

Tuna fetches \$614,000 at Tokyo's famed New Year's fish auction

- 1) TOKYO- In what could be the last New Year's auction at Tokyo's famed Tsukiji fish market, the owner of the Sushizanmai restaurant chain on Thursday paid top price for a single fish, forking over more than \$600,000 for a Pacific bluefin tuna.
- 2) The world's largest fish market was supposed to be relocated last November to make way for a road needed for the Tokyo 2020 Olympics, but was delayed due to environmental concerns.
- 3) The delay allowed for Tsukiji to hold at least one more New Year's auction, which is considered auspicious and a great way for the winning bidder to gain some publicity.
- 4) For the sixth straight year, Kiyoshi Kimura, president of Kiyomura Corp., which owns the Sushizanmai chain, had the winning bid, paying 72 million yen (\$614,000) for a 212 kilogram (467 pound) Pacific bluefin tuna -- a species experts warn is being overfished.
- 5) That was well above last year's winning bid of 14 million yen, but half the record 155 million yen paid in 2013.
- 6) Afterward, Kimura posed with a sword-like knife in front of the big, dark-silvery fish, caught off the coast of northern Japan.
- 7) The Tokyo government wants to move the 80-year-old Tsukiji market, set on prime real estate on Tokyo Bay not far from the posh Ginza shopping district, to a manmade island called Toyosu located two km (1.24 miles) away.
- 8) But the plan was delayed after concerns emerged about toxic pollution at its proposed new home, where a gas plant once stood.
- 9) The Tokyo government, which decided on the move 15 years ago, is expected to get results from environmental tests at the new location within weeks.
- 10) The delay has left fishmongers, many of whom oppose the move, in limbo.
- 11) "We are in a state of confusion," said Nobuyuki Aoki, another wholesaler. "I hope that this new year will bring clarity to the new venue's safety, and remove us from the uncertainty."
- 12) The outlook for bluefin tuna, considered the king of sushi, is also uncertain.
- 13) Global appetite for sushi has driven numbers of the species to dangerously low levels. Scientific assessments completed in July showed that the number of Pacific bluefin has fallen to just 2.6 percent of its original estimated size.
- 14) "This tuna is being fished at rates up to three times higher than scientists say is sustainable," Amanda Nickson, director of global tuna conservation at The Pew Charitable Trusts said in a recent report.
- 15) Pew and a dozen other environmental groups have called for a two-year moratorium on commercial fishing of the species. 【Jan 5, 2017/ Reuters】

タイトル

fetch (値段)で売れる

2)

fork over=fork out (大金などを) (しぶしぶ) 手渡す、支払う

3)

auspicious 幸先のよい、めでたい

winning bidder 落札者

publicity 知れ渡る事、広告

4)

overfish 乱獲する

7)

prime real estate 一等地の不動産

posh しゃれた、豪華な

8)

toxic 毒物に起因する

pollution 公害

10)

fishmonger 魚商人 =fish dealer

in limbo=in a state of limbo 不確実な状態で、忘れられた

※limbo=天国と地獄の間 (カトリック)

12)

outlook 見通し

13)

appetite 食欲、要求、～への好み

14)

sustainable 持続可能な

The Pew Charitable Trusts ピュー慈善信託

15)

moratorium 一時停止 (期間)

☆Ice breaker for active discussion

1. Have you ever visited Tsukiji fish markets? How do you like it?
2. What are reasons that many sushi companies bid for the New Year's auction? Why do bid prices tend to become higher?
3. How often do you eat sushi? What is your favorite sushi ingredient?
4. What do you say about decline in the number of bluefin tuna? Do you think a moratorium is needed?
5. Make sentences using the following words: fetch, auspicious, posh, in limbo, sustainable and moratorium.

