of October 1, 1945 and designated as a fishery prohibited area. Prefectural Assembly member Nakagawa and Goka village chief Okugawa have advocated the movement for the revival of fisheries around Takeshima, which produces fishing worth tens of millions of yen, since the end of last year. In addition to this, the abolition of the fishery prohibited area was strongly voiced with the aim of reconstructing the Oki Island industry, and a resolution for revival petition was adopted at the meeting of the fishery co-operative association presidents held in Saigo-Cho on the 10th, triggering active movement.

Date Created	March 10, 1951
Author(s) & Editor(s)	-
Publisher	Publisher Mainichi Shimbun Matsue Branch
Name of Publication	Mainichi Shimbun (Osaka Head Office), Shimane edition
Language	Japanese
Medium	Paper
Public Access	Open
Repository	Shimane Prefectural Library
Reference & Information	Follow the instructions at Shimane Prefectural Library