

# Articles of the 2003 Tokachi-Oki Earthquake Tsunami Reported on Local Newspapers

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In the early morning of September 26, 2003, a remarkable earthquake called the 2003 Tokachi-Oki earthquake occurred south off east Hokkaido coast, and an eminent tsunami was accompanied with it. We collected the articles of this earthquake-tsunami on seven local newspapers which are published in Hokkaido and Tohoku district; the Hokkaido Shinbun, the Touo-Nippo, the Iwate-Nichinichi, the Iwate Nippo, the Kahoku Shinpo, the Fukushima Minyu hinbun, and the Fukushima Minpo. Four eminent phenomena accompanied with the present event are the sea shock, tsunami going upstream along rivers, damage of fishery ports in Hokkaido, and damage of oyster and scallop culture rafts on Sanriku coast.

[Sea Shock] Sea Shock was reported by two fishermen. One is a fisherman making saury fishing at the sea point 36 kilometers from the hypocenter near Kushiro port. He felt strong shock from below for two-three minutes. The other is on a salmon fishing vessel, and felt big horizontal motions in the sea region off Ohtsu port.

[Undular bore went upstream along the Tokachi and the Hei rivers]

Waves of tsunami entered the Tokachi river, Hokkaido, and water level change of height of 47 centimeters was recorded at Urahoro Town, 11 kilometers from the river mouth at 5:50 Am. The front of the tsunami wave formed as an undular bore and the image was taken by officers of the Self defence force of Japan from a helicopter. Such an even was also observed at the Hei river, Miyako City, Iwate prefecture, and fishery net was broken for 100 meters.

[Tsunami Damage on Hokkaido]

The largest tsunami height was reported at Hyakunin-Hama coast near Cape Erimo, where tsunami height of 4 meters was measured. Slight damage was reported along the south coast of Hokkaido. Sea water level rose up by 2.5 meters at Hiroo port, where more than ten cars, which had parked on the yard of Hiroo port were carried away due to the tsunami. More than twenty fishery vessels were wrecked at Ohtsu port.

[Culture Raft Damage on Sanriku Coasts]

The tsunami height was not so large at fishery ports on Sanriku coasts, but a severe damage of oyster and scallop culture rafts took place at several ports in Yamada town, Rikuzen Takata City, and Ofunato city.