

Giant squids turning up along Sea of Japan coast

- 1) NIIGATA – A number of giant squids have been caught along the coast of the Sea of Japan this year, raising concerns among fishermen that it might represent some kind of “**omen**.”
- 2) The giant squid, **classified** as **Architeuthis**, is the largest **invertebrate**.
- 3) One giant squid was taken to Himi fishing port in Toyama Prefecture on Jan. 4. Another was found in a stationary net off Sado Island in Niigata Prefecture on Jan. 8.
- 4) Arms and **tentacles** believed to be from a giant squid were found **washed ashore** in Kashiwazaki, Niigata Prefecture, on Jan. 19.
- 5) Two days later, a monster squid was caught in a net off the town of Iwami, Tottori Prefecture.
- 6) In addition, another giant squid was caught in a net off Sado again and taken there Feb. 11. The three squids taken to Sado and Himi measured 3 to 4 meters long. The one caught in Tottori was missing its two longest tentacles, meaning the **creature** could have been around 8 meters long before it was captured.
- 7) Shigenori Goto, a 44-year-old fisherman, caught the two squids off Sado.
- 8) “I had seen no giant squid before in my 15-year fishing career,” he said. “I wonder whether it may be some kind of omen.”
- 9) Giant squids usually live about 600 meters below the water’s surface where temperatures are 6 to 10 degrees, said 62-year-old Tsunemi Kubodera, the collection director at the National Museum of Nature and Science.
- 10) While they prefer warm waters, such as those off the Ogasawara Islands, they occasionally stray into the Sea of Japan for some reason via the Tsushima **Strait** lying between Japan and the Korean Peninsula, Kubodera said.
- 11) More than 300 meters below the surface in the Sea of Japan, there is a layer of cold water of zero to 1 degree, but giant squids can survive at depths of around 200 meters.
- 12) Temperatures at 200 meters are usually around 7 degrees in January. But they fell to about 4 degrees this year, according to **the Meteorological Agency**.
- 13) Kubodera **speculates** that giant squids swam close to the surface **in pursuit of** warm water but were unable to stay **buoyant** and got swept toward the beach by winds.
- 14) A 14-meter-long giant squid caught off the Bahamas in the Atlantic in 1966 is the largest ever **confirmed**.
- 15) The life cycle of giant squids, such as **spawning sites** and **life span**, remains largely unknown. Although a diver photographed a baby giant squid, about 2 cm long, off Nishiizu, Shizuoka Prefecture, for the first time ever in 2002, no eggs have ever been discovered.
- 16) Some of the giant squids caught this year have been frozen for study. “We’ll use all clues to find out the deep-sea life cycle” of giant squids, which are precious creatures whose populations are small, Kubodera said. 【02/19/2014/Kyodo】

omen: 前兆 classify: 分類する Architeuthis: ダイオウイカ属 invertebrate: 無脊椎動物 tentacle: 触手 wash ashore: 岸に打ち上げる creature: 生き物 strait: 海峡 the Meteorological Agency: 気象庁 speculate: 推測する in pursuit of: ~を求めて buoyant: 浮力がある confirm: 確認する spawning site: 産卵場所 life span: 寿命



★Ice breaker for active discussion★

1. What was your first impression of this article?
2. Please describe how giant squids look like.
3. Do you believe in some kind of omen? If you do, please tell me more about it. If you don't, please tell me why?
4. What is the difference between omen and superstition?
5. According to the article, what is the likely cause of the phenomenon? Can you think of other cause?
6. Why some of giant squids are frozen to examine?
7. Make sentences using the following words:
classify, wash ashore, creature, strait, speculate, in pursuit of, confirm, spawning site and life span.

giant squid ダイオウイカは、温帯海域を好みますが、何らかの理由で対馬海峡を越えて日本海に迷い込むことがあると言います。日本海には300メートル以深に0～1度の冷たい水の層があり、水深200メートル付近に上がれば生息できるようです。例年1月なら7度前後ある水温が、今年は4度前後に低下したため、海面近くの温かい水を求めて上がってきたのではないかと考えられています。