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Citation: Japan's Territories Series, Japan Digital Library (March 2016),
http://www2.jiia.or.jp/en/digital_library/japan_s_territories.php

Fisheries administration in relation to Takeshima^{*}

Seizaburo Tamura

When Takeshima came under the administration of Shimane Prefecture, the prefecture could not allow the overhunting of sea lions and the resulting harm to continue, and consequently amended its fisheries control regulations on April 14, 1905 to make sea lion fishing on Takeshima a licensed fishing operation.

Shimane Prefectural Order No. 18

The Fishing Industry Control Regulations stipulated in Prefectural Order No. 130 of November 1902 (Meiji 35) shall be amended as follows:

April 14, 1905 (Meiji 38) Governor of Shimane Prefecture,
MATSUNAGA Takekichi

In Article 1, the following shall be inserted after “Floating net fishery”:

“Sea lion fishing (limited to Takeshima in the Oki Region)”

In Article 2, “Sea lion fishing” shall be inserted after “Floating net fishery.”

In Article 3, “sea lion fishing” shall be inserted in the parenthetical text after “fishing using diving apparatus.”

The following proviso shall be added to Article 8:

“However, rod-fishing shall not be so limited.”

In Article 9.1.a, “and other textiles” shall be inserted after “moji.”

Ahead of this amendment, many people, including parties with experience hunting sea lions on Takeshima, had applied to the Oki Islands Magistrates for sea lion fishing licenses, who passed all these applications on to the Shimane Prefectural Governor.

^{*} *This article was originally published as 田村清三郎「竹島に関する漁業行政」田村清三郎『島根県竹島の新研究〔復刻補訂版〕』島根県総務部総務課、2010年、66-81頁.*

Notification KO No. 16 (General Affairs)

Report on Takeshima fishing applications

We were informed in Shimane Prefecture Notice No. 40 this year that Takeshima has been placed as part of Shimane Prefecture and come under the jurisdiction of the Oki Islands Magistrate. Instructions will now presumably be put in place in relation to the town or village to which Takeshima will be attached and Takeshima's incorporation into the land register, for example. In relation to the current matter, though, many sea lions have apparently traditionally come to Takeshima (gathering from the surrounding seas around April to give birth), and as of two or three years ago, two or three Oki residents have been going out to the island and making substantial sea lion catches. They have already planned to do so again this year, and are on the verge of departure. However, with Takeshima now placed as part of Shimane Prefecture, I have suddenly been placed in the position of following the relevant procedures, and some of these fishermen have submitted applications for lease of the entire island, or for sea lion hunting licenses. No doubt a control act will be issued [at some stage] in relation to such fishing applications, but at the moment [in the absence of such an act] I am quite unable to deal with them, while a proper survey also needs to be undertaken to determine whether or not to grant these licenses. In the meantime, therefore, I have stamped them and sent them on to you. I will provide a detailed report of my views after the survey has been conducted, so I would ask that you do nothing until then.

March 7, 1905

Higashi Bunsuke

Oki Islands Magistrate

To: Matsunaga Bukichi
Governor, Shimane Prefecture

The prefecture amended its fisheries control regulations to hunt sea lion on Takeshima a licensed fishing operation and asked for the Oki Islands Magistrate's views on selecting those parties to whom licenses would be granted from among those who had already applied.

Notice No. 48 (Agriculture)

As sea lion hunting conducted within your jurisdiction has become a licensed fishing operation pursuant to the recent fisheries control regulations, the various applications received prior by the following persons from within your jurisdiction needed to be

processed. As the island is extremely small, the concern is that the fishing grounds could very easily be depleted, and as our policy is to issue licenses in such a way as to prevent competitive over-exploitation and ensure that fishing continues indefinitely, there is no way that we can grant licenses to a large number of people. We therefore ask that you examine the merits of the applicants and their business prospects in this context and submit a detailed memorandum.

Hori Shinji
Secretary
Director of Internal Affairs
Shimane Prefecture

April 11, 1905

To: Higashi Bunsuke
Oki Islands Magistrate

Saigo-cho	Nakai Yozaburo
Same	Nagami Kanichi
Goka Village	Hashioka Tomojiro
Saigo-cho	Ishii Tomojiro
Fuse Village	Yamane Fusamatsu
Saigo-cho	Miura Chuichiro
Iso Village	Kadowaki Teitaro and one other
Naka Village	Iguchi Ryuta

Notice OTSU No. 92 (Agriculture)

Your inquiry in relation to the business situation and other details of sea lion hunters on Takeshima in Notice No. 478 (Agriculture) has been duly noted. The results of my inquiries are as attached. Nakai Yozaburo, Iguchi Ryuta, and Hashioka Tomojiro have been travelling to the island and conducting business since 1903 and Kato Shigezo since 1904. While there are slight disparities in the state of their business, there is almost no difference among Nakai, Iguchi, and Hashioka in terms of business continuity, and although Kato started up a year later than the others, he is still in business now. Nakai Yozaburo has also been going up to Tokyo since last summer to directly request the competent ministries both verbally and in written form that the island be incorporated as part of our territory and a lease given to himself, and the recent incorporation could indeed be said to be the result of his actions. While there is no doubt that he went to an enormous

amount of effort, giving him monopoly over fishing rights to the entire island would not only render useless the various pieces of equipment which the other three parties who are still in business have acquired to date, but would also place them in the difficult position of having to suddenly change the direction of their operations. At the same time, if licenses were given to all four parties, they would inevitably end up competing for profit, which would make damage from overfishing unavoidable, so what I would like to do is have the four parties work together to designate methods for protecting sea lion breeding and engage in business for a set number of years. If this course is acceptable to you, I will summon the four parties before the announcement and explain how to change their application to a joint application, if you could issue an internal notification to that effect.

May 6, 1905

Higashi Bunsuke
Oki Islands Magistrate

To: Hori Shinji
 Director of Third Department
 Shimane Prefecture

Notice No. 685 (Agriculture)

Thank you for your response on the matter of sea lion hunting licenses in Notice No. 92 (Agriculture) dated the 6th of this month. As suggested, I have issued an internal notification to the effect that Nakai Yozaburo, Iguchi Ryuta, Hashioka Tomojiro, and Kato Shigezo will not receive a license unless they submit a joint application, and I have attached four applications so that you may direct these persons to amend their applications to a joint application and submit this accordingly.

May 10, 1905

Hori Shinji
Assistant Officer, Director of Third Department
Shimane Prefecture

To: Higashi Bunsuke
 Oki Islands Magistrate

Notice OTSU No. 805 (Agriculture)

Thank you for your response on the matter of the licenses on sea lion hunting in Takeshima in Notice No. 685 (Agriculture) dated the 10th of this month. When I presented the attached agreed application on conducting a joint fishing operation to Nakai Yozaburo, Iguchi Ryuta, Hashioka Tomojiro, and Kato Shigezo, they accepted this readily, and I therefore request that a license is issued immediately. Once a license has been issued, it would be appreciated if you could notify me by telegram.

May 22, 1905

Higashi Bunsuke
Oki Islands Magistrate

To: Hori Shinji
 Secretary, Director of Third Department
 Shimane Prefecture

P.S.

Please note that the fishing license applications from the above four persons which were submitted earlier will all be returned to them.

Sea lion fishing license application

1. Fishing area: Takeshima and surrounding area
2. No. of pieces of fishing equipment: 2 nets
3. License period: From June 1905 to May 1908 Three years

We have received the above sea lion fishing license as a joint operation and attach a map.

May 20, 1905

Nakai Yozaburo
Oaza Nishimachi, Saigo-cho, Suki County, Shimane Prefecture

Kato Shigezo
As above

Iguchi Ryuta
Oaza Minato, Naka Village, Suki County, Shimane Prefecture

Hashioka Tomojiro
Oaza Kumi, Goka Village, Ochi Country, Shimane Prefecture

To: Matsunaga Bukichi
Governor, Shimane Prefecture

Petition on Takeshima Sea Lion Fishing Applications

We have previously submitted separate applications for been granted licenses for sea lion fishing on Takeshima, but by common consent we have decided to conduct a joint operation, so we would like to withdraw our previous applications and seek a license for the attached application.

(Jointly signed by the above four persons)

May 20, 1905

To: Matsunaga Bukichi
Governor, Shimane Prefecture

Based on the above, the prefecture has licensed the four persons above as experienced sea lion fishermen in Takeshima and informed each of the other nine persons who applied—Yodoe Tokuwaka of Urago Village, Chibu County; Kano Senichi, Moriyama Village, Yatsuka County; Kadowaki Teitaro and one other from Iso Village, Suki County; Miura Chuichiro, Saigo-cho, Suki County; Shimada Torazo, Akasaki Village, Tohaku County; Ishii Chutaro, Saigo-cho, Suki County; Nagami Kanichi, Saigo-cho, Suki County; and Yamane Fusamatsu, Fuse Village, Suki County—that their applications have been turned down in Shimane Prefecture Notice No. 1927.

Shimane Prefecture Notice No. 1926 (Agriculture)

Nakai Yozaburo	Oaza Nishimachi, Saigo-cho, Suki County
Kato Shigezo	Oaza Nishimachi, Saigo-cho, Suki County
Iguchi Ryuta	Oaza Minato, Naka Village, Suki County
Hashioka Tomojiro	Oaza Kumi, Goka Village, Ochi County

Permission is hereby given to the above for sea lion fishery pursuant to the application dated May 20, 1905, and one license shall be issued.

June 5, 1905

Matsunaga Bukichi
Governor, Shimane Prefecture

On April 30, 1906, Nakai Yozaburo submitted a petition to the Oki Islands Magistrate on business operation of Takeshima, requesting a long-term lease for all of Takeshima and an

license for exclusive usage of sea surface.

The prefecture accordingly permits the above to use all of Takeshima for a period of five years, but an exclusive sea surface license will not be issued until the partial amendment of the fisheries control regulations on June 30, 1908.

Shimane Prefectural Ordinance No. 48

The fisheries control regulations (Shimane Prefectural Ordinance No. 130) of November 1902 shall be amended as follows and implemented as of July 1 this year.

June 30, 1908

Wakabayashi Raizo

Governor, Shimane Prefecture

(Excerpt)

- Article 1 shall be amended as follows:

In addition to the fishing operations noted in Article 56 of the Ordinance for Enforcement of the Fishery Act, those persons conducting the following fishing operations must have gubernatorial permission to do so. However, the fishing operations in (7) shall be limited to Takeshima as defined in Shimane Prefecture Notice No. 40 dated February 1905, while the fishing operations noted in (8) and (11) shall be restricted to lakes and rivers.

(7) Sea lion fishing

- The following provision shall be added to Article 8

Fishing operations other than sea lion fishing shall be prohibited on Takeshima (Shimane Prefecture Notice No. 40 dated February 1905) or within 20 *cho* (approximately 2 km) thereof.

The fishing control regulations were abolished and the Shimane Prefecture fisheries control regulations was promulgated in December 1911. With the amendment of Shimane Prefectural Ordinance No. 21 dated April 1921, the exclusive use of the sea surface noted above was further expanded to allow those parties with the right to hunt sea lions to also harvest seaweed on the permitted sea surface.

Shimane Prefecture Fisheries Control Regulations

(Prefectural Ordinance No. 54 of December 1911, amended Prefectural Ordinance No., 14 of 1916, amended Prefectural Ordinance No. 21 of 1921)

(Excerpt)

Chapter 1 General Rules

Article 1

In addition to the fishing operations noted in Article 50 of the Ordinance for Enforcement of the Fishery Act, parties engaging in the fishing operations noted below shall receive gubernatorial permission to do so. However, this shall not necessarily apply in the case of exclusive fishing rights.

(25) Sea lion fishing (gill net fishing, clubbing, shooting)

Chapter 3 Breeding protection and enforcement

Article 15

The following areas shall be off-limits for fishing, and the harvesting of marine flora and fauna is prohibited there.

(5) Takeshima (Shimane Prefecture Notice No. 40 dated February 1905) and that nearby area within the red line marked on Map No. 5 as attached.

However, this shall not apply in the case of licensed sea lion fishing operations or those fishermen who have received said licenses or those harvesting agar seaweed, laver, wakame seaweed, turban shells, abalone, mussels, etc.

Subsequently, sea lion fishing licenses were issued for three years between 1908 to 1911 to the three parties excluding Iguchi Ryuta; to the same three parties from 1911 and 1916; to Nakai Yoichi, Hashioka Tadashige, and Kato Shigezo from 1916 to 1921; to the same three parties from 1921 to 1926; to Nakai Yoichi and Hashioka Tadashige from 1926 to 1931; and to Yahata Choshiro, Ikeda Koichi, and Hashioka Tadashige from 1931 through to the end of the war.

After the end of the Pacific War, the General Headquarters (GHQ) of the Supreme Commander for the Allied Powers issued the memorandum SCAPIN-677 “Governmental and Administrative Separation of Certain Outlying Areas from Japan” on January 29, 1946, directing the Japanese government to cease exercising or attempting to exercise, governmental or administrative authority over Takeshima. This was followed by SCAPIN-1033 “Area Authorized for Japanese Fishing and Whaling”, dated June 22 of the same year, which directed in 3(b) that “Japanese vessels or personnel thereof will not approach closer than twelve (12) miles to Takeshima (37°15' North Latitude, 131°53' East Longitude) nor have any contact with said island,” effectively placing Takeshima outside of the so-called MacArthur Line.

Accordingly, Shimane Prefecture issued Prefectural Ordinance No. 49 dated July 26, 1946 to remove the provisions on Takeshima and sea lion hunting at the island from the scope of the Shimane Prefecture fisheries control regulations.

The relevant portion of Notice No. 329 (Fishery) [Application for Revision of Fisheries Control Regulations], dated April 9, 1946, which was sent by the Shimane Prefectural Governor to the Minister of Agriculture and Forestry, was as follows:

The fishing ground for the fishing operations noted in No. 29 is Takeshima of Goka Village, Ochi County, which was formerly under our jurisdiction, but following the end of the war, Takeshima has become a prohibited fishing zone pursuant to an order issued by the Stationing Forces.

According to the Department 20 No. 1758 Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry Fisheries Bureau Notification, (5) Takeshima became a prohibited fishing zone as a result of the SCAPIN memorandum.

On April 25, 1952, ahead of the entry into force of the Peace Treaty, the GHQ gave notification of the elimination of the MacArthur Line, and all restrictions in relation to the fishing and whaling zones around Takeshima were removed. Then, the Peace Treaty went into force at 10:30 on the evening of April 28 (9 a.m. in Washington on the same day), and for the first time in six years and eight months since the end of the war, Japan returned to the international community as a completely independent country, while Japan's territorial rights to Takeshima were also completely restored.

However, because Takeshima was designated as a US naval bombing practice range under SCAPIN-2160 dated July 6, 1950, on January 17, 1952, the prefecture requested through the deputy director of Local government agency that the government lift the designation of Takeshima as a practice range, and that the restriction on fishing on Takeshima be lifted.

On May 16, 1952, Shimane Prefecture amended part of the Shimane Prefecture Marine Fishing Industry Coordination Regulations (August 29, 1951, Prefectural Regulation No. 88) under Shimane Prefectural Regulation No. 29, adding "(15) Seal fishing (including clubbing and shooting)" to Article 4: Fishing Permission, making sea lion fishing a fishing operation requiring gubernatorial permission.

According to Application to the Minister of Agriculture and Forestry No. 391 (Fishery), dated April 22, 1952, the reason for the amendment was as follows.

(Excerpt)

Seal fishing was designated as a licensed activity under the old Shimane Prefecture fisheries control regulations up until before the war, but the waters inhabited by these seals are around Takeshima, which is attached to Goka Village in Ochi County, Shimane Prefecture, and because of the MacArthur Line, fishing at the island and entering there were forbidden. Accordingly, these regulations were amended after the war and the area was removed from the areas where operators with permission were permitted for fishing. By the Peace Treaty entering into force, the territory has been restored and government ordinances in relation to fishing zone restrictions have become null and void. Given the concern that there are already a large number of parties wishing to fish [in the area], it is deemed necessary to regulate hunting, and we wish to hunt sea lion having been licensed by the authority again, as before the war, in order to maintain order.

On May 20, 1952, Shimane Prefecture petitioned the Minister for Foreign Affairs and the Minister of Agriculture and Forestry to remove Takeshima from those areas designated as bombing practice ranges.

Petition

We wish Takeshima, which lies within the jurisdiction of the Oki Branch Office in Shimane Prefecture, to be excluded as a bombing practice range for the Stationing Forces.

Reasons

Takeshima, an island falling within the jurisdiction of the Oki Branch Office in Shimane Prefecture, was incorporated into Japanese territory in 1905, and the Oki Islands fishermen have traditionally been engaged primarily in seal fishing, from which they have made an enormous profit. However, since the end of the war they have been unable to fish around Takeshima because the MacArthur Line passed right over the island.

With the entry into force of the Peace Treaty, the MacArthur Line was been eliminated, and Shimane Prefecture citizens are waiting to be able to engage in seal fishing and harvest Ezo abalone and wakame seaweed, etc.

We have heard that the government plans to continue allowing Takeshima to be used as a bombing practice range for the Stationing Forces, but request that the wishes of the fishermen of Shimane Prefecture are taken into consideration by making the following arrangements:

1. Removing Takeshima from its designation as a bombing practice range for the Stationing Forces.

2. If the above is impossible, suspending bombing for the seven months between April and October when seals migrate to the island.

Tsunematsu Yasuo

Governor, Shimane Prefecture

To: Minister for Foreign Affairs (Minister of Agriculture and Forestry)

Further, Yamamoto Toshinaga, a Diet member from Shimane Prefecture, engaged in the following question and answer session with Parliamentary Vice Minister for Foreign Affairs Ishihara at a House of Representatives Committee on Foreign Affairs meeting on May 23, 1952, getting a commitment from the government in relation to the designation of Takeshima as a practice range.

Yamamoto: The Foreign Minister recently said that the Japan-ROK negotiations had broken down, but are there any territorial issues between Japan and the ROK that won't be resolved?

Ishihara: There is no dispute in relation to territory.

Yamamoto: But what about Takeshima in the administration at Shimane Prefecture? I have heard that the Korean side claims territorial rights.

Ishihara: The Japanese side obviously regards Takeshima as Japanese territory, and GHQ too recently acknowledged that Takeshima belongs to Japan. Korea is simply making a unilateral claim.

Yamamoto: I am of the same opinion, but I have heard that the government plans to use Takeshima as a naval bombing practice range for the Stationing Forces. It would seem that there is a political aspect here, designating Takeshima as a practice range in order to secure Japan's territorial rights, but is that the case?

Ishihara: We are proceeding along that line.

Yamamoto: As you know, Takeshima is a renowned seal fishing ground. If it is scheduled as a practice range, seal fishing could become impossible. I think that even if it is designated as a bombing practice range, full consideration should be given to the wishes of local residents by ensuring that fishing does not become impossible. What is the government's view on this point?

Ishihara: I would like full consideration to be given at the Japan-US Joint Committee to the interests of local fishermen in regard to the practice range designation, as you

suggest.

Following this, on July 26, 1952, Takeshima was designated as a bombing practice area to be utilized by the US Forces in Japan, as during the Occupation, by the facilities and areas agreement of the Japan-US Joint Committee under the Japan-US Administrative Agreement (the current Japan-US Status of Forces Agreement). However, when it was agreed by both Japan and the United States to remove Takeshima from the list of bombing practice areas at a meeting of the Subcommittee on Naval Training Areas under the Japan-US Joint Committee on March 19, 1953, the latter approved the above and Takeshima was officially released from its bombing practice range designation.

No. 695 (Cooperation)

April 4, 1953

Director-General
International Cooperation Bureau
Ministry of Foreign Affairs

(To: Shimane Prefectural Governor)

Removal of the Takeshima bombing practice range in Shimane Prefecture

Please note the agreement reached as attached between Japan and the United States at the Subcommittee on Naval Training Areas under the Japan-US Joint Committee as in Attachment 1, and the concomitant approval given at the Japan-US Joint Committee as in Attachment 2 (excerpt from the minutes).

TO: Director-General of the Fisheries Policy Planning Department, Fisheries Agency, Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry; Director-General of the Budget Bureau and Director of the Local Administration Department of the Local Finance Bureau, Ministry of Finance; Director-General of the Sea Transport Bureau, Ministry of Transport; Deputy Director of the Procurement Agency; Deputy Director of the Maritime Safety Agency;

CC: Shimane Prefectural Governor; Director of Kure Procurement Bureau, Hiroshima Prefectural Government

Attachment 1

Subcommittee on Naval Training and Training Areas, Japan-US Joint Committee

Date and venue: March 19, 1953, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Tokyo

The Subcommittee on Naval Training and Training Areas proposes taking the following appropriate measure:

- Rendering null Item 1(r) in the Minutes of the 4th Japan-US Joint Committee on June 2, 1952
That the US Air Forces in Japan shall not request the use of Takeshima (the Liancourt Rocks) at 37°15' north latitude and 131°53' east longitude for bombing.

Tachikawa Muneyasu

H. Alexander

Attachment 2

Joint Committee pursuant to Article 26 of the Japan-US Administrative Agreement

Date and venue: March 19, 1953, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Tokyo

Minutes of the 45th Japan-US Joint Committee

The Japan-US Joint Committee convened at 10:15 a.m. on March 19 under the chairmanship of Iseki Yujiro. Participants were as follows (omitted).

Items 1–3 (omitted)

Item 4: A Subcommittee on Naval Training and Training Areas report dated March 19, 1953 was submitted and approved.

Items 5–8 (omitted)

The Committee adjourned at 11:55 a.m.

Iseki Yujiro

Major General William S. Lawton

In Shimane Prefecture, with the Japan-US Joint Committee releasing Takeshima from its designation as a bombing practice range for the US military, on June 10, 1953, licenses were given for sea lion fishing on the surface of the ocean near Takeshima, Goka Village, Ochi County to Hashioka Tadashige, Yahata Kazuma, and Ikeda Kuniyuki. On the 18th, joint fishing rights for wakame seaweed, iwanori (rock laver), agar weed, abalone, turbo shells, sea cucumber, octopus, and sea urchin fishing were licensed to the Federation of Oki Islands Fisheries Cooperative Associations pursuant to Article 10 of the Fishery Act (Act No. 267 of

1949).

Public Notice

Pursuant to the provisions of Article 4 of the Shimane Prefecture Marine Fishing Industry Coordination Regulations (August 29, 1951, Shimane Prefectural Regulation No. 88), a license has been issued for fishing seals on the surface of the ocean near Takeshima, Goka Village, Ochi County.

June 19, 1953

Tsunematsu Yasuo

Governor, Shimane Prefecture

1. License date: June 10, 1953
2. Name of fishing type: Seal fishing
3. License number: No. 2456 (Marine)
4. Name and address of fishermen:

Hashioka Tadashige	Lot 274, Oaza Kumi, Goka Village, Ochi County, Shimane Prefecture
Yahata Kazuma	Same
Ikeda Kuniyuki	Lot 270, Oaza Kumi, Goka Village, Ochi County, Shimane Prefecture
Representative of the above	
Hashioka Tadashige	Lot 274, Oaza Kumi, Goka Village, Ochi County, Shimane Prefecture
5. Area of operations: Ocean near Takeshima, this located at 37°9'30 north latitude and 131°55' east longitude
6. Type of catch: Seals
7. Period of operations: February 1–November 30
8. License period: June 1, 1953–December 31, 1955

Shimane Prefecture Notice No. 352

The following joint marine fishing rights have been licensed pursuant to Article 10 of the Fishery Act (Law No. 267 of 1949) as of June 18, 1953.

June 19, 1953

Tsunematsu Yasuo

Governor, Shimane Prefecture

1. License number: No. 344 (Joint)
2. Name and address of licensed fishermen:
Federation of Oki Islands Fisheries Cooperative Associations, Lot 1, Yabi, Nishimachi,
Oaza Saigo-cho, Suki County, Shimane Prefecture
3. Fishing location/area: (As in attached map)
 - (1) Fishing location: Near Takeshima (37°9'30 north latitude and 131°55' east longitude), Goka Village, Ochi County
 - (2) Fishing area: That area within a line 500 meters from the coastline at high tide around Takeshima (including minor islands on the coast line)
4. Type and name of fishing operation, type of catch, fishing period

Type of fishing operation	Name of fishing operation	Type of catch	Fishing period
Wakame seaweed fishing	Type 1	Wakame seaweed	January 1–December 31
Iwanori (rock laver) fishing	Type 1	Iwanori (rock laver)	January 1–December 31
Agar weed fishing	Type 1	Agar weed	January 1–December 31
Abalone fishing	Type 1	Abalone	January 1–December 31
Turbo shells fishing	Type 1	Turbo shells	January 1–December 31
Sea cucumber fishing	Type 1	Sea cucumber	January 1–December 31
Octopus fishing	Type 1	Octopus	January 1–December 31
Sea urchins fishing	Type 1	Sea urchins	January 1–December 31

5. Duration: June 18, 1953–August 31, 1961
6. Restrictions and conditions: None

As fishing from shore on Takeshima takes places over the four months from May to August, which is the calm period, an appropriate off-season can be established with a positive effect on the development of seaweed and shellfish species. The wakame seaweed and agar weed, etc., are of better quality than seen along the mainland shore, while abalone and other shellfish of a particularly large size are also harvested. The catch is estimated at 200,000 *kan* (750,000 tons)

of wakame seaweed, 1,000 *kan* (3,750 tons) of agar weed, 100,000 *kan* (375,000 tons) of abalone and turbo shells, and 200,000 *kan* (750,000 tons) of sea cucumbers.

The area within 1,000 meters of Takeshima forms a continental shelf around 50 meters below the surface, beyond which the sea floor drops steeply, and this shelf is an attractive fishing ground with good prospects for pole and line and longline fishing of demersal fish species.