

Regarding overseas reports on the stranding of sardines and other fish in Toi, Hakodate City

Regarding the cause of the large number of dead sardines and mackerel that have washed ashore in Toi, Hakodate City, Hokkaido, some foreign media have reported a story that suggests a connection with ALPS (Advanced Liquid Processing System) treated water.

The Hakodate Fisheries Research Institute of the Fisheries Research Department of the Hokkaido Research Organization has stated that “it is possible that the fish encountered low-temperature seawater, or were chased by predators like dolphins and washed up on the beach.” The Fisheries Agency comments: “We have been monitoring the amount of tritium found in fish, and the Ministry of the Environment has been monitoring the seawater, but the results from both have been below the detection limit. Similar cases of fish washing ashore have also occurred in many places in the past.”

Since similar incidents have occurred in Hokkaido even before the release of ALPS treated water, the prefecture has asked the national government to ensure that news reports are based on scientific evidence.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs, through the Embassy of Japan in the United Kingdom, have issued a notice to the relevant media: "Without any scientific evidence, it is inappropriate for the media to report as if there is a connection between the washing ashore of sardines and the release of ALPS treated water."

The Hokkaido Government will strive to provide accurate information based on scientific evidence, while continuing to request the national government to do the same both domestically and internationally.