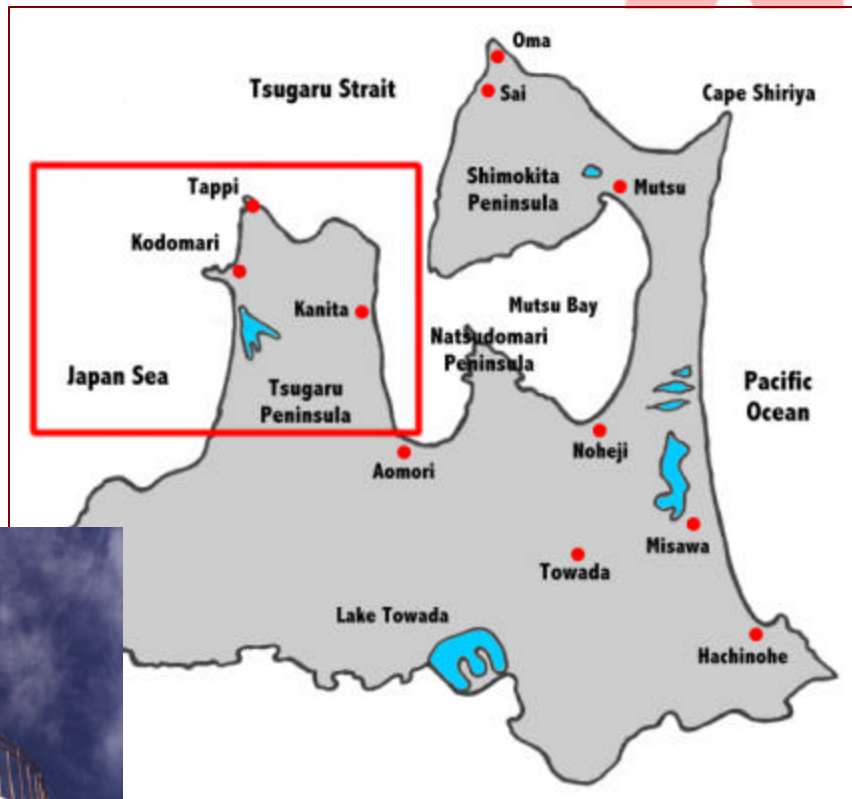


Chapter Four

THE TSUGARU PENINSULA

The Tsugaru area and Peninsula is one of the most scenic places in northern Japan. On a clear day you can see from the white cliffs of the Shimokita to the tip of the peninsula at Oma, and across the Tsugaru Strait to the southern shores of Hokkaido. The tip of the peninsula at Tappizaki offers not only great diving, but alot of sightseeing opportunities for everyone. The drive from Aomori north takes



you through a large number of small and scenic fishing villages. As you drive north along Mutsu Bay you'll enjoy the spectacular view of the bay from the tip of the Natsudomari Peninsula, Ozoresan Mountain in the northeast corner, across to Wakinosawa at the southern tip of the Shimokita Peninsula. As you approach the northern end of the Tsugaru Peninsula you'll get a great view of Hokkaido. When you arrive at Tappizaki you'll see a roadside sign on the right

[Left] The lighthouse at Tappizaki is still in use to warn mariners of the dangerous rocky cape below. A lookout point nearby offers splendid views of the Tsugaru Strait.

depicting the area and its attractions. The sign is labeled in English as well as Japanese. Follow the road up the hill and you'll be there. The lighthouse with its old W.W.II observation bunker offers the best views of the area. From here it's easy to see Hokkaido, but look down for a great view of the fishing port and its clear blue/green waters. One of the most interesting sights is the "famous current" From the lighthouse



[Above] A Japanese Imperial Army lookout post still stands atop the cliffs at Tappizaki. The wide view of the western approach to the Tsugaru Strait it afforded made this a once-strategic location.

lookout, look down to the left and you'll see churning waters. This is a northerly current passing over coral reefs. To really appreciate its force wait until a fishing boat passes south through it and observe the power required to make headway. Another attraction is the Wind Park, an array of windmill power generating stations built on the slopes of the point. This area is usually always windy, so the Japanese make use of this resource by turning it into power. From the lighthouse parking lot a trail begins that will lead you down the steep slope to the shore



[Left & Above] Rusty anchors and sun-dried squid are some of the traditional things you'll see on a drive along the Tsugaru Peninsula coasts.

below. This trail winds along the rocks all the way to the campground. For non-divers there are plenty of sheltered coves that are great for snorkeling. The drive from Tappizaki to Kodomari will take you high up into the mountains, past the tree line at times. You'll get spectacular views of the Japan Sea as well as the mountain scenery.



VIA THE MICHINOKU TOLL ROAD (Distances vary based on destination)

- 🚗 From the Misawa Air Base main gate (00 Km) go straight and make a right turn at the 2nd traffic light. After making the right turn go straight again. Just before the 2nd light you'll see a sign for ROUTE 8 to NOHEJI, make a right turn at the 2nd light.
- 🚗 Now go all the way to the end of this road where you'll come to a sign for AOMORI and KAMIKITA directly in front of you. Make a diagonal left turn in the direction of the sign and then another right across the railroad tracks shortly thereafter. You are now on ROUTE 8 north to NOHEJI.
- 🚗 At a distance of 19 Kilometers you will come to a traffic light with a Circle K store on the right and a bridge on the left. The intersection is marked with a large blue sign indicating SHICHINOHE / TENMABAYASHI to the left (ROUTE 179). Turn left and cross the bridge.
- 🚗 After crossing the bridge there will be a Yamayo Food Store on the left, then you'll see a blue and white sign with the MICHINOKU TOLL ROAD identified in a green box. Just after the sign is another blue and white sign in Japanese only indicating a right turn across a bridge (20 Km) (the Kanji indicates MICHINOKU TOLL ROAD and AOMORI CITY to the right). Turn right across the bridge and continue to follow this road, you are now on your way to the toll road. At 26 Km you'll cross ROUTE 4 as you continue heading towards the mountains and the toll road. You are now on ROUTE 242 which turns into the Michinoku Toll Road.
- 🚗 At a distance of 45 Kilometers you'll pass a rest area with restaurants on the left side of the road, 200 meters past this is the tollbooth. The toll for a regular car or van is 830 Yen.
- 🚗 At the end of the Michinoku Toll Road you will come to the ROUTE 44 East / West Intersection (56 Km). The intersection is marked AOMORI / SANNAI MARUYAMA to the left and NOHEJI / ASAMUSHI SPA / NATSUDOMARI PENINSULA to the right, turn left towards AOMORI. You are now on ROUTE 44.
- 🚗 Proceed straight until you see a Circle K store (58 Km) on the right side. You'll see a blue and white sign indicating ROUTE 44 straight ahead and ROUTE 4 to Central Aomori left. There is a "Y" intersection here. Turn towards the right towards ROUTE 4. After just a short distance you'll come to ROUTE 4 (58.6 Km). Turn left towards Aomori City.

- 🚗 Now go straight through Aomori City and the downtown area. ROUTE 4 will turn into ROUTE 7. Continue straight west on ROUTE 7.
- 🚗 After coming out of the main downtown area you go up and over the railroad overpass (66.5 Km). Just after this overpass you'll see signs for ROUTE 280 north to TAPPI and KANITA. **DO NOT TURN HERE.** Proceed straight on ROUTE 7. (Note: You can turn here but it takes longer!)
- 🚗 Follow ROUTE 7 as it winds west out of Aomori City. At 69 Km you'll pass a "Sundays and Mega" shopping mall, a "Yellow Hat" auto parts store (70 Km), and many car dealers etc. At 71 Km you'll come to an intersection with a traffic signal. There is a sign prior to the intersection indicating "ROUTE 280 BYPASS and KANITA" There is a "Dairy Queen" restaurant on the left side at the turn and right is the only way you can turn. Make the right turn and you are now on the ROUTE 280 BYPASS.
- 🚗 Continue straight ahead on the bypass until it ends in a "T" intersection (86.5 Km). There is a sign there indicating "TAPPI" to the right. Turn right here and go straight for a short distance. You will cross some railroad tracks and then come back to the original ROUTE 280 (87 Km). Turn left (North) on ROUTE 280 and head towards KANITA.
- 🚗 When you enter KANITA (around 95 Km) you will pass over a bridge and the road will bend right then left again. Immediately after the left bend (97 Km) you'll see a blue and white sign indicating ROUTE 12 for TAPPI. Turn left at this sign to head west/northwest into the mountains.
- 🚗 Continue to follow ROUTE 12. After 8 kilometers (at 105 Km) you'll come to the intersection of ROUTE 14 to TAPPI / IMABETSU. Depending on your destination you will either turn right to go to Tappizaki, or continue straight to Kodomari. This intersection is marked with a blue and white sign indicating TAPPI to the right and GOSHOGOWARA / NAKASATO straight ahead.

TO GET TO TAPPIZAKI:

- 🚗 When you reach the ROUTE 12 / ROUTE 14 intersection (105 Km) turn right in the direction indicated by the signs for Tappi. From this point you are 33 kilometers from Tappizaki. About 15 kilometers after turning onto ROUTE 14 you will come to ROUTE 280 (at 120 Km). There is a gas station on the left and an old closed "No.1 Pachinko Parlor" on the far right.
- 🚗 Turn left on ROUTE 280 following the sign to TAPPI. The road will wind through many small fishing villages and many small tunnels and overhangs. Shortly before entering Tappi ROUTE 280 will turn into ROUTE 339 (you won't notice!) When you arrive in Tappi Village you'll pass through 2 short protective overhangs. Just after the second (at 136 Km) you'll see a large colorful sign on the right illustrating the area's attractions and a short cement pier sticking out into the water. Just opposite this sign a road leads steeply up the hill on the left side, follow this road uphill.
- 🚗 When you reach the top there is a "T" intersection, turn right. Now you have two options. *Note: You can actually get to Kodomari from here if you want to visit both sites in one day. Turning left at this intersection will take you up into the mountains and down towards Kodomari to the southwest. This road is steep and closed when*

there is ice or snow present. It also reaches an altitude of about 2000 feet so be careful about ascending to altitude after diving.

- 🚗 First you can continue to follow the road to the right and then around a bend to the left. You'll pass a large hotel that will be on your right, continue on. As the road begins to narrow you'll see a "TAPPI CAMPING" sign on a pole on the left side. Turn left here and go down the narrow steep road to the campground.
- 🚗 The other option is to turn left just after making the right turn at the "T". You'll see a new sign for "TAPPI CAMPING". This road passes the Seikan Tunnel Museum and then follows the line of the hill above the campground. This is a good place to stop and assess the diving conditions since it gives a good overview of the area from about 100 meters up. Further down the road there is a very sharp right turn for the road that doubles back to the campground.

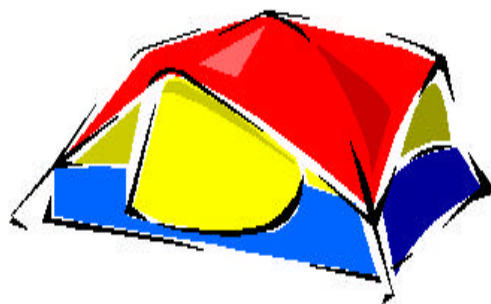
TO GET TO KODOMARI FISHING PORT:

- 🚗 When you reach the ROUTE 12 / ROUTE 14 intersection continue straight on ROUTE 12 in the direction of Lake Jusanko, Goshogowara, and Nakasato. ROUTE 12 will wind up into the hills. At 106 Km and 111 Km there are public parking areas with restrooms and picnic tables (each is located just before and just after a tunnel respectively).
- 🚗 At 119 Km you'll see a sign indicating ROUTE 339 ahead. Turn right on ROUTE 339 when you reach the "T" intersection. You are now on ROUTE 339 which will take you directly into Kodomari Village and eventually Tappizaki.
- 🚗 At 121 Km there is a parking area and public restrooms on the left with a good view of Lake Jusan. At 123 Km you'll pass by Lake Jusan Park. It is a large park complex on the left side of the road with many public facilities. Shortly after passing the park you'll see another blue and white sign indicating Kodomari is only 14 Km.
- 🚗 At 136 Km you'll see a blue and white sign indicating ROUTE 339 to the right to the Kodomari Village Office. Turn right here and stay on ROUTE 339. As you enter Kodomari Village (138 Km) you'll come to an intersection that is marked ROUTE 339 for Tappi to the right, Kodomari Village Office straight ahead, and Kodomari Fishing Port to the left on ROUTE 111. Turn left on ROUTE 111. This route is a small local road that heads uphill and then steeply downhill. At 138.6 Km ROUTE 111 comes into (rather steeply!) a "T" intersection with a stop sign and 2 mirrors directly ahead. Turn left here.
- 🚗 After turning left you will soon notice the fishing port to the right side. You'll see a large white building with blue trim and a fishing boat on the roof (Fisheries Office). Continue straight until the road narrows and eventually ends at 140.2 Km by the public parking and restrooms.
- 🚗 There is parking available just about anywhere at the fishing port but make sure you don't block fishermen's vehicles or access to boats. The best parking is the public lot at the south end of the waterfront road (140.2 Km). There is a public restroom facility located there with fresh water and a western style toilet (in the handicapped room). For boat diving tours this is the standard parking area. It is also a good spot since its close to the trail leading along the rocks to some beach entry spots south of the seaport.



TAPPIZAKI CAMPGROUND

Distance from Misawa: 138 Km
Driving Time: 3 1/2 Hours



The campground at Tappizaki is located at the base of a steep road on the western side of the peninsula. At the top of the hill is a small and blue and white sign indicating “TAPPI CAMPING” in English. Be careful going down the hill, it really is steep! When you reach the bottom turn left into the office parking area and pay your fees. The campground offers all facilities from modern "homestyle" bungalows, to bare-floor cabins, and wooden tent platforms, Hot showers and even rental camping equipment is also available. The cabins are situated on the slope of a hill facing southwest for a good view of the coastline and the Sea of Japan. Just below the cabins on a terrace are two rows of wooden tent platforms large enough for a family sized tent. At the base of the hill is an indoor cooking area with charcoal grills, and a dish washing station with fresh water. Outside of this building is a covered picnic area and a large fire pit. You can also pitch tents in this area since its nice and flat. On the hill behind the office building is a row of newly constructed



[Above] Newly constructed bungalows at Tappizaki Campground offer all the comforts of home, including showers and full bathroom, kitchen, TV etc.

home-like bungalows. Built in 2000, these six identical bungalows offer full modern comforts and have a wonderful sunset view of the Japan Sea. Each bungalow also offers covered garage parking for one vehicle. The shower and bathroom facilities were modernized and improved in the summer of 1999. A completely new facility is located at the top of the steps by the entry point and another is located across the road in the office building. The bathrooms are free but there is a fee for taking showers. The paved parking lot is also located adjacent the office building.



[Above] Cabins and tent pads are located on terraces cut into the hillside just above the dive site. The camp ground office is located in the small building in the lower right corner of the photograph.



[Left] A newly renovated water slide pool and hot shower/bathroom facility is located adjacent to the camping area and just above the site's entry point. You can park in the dirt lot to the right of the shower building but come early as this spot get crowded in the hot summer months.

DETAILED INFORMATION AND PRICES

- ❑ **ENTRANCE FEE:** None
- ❑ **PARKING FEE:** None. There are two main parking lots available. The first is a paved lot on the east side of the road by the main office. The second, and most convenient for divers, is a gravel lot just at the top of the cement steps leading to the entry point.
- ❑ **CAMPING (1 PERSON/PER NIGHT):** 500 Yen
- ❑ **TENT PLATFORM RENTAL (1 DAY):** 500 Yen (This is in addition to the tent fee of 500 Yen)
- ❑ **CABIN RENTAL (PER NIGHT):** 4000 Yen (Reservations are highly recommended)
- ❑ **BUNGALOW RENTAL (PER NIGHT):** 12,000 Yen for 4 people / 15,000 Yen for 6 people. Bungalows include Shower, Bathroom (western style), Kitchen, Dining Room with TV, Bedroom with Futons, and a covered parking garage for one vehicle. (Reservations are required well in advance).
- ❑ **RESERVATIONS:** (0174) 38-2741 (Japanese Only).
- ❑ **FRESH WATER RINSE:** Yes, There is fresh water in the cooking house (2 sinks) and 3 fresh water faucets outside. One is located by the fire circle and the other just outside the bathrooms by the main office. A third is located next to the shower facility by the water slide pool. Many divers also use the fresh water run-off pipe that drains into the lagoon. The water runs year-round and it is 100 % fresh! It is pump drainage from the Seikan Tunnel complex mixed with some stream run-off from a fresh water stream in the valley to the south.
- ❑ **BATHROOMS:** Yes, modern and clean facilities are located next to the main office on the east side of the road. Toilet paper is sometimes provided, but its always a good idea to bring your own. A new restroom, changing and shower facility was opened in the summer of 1999. Located right at the top of the steps by the entry point the new building resembles a wooden cabin and the bathrooms are clean and modern. Remember to remove your shoes when entering the building.
- ❑ **SHOWERS:** Yes, showers are located to the left of the office in the same building. Cost is 100 Yen for a hot shower. Showers are also available in the new facility by the water slide. 100 yen will get you 5 minutes of hot fresh water.
- ❑ **ELECTRICITY:** Yes, in the cabins and new hillside bungalows only.
- ❑ **RESTAURANT:** There is no restaurant at the campground but there are several atop the hill near the lighthouse, and at the various hotels.
- ❑ **FIREWOOD:** Unknown. You can collect driftwood along the beaches further south of the campground or bring your own wood scraps.
- ❑ **VENDING MACHINES:** Vending machines are located near the office, and everywhere else on the peninsula as well.
- ❑ **GROCERIES:** No shops in the area. Tappizaki Village has the closest small food stores. Larger stores are located in Imabetsu Town, but its recommended to bring everything you will need.
- ❑ **OTHER RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES:** Water slide open during the summer months (if you like ice cold ground runoff water!), snorkeling, swimming, hiking, the Seikan Tunnel Museum.

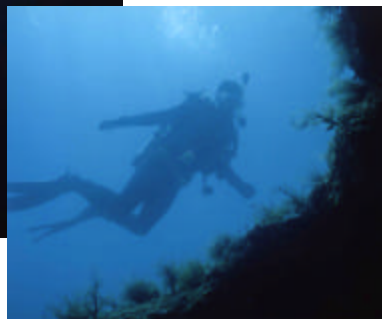


Distance from Misawa: 138 Km
Approximate Driving Time: 3 ½ Hours
Geographic Area: Tsugaru Peninsula
GPS Reference: 41°15.139N 140°20.560E

If you could dive at only one location, Tappizaki would be the one to choose! What makes this place one of the best diving spots in northern Japan is the clear waters and very strange and unique underwater topography. A strong current keeps the water clear near the rocky shoreline and provides plankton to keep the



[Above & Right] The Blowhole Cave just outside the breakwater is a favorite attraction and safe to swim through for novice divers.



area alive with life. Lush sea grass grows in the shallow areas and colorful starfish and other marine life abound. On a good clear day with lots of sunlight the visibility in the water reaches 50 feet and I've seen it as high as 80 feet! You won't find such wonderful conditions anywhere else in this area of the country. **An Ancient**

Coastline ~ The underwater world of Tappizaki was once dry land and carved by wind and waves into the odd and truly spectacular formations that exist today. Around

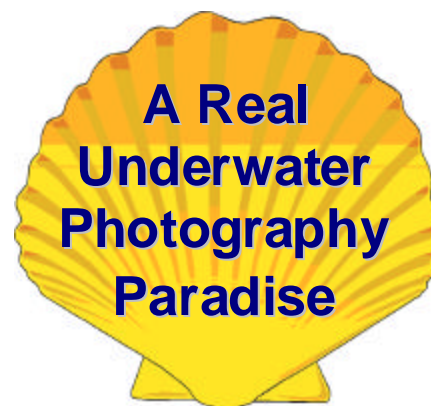


[Above] A diver explores the walls of the trench for macro photography subjects. Tappizaki offers UW photographers a rich environment of marine life.

20,000 years ago the ocean levels were 140 meters lower than they are now; you could walk from Tappizaki to Hokkaido across a land bridge. As the sea made its gradual rise it carved unique cliffs, canyons, and a natural arch into the Tsugaru coastline. The last rise in water levels took place some 8,000 years ago and submerged what is now the Tappizaki dive site. If you closely examine the faces of the rock walls while diving you can still see the water marks where ancient waves and tides carved the landscape. Ancient beaches are still discernible by the smooth round rocks and pebbles along the walls. If you look closely you'll see where waterfalls once cascaded down the rock faces, eroding smooth crevices between the many rock pinnacles. In addition to the underwater world, the shoreline at Tappizaki is constantly undergoing changes. The village of Tappi maintains the area's tourist facilities and is making many improvements to attract visitors. In the summer of 1998 construction began on a breakwater

across the cove off the campground to protect the shoreline from erosion and provide a sheltered water recreation area. In October of 1998 the breakwater was completed leaving an opening in the center and to the left and right of the newly created lagoon. This new lagoon offers divers calm water for entry and exits, and a whole new environment has been created behind the breakwaters rich in marine life. A dive in the smaller canyons and crevices of the lagoon is well worth a tank of air, especially if you enjoy underwater photography! In addition to diving, the new lagoon is a great place for non-divers to snorkel and explore the underwater world in relative safety.

Warning! Don't venture too far from shore or the "famous current" will carry your "famous butt" through the Tsugaru Strait! About 300 feet from the shore is the safe limit. Carrying your gear is easy here. It's just a walk of about 100 feet from the campground, down the steps to the water's edge. If you're just coming up for the day you can park at the top of the steps and unload your gear right at the entry point. The best entry point is right at the base of the steps leading down from the campground (see





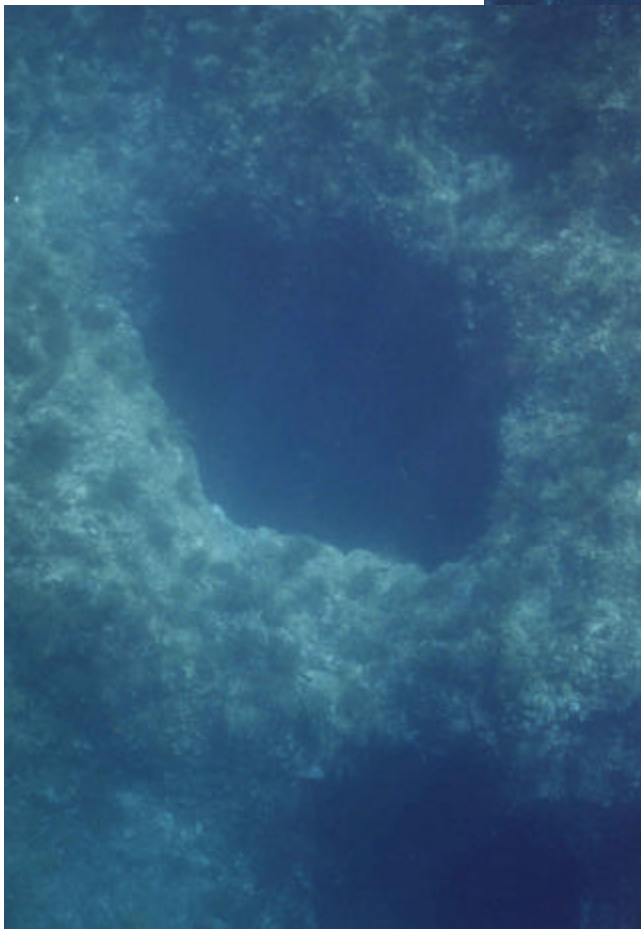
the Divemaster Briefing for more details). To the right of the steps at the start of the trail you'll notice a sign at the water's edge that says entry prohibited during rough weather – heed the warning! As you snorkel out be sure to look down. Below you you'll see the canyons of rock that make diving here unique. Drop down into the canyons when you're ready and explore. Trying to map this underwater world would be like trying to map the Grand Canyon! The water in the mid- to late summer is warm, a 3mm suit or even a shorty will keep you comfortable. A full suit is best though, because of the

climb over the rocks and the rocky features underwater - gloves are a good idea too, just for protection. You'll notice a slight surface current just outside the breakwaters but it's light compared to the one further out. Plan your dives so that you start out heading southwest a few degrees and you'll end up coming back with the surface drift to your exit point. The depths here vary depending on the terrain. The canyons drop to sandy bottoms from between 35 and 45 feet with the tops varying from 2 to 20 feet under the surface. You don't have to go deep here to enjoy excellent diving - remember the current! The best sights here are above 35 feet. The best way to get to the blowhole cave and canyonlands is to surface swim towards the south breakwater exit and then

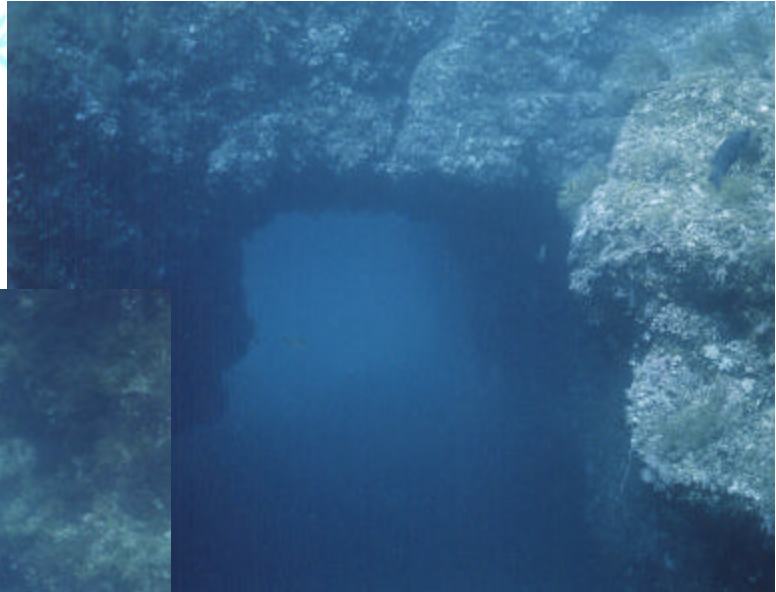


[Above] In this photo-diagram you can see a good overview of the diving area at Tappizaki. The entry and exit point is located out of the image to the right. The approximate locations of the main attractions are indicated. To keep your bearing make sure you use your compass. The breakwaters are aligned due North-South (000-180) and this makes a good reference point for underwater navigation.

turn left (south) to follow the rock face (see *the Divemaster Briefing*). About 40 feet down the rock face you'll see the dark circle marking the top entrance to the blowhole cave. Submerge here. The blowhole cave is actually just a small dome-shaped cave with one opening facing out from the rock wall and another at the top. Both openings are over one meter in diameter. The inside of the blowhole is approximately ten feet in diameter and can accommodate up to five divers. The floor of the cave is just a few feet below the horizontal opening and is composed of small round riverbed-type stones. It is safe for novice divers to enter, since a direct ascent through the roof opening is possible. There is usually good sunlight inside the cave but you may want to bring a dive light to explore the finer details. Once you're done exploring the cave follow a 270-degree heading until you either run into a rock wall or the large Kappa Pinnacle. From here you can turn to the left or right to explore the canyons. If you



[Above] The blowhole cave as seen from the surface. The lower entrance is at approximately 23 to 25 feet and the roof opening is only 18 feet below the surface.

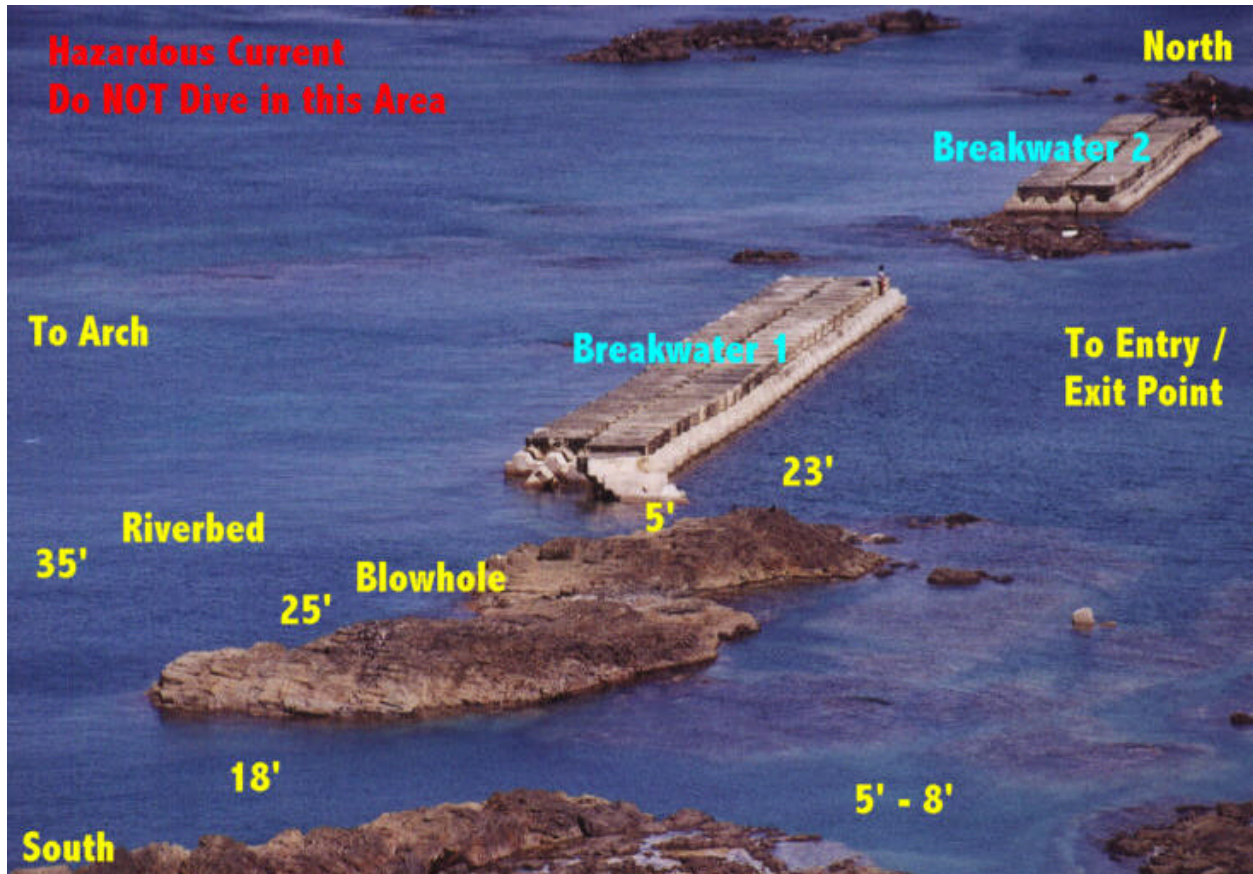


[Above] The Arch is the prime attraction at Tappizaki. The bottom under the Arch is 38 feet deep and the upper roof seen here is at approximately 21 feet.

should happen to come across a large cement block you're in the center of the canyonlands.

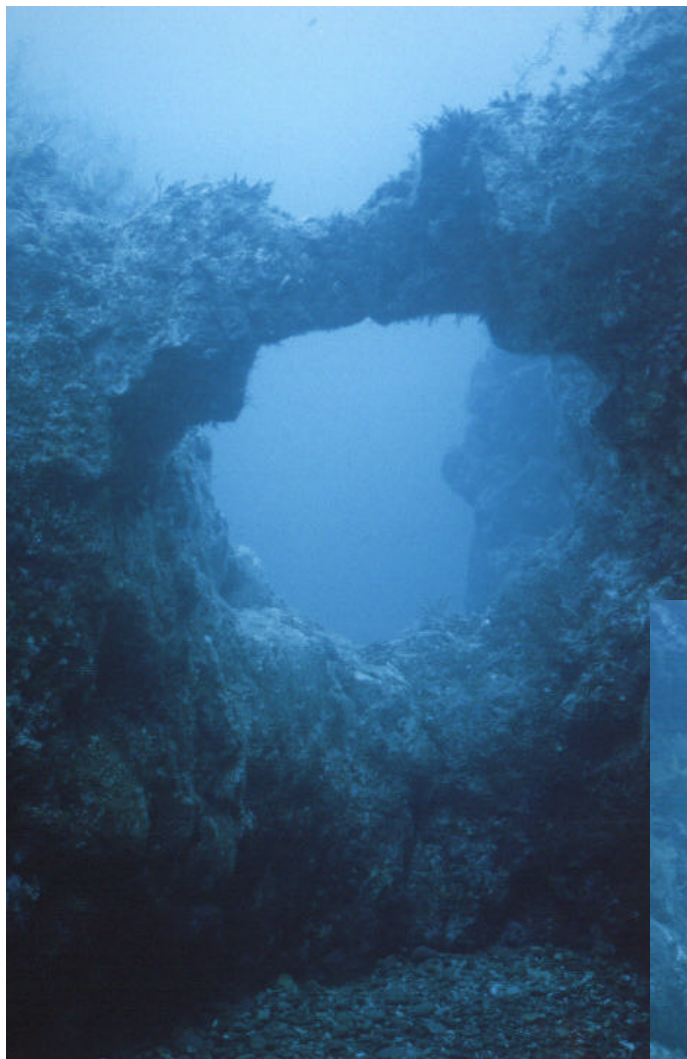
After you've explored the canyons make your next dive on the Arch. This is one of the most spectacular underwater features of the Aomori Prefecture and the highlight of any trip to Tappizaki. The Arch is a very shallow and easy dive, allowing for a lot of bottom time exploring the many crevices and the abundance of marine life under the arch and along the wall. The underside of the arch is lined with small branch coral and feather stars of all colors. A variety of fish, including the black and white

striped Japanese Parrot Perch (Ishidai) can be found in the cracks and swimming freely under the overhang to the right side. For directions on how to get to the Arch see the Divemaster Briefing. After you've passed through the arch follow along the wall to the left to see more coral. This wall winds around to another overhang that is home to some beautiful orange and yellow coral, and then around a corner to the left. After you



[Above] This photo-diagram show you a slightly larger image of the breakwater exit (transit) point to the Arch and Canyons and gives approximate area depths. While you can explore in and around the channel near the bottom of the image, there is no connection to the lagoon so you can't swim through to the exit point.

go around the corner a large expanse of sand opens up on the right side and the wall continues on the left. From this point and depending on your original dive plan there are two options most divers choose from. First, after looking at the life on the wall turn around at your pre-designated air level and return through the arch. After passing back through the arch hang a right on an azimuth of 60 degrees to head back to the breakwater. Second, continue to follow the rock wall on your left as it bends around and you'll eventually come to a large pinnacle rock that from one side resembles the Japanese Kappa character. From here a rough 60-degree azimuth will take you back to the breakwater. There is no real current at the arch, but tidal surges can cause some interesting water flow through and over it. On one dive I was shot over the crevice of the arch by a surge - be careful! After you've made this dive a few times you'll be able to find the arch easily. Some divers take bearings from the windmill generators on the



[Above] A miniature arch, probably eroded by wind and water thousands of years ago awaits divers. The opening is slightly over 1 meter in diameter and the walls surrounding it are covered with colorful coralline algae and sea pen corals.

[Right] The remnants of an ancient waterfall cut through a crevice. The diver at the top is at 33 feet. The bottom of the waterfall is at 48 feet!

southern canyons. Navigate carefully as the canyons are deep, narrow, and extend in virtually all directions. Be careful to find your way back to the breakwater and not end up in one of the many channels that do not connect with the lagoon. While exits are possible this far south the walk back is long and difficult over the rocky shoreline.

hillside or various other shore references at the campground. I've found the easiest way is a straight line as described later in this section. For divers wanting to explore other areas the southern canyons are a great and safe place to begin. From the left side of Breakwater 1, work your way towards the rock pinnacle that breaches the surface. About 50 meters to the south. A straightline azimuth is 205 degrees but you'll want to meander through the many crevices and pinnacles. The photographs on this page illustrate some of the attractions in the



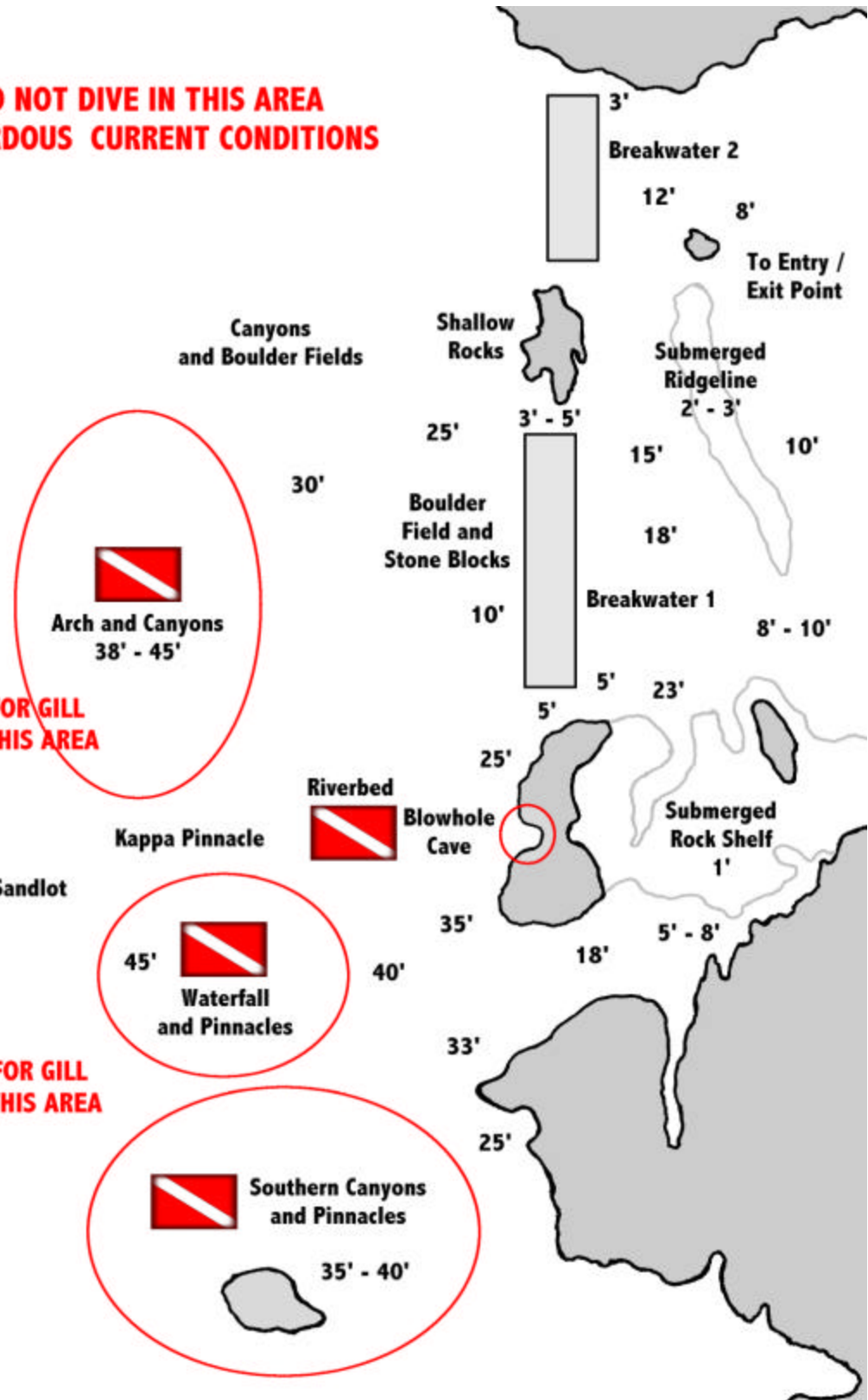
NORTH

**DO NOT DIVE IN THIS AREA
HAZARDOUS CURRENT CONDITIONS**

**WATCH FOR GILL
NETS IN THIS AREA**

**WATCH FOR GILL
NETS IN THIS AREA**

SOUTH

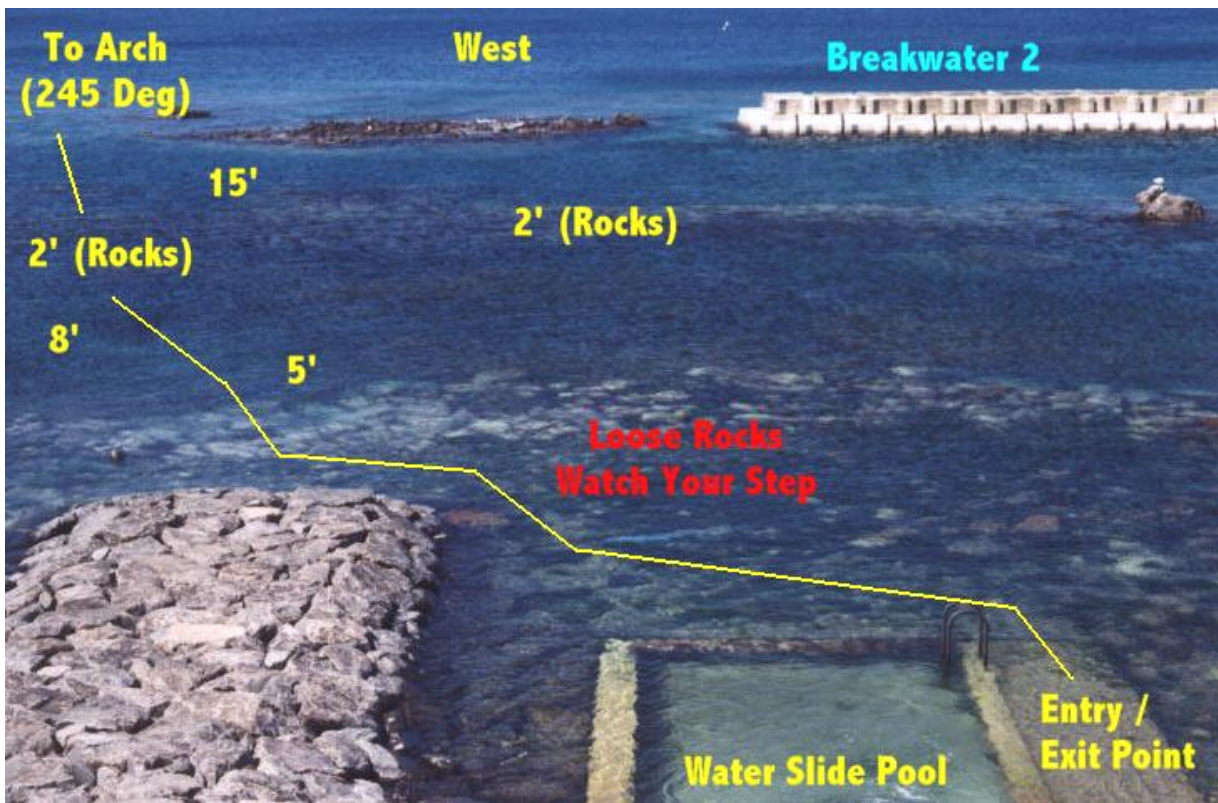


[Above] This diagram illustrates the Tappizaki Dive Site and shows all major attractions and relative depths. Depths vary greatly due to the underwater terrain. Heed the warning about diving north of Breakwater 1!

The Divemaster Briefing

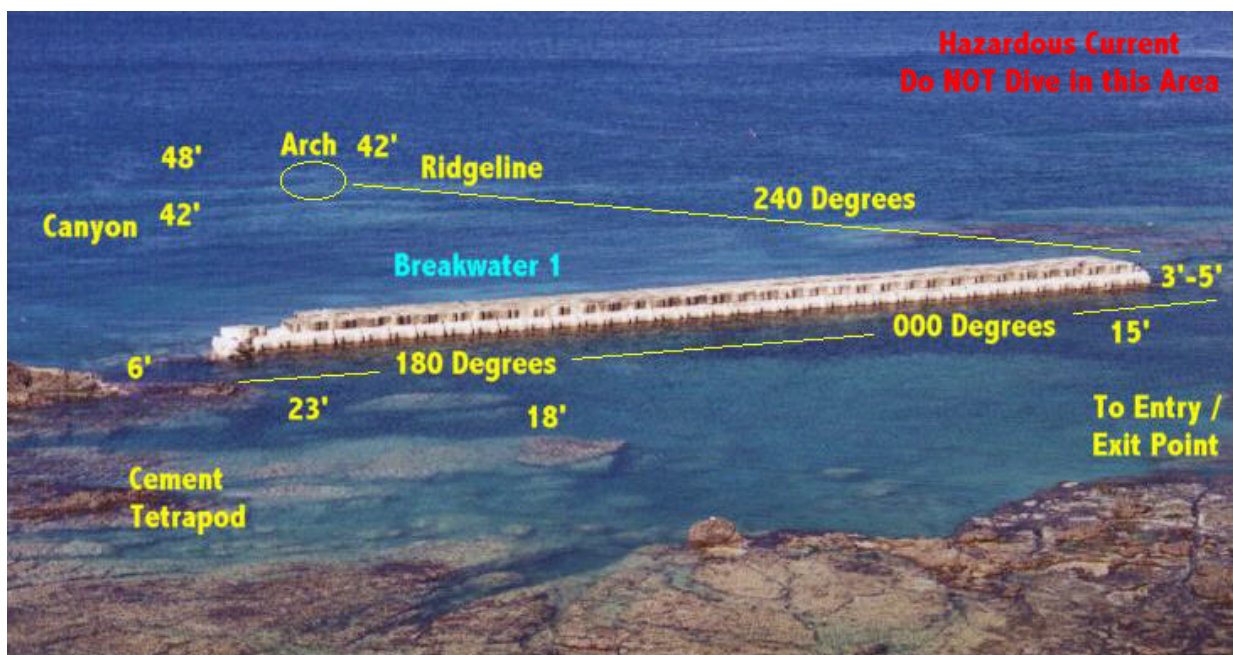
- ❑ **SPECIAL NOTE:** It is highly recommended that anyone not familiar with diving this site dive under the supervision of an experienced Divemaster or Advanced Open Water Diver familiar with Tappizaki. Obtain a detailed dive and safety hazard briefing on-site before entering the water.
- ❑ **SKILL LEVEL:** Novice to Advanced Open Water. Strong swimming skills recommended due to long distances and occasional tidal surges.
- ❑ **SPECIAL EQUIPMENT:** A “safety sausage” visual signaling device, an audible signal device such as a “dive alert”, and a dive flag is recommended because of the nearby current and occasional fishing boat traffic in the area. Carrying a dive light is also highly recommended. Most of the colorful marine life at Tappizaki is in dark crevices or shadow so a light is needed to really enjoy the scenery. Avoid carrying collection bags as the Japanese will think you’re poaching and notify the local police.
- ❑ **NIGHT DIVING:** Yes. Because of the abundant marine life, Tappizaki is one of the premier night diving spots in northern Japan. Caution is required when outside the lagoon and excellent navigation skills are a must. Placement of signal beacons or lamps on the breakwater is highly recommended and the breakwater exits / entrances should be marked underwater with flashing strobe lights. **DO NOT NIGHT DIVE TAPPIZAKI UNLESS YOU ARE FAMILIAR WITH THE SIGHT - or with a diver who is extremely familiar with the area, underwater terrain, and navigation of the canyons.**
- ❑ **FROM CAMPGROUND:** An easy walk down wide cement steps, only about 100 feet from the cabins to the shore; a little further if you’re staying in the new bungalows above the road.
- ❑ **VEHICLE ACCESS:** Plenty of parking in a paved lot at the campground. The most convenient place to park is the gravel lot at the top of the steps above the water. You can unload here or suit up out of the back of your car.
- ❑ **BEST ENTRY POINT:** There is really only one BEST entry point at Tappizaki (see *photo-diagram on the next page*). Move your gear down to the bottom of the cement steps to set up. When you’re ready to enter walk to the water slide pool at the south end of the steps. Use caution here as the cement is very slippery and coated with a fine algae. Walk out on the sidewall of the pool to the end and step into the deeper water (1-½ feet). Turn your back to the pool and carefully make your way through about 25 feet of rocks and boulders. You’ll come to a deeper crevice that opens to the south. Snorkel out through the crevice to the southern end of breakwater 1

(that's the one on the left as you're looking out to sea. The opening between the breakwater and the rocks is deep enough for an easy exit to the open sea. You can also pass through on the right side of breakwater 1 if you are heading straight out to the arch and want to take the most direct route. **Never exit to the right of breakwater 2! This area is close to the current's pull and not recommended for diving!**



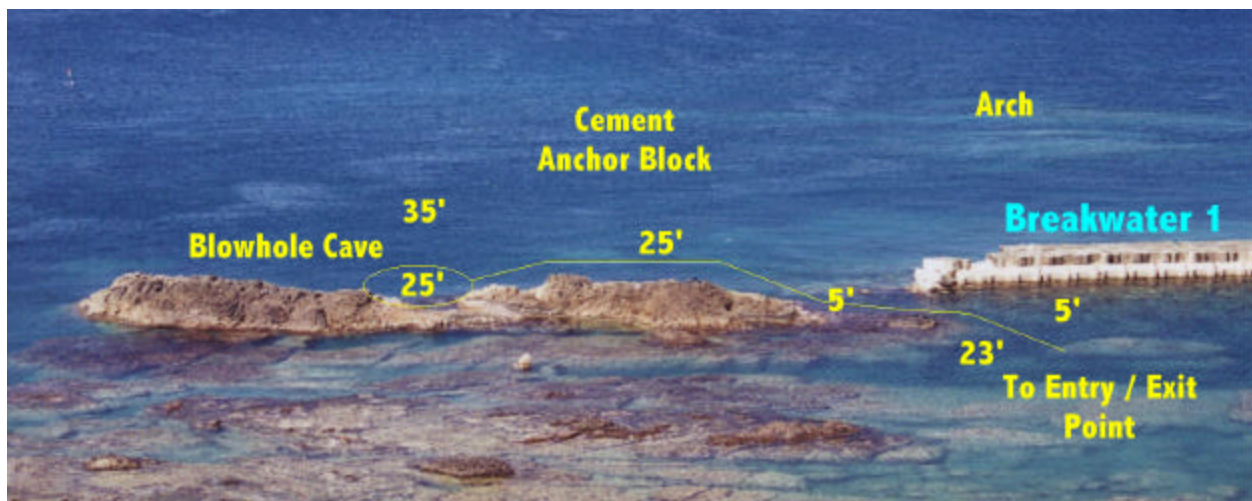
- **BEST EXIT POINT:** The best exit point is the same as the entry point. Try to snorkel in as far as you can to shorten the walk through the rocks. If you are coming back at high slack tide it is sometimes possible to snorkel right up to the water slide pool's edge.
- **VISIBILITY:** Excellent! Next to Wakinosawa or Kodomari this is the best visibility you will find in northern Japan. Expect 40 to 50 feet in calm seas and good weather. The sunlight penetration is excellent. Real "Blue Water" is possible here!
- **TEMPERATURE:** Surface Averages: **May** 60F – 65F, **June** 68F – 72F, **July** 72F – 79F, **August** 75F – 79F, **September** 75F – 68F, **October** 68F – 70F, **November** 62F – 52F. Bottom Averages: Bottom temperatures may be between 3 and 5 degrees lower than surface temperatures depending on recent weather patterns. Thermoclines have not been noted at Tappizaki, temperature will gradually decrease with depth. Temperatures in the lagoon are affected by the cold fresh water runoff entering to the north of the entry point and can be 10 or more degrees lower than outside the breakwaters. This fresh water also creates a visual disturbance in the first few feet of water in the lagoon's center area.

- **DEPTHS:** 35 to 50 within 200 feet of the shore. Greater depths are not attainable due to the strong current further off shore. For those diving in the lagoon the greatest depth is 23 feet near the southern end of Breakwater 1. Average lagoon depths in the crevices are between 15 and 20 feet.
- **CURRENT:** The biggest danger. To really appreciate it look down from the lighthouse, you can actually SEE it churning the water. The canyons and arch are in an eddy area with only some tide surges noticeable. The Kodomari Peninsula to the south deflects the current from the dive sites but extreme caution is still advised. The current is caused by the exchange of water through the Japan Sea. The sea fills with warm water from the south through the Tsushima Straits and flows into the northern Pacific through the Tsugaru Strait. The speed of the current remains fairly constant throughout the year – 6 to 8 knots.
- **BOTTOM CONTOURS:** Rock and large crevices, lots of large canyons and drop-offs to glide down into. Topography-wise this is some of the most beautiful underwater terrain around. The Arch is the most popular attraction. Refer to Diagrams 1, 2 and 3 for graphic representations of the general diving area.
- **HOW TO GET TO THE ARCH:** Due to the underwater terrain (lots of ups and downs!) it is best to snorkel to the arch, using your compass and visible bottom landmarks. The Arch is located approximately 40 meters out from the center of Breakwater 1, and approximately 80 meters from the right edge of Breakwater 1. **Navigation:** From the entry point snorkel to the right side of Breakwater 1 and exit the lagoon near the breakwater's edge. Set your compass to a heading of 240 degrees. Snorkel along the 240 degree bearing and watch the bottom terrain. You will see two crevices head off to your left and then you will come upon a large



ridgeline. This ridgeline comes up to just 8 feet below the surface at its highest point. The Arch is underneath this high point on the ridgeline. On the seaward (northwest) side of the Arch you will see a "V" shaped crevice leading in to it, and an area of light sandy bottom just outside the opening. Descend onto this sandy bottom and the Arch will be directly in front of you on an azimuth of 150 degrees. The depth at this point is between 38 and 42 feet depending on how close to the Arch you descend. The bottom depth inside the Arch is 38 feet. The roof of the Arch is at 18 feet. The width of the Arch varies from approximately 25 feet near the bottom to only a few feet at the top. The photo-diagram on the previous page illustrates the most common route to the Arch. You can clearly see the light-colored ridgeline, leading to the Arch (*indicated in the circled area - photo-diagram on previous page*).

- **HOW TO GET TO THE BLOWHOLE CAVE:** The Blowhole Cave is located just outside and to the south of Breakwater 1. It is the easiest underwater feature to reach and a good starting point for exploring the Southern Pinnacles or a reverse route to the Arch. **Navigation:** From the entry point snorkel to the left (south) end of Breakwater 1 and exit through the narrow channel between the breakwater and the rocks. You can navigate by setting your compass to 180 degrees and keeping the rock wall on your left side, or you can snorkel south along the rock wall until you see the dark circle marking the top opening to the Blowhole Cave. The upper opening is at a depth of 19 feet and is just over 1 1/2 meters in diameter. The lower opening is at a depth of 25 feet and is also approximately 1 1/2 to 2 meters in diameter. The inside diameter of the cave at its base is approximately 10-12 feet and the bottom is level; made up of rounded riverbed type stones. (*see photo-diagram below.*)



- **MARINE LIFE [FISH]:** Fox Jacopever (or) Tiger Rockfish (JP: *Kitsumebaru* LS: *Sebastes vulpes*); Spotbelly Rockfish (JP: *Murasoi* LS: *Sebastes pachycephalus*); Darkbanded Rockfish (JP: *Mebaru* LS: *Sebastes inermis*); Goldeneye Rockfish (JP: *Usumebaru* LS: *Sebastes thompsoni*); Saddled Brown Rockfish (JP: *Togotomebaru* LS: *Sebastes joyneri*); Greenling (JP: *Ainame* LS: *Hexagrammos otakii*); Spotbelly Greenling (JP: *Kujime* LS: *Hexagrammos agrammus*); Perch

Sculpin (JP: Anahaze LS: *Pseudoblennius percoides*); **Sunrise Sculpin** (JP: Asahianhaze LS: *Pseudoblennius cottoides*); **Veda Sculpin** (JP: Idatenkajika LS: *Ocynectes maschalis*); **Striped Beak Perch (or) Japanese Parrot Perch** (JP: Ishidai LS: *Oplegnathus fasciatus*); **Surf Perch** (JP: Aotanago LS: *Ditrema viridis*); **Multicolored Rainbowfish** (JP: Kyuusen LS: *Halichoeres poecilopterus*); **Bulgyhead Wrasse** (JP: Kobudai LS: *Semicossyphus reticulatus*), **Beauty Gobi** (JP: Ryuuguuhaze LS: *Pterogobius zaccalles*), **Olive Flounder** (JP: Hirame LS: *Paralichthys olivaceus*), **Japanese Filefish** (JP: Amimehagi LS: *Rudarius ercodes*), **Threadsail Filefish** (JP: Kawahagi LS: *Stephanolepis cirrhifer*), **Gray Mullet** (JP: Bora LS: *Unkown*).

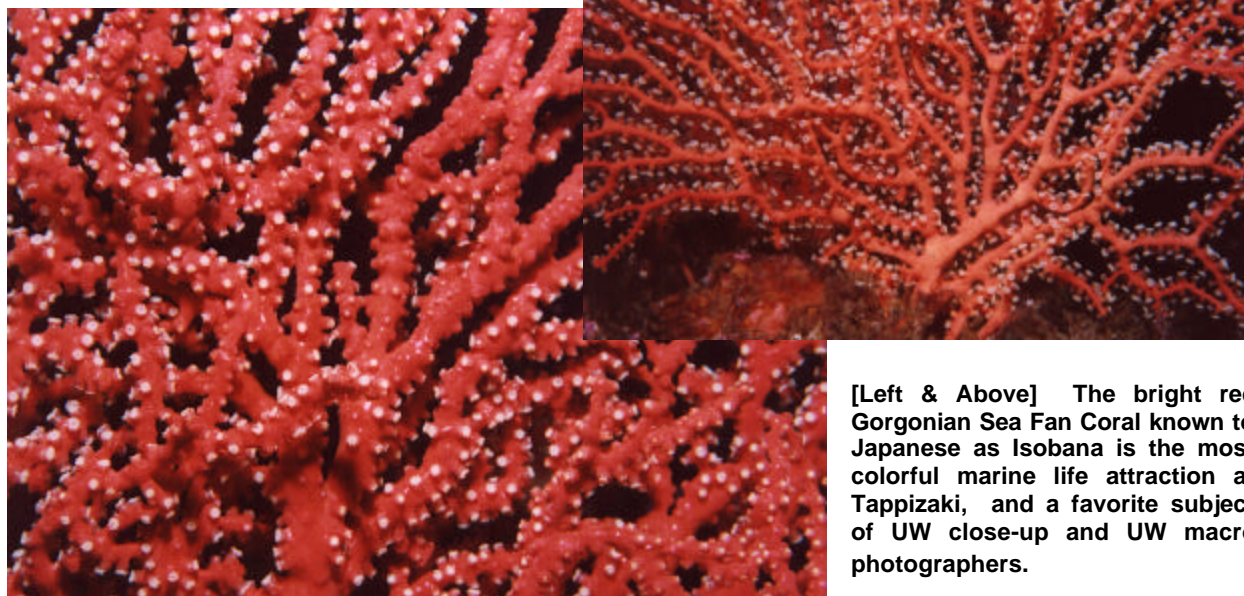


The “Multi-colored Rainbowfish” Wrasse (jp: Kyuusen ls: *Halichoeres poecilopterus*) is one of the most common species of fish seen at Tappizaki as well as other Japan Sea and Mutsu Bay dive sites. Kyuusen grow to lengths of 20 to 30 cm.



The Common Mullet (jp: Bora) can sometimes be seen at Tappi in large schools or as individuals swimming lazily through the canyons. The average Mullet grows to sizes of 60 to 80 cm.

- **MARINE LIFE [CORALS, SPONGES & PLANTS]:** **Red Branch Coral** (JP: *Isobana Sango* LS: *Melithaea flabellifera*), **Yellow Star Polyp Coral** (JP: *Mutsu Sango* LS: *Rhizopsammia minuta mutsuenisis*), **Ocean Strawberry Coral** (JP: *Umiichigo* LS: *Bellonella rubra*), **Orange Branch Coral** (JP: *Isobana Sango* LS: *Dendrophyllia cribosea*), **Sponges** (multiple specimens) (JP: *Kaimen*), **Yellow Sponge** (common along Japan Sea and Northern Mutsu Bay coasts) (JP: *Kakuresenkoukaimen* LS: *Cliona celata*), **Breadcrumb Sponge** (JP:



[Left & Above] The bright red Gorgonian Sea Fan Coral known to Japanese as Isobana is the most colorful marine life attraction at Tappizaki, and a favorite subject of UW close-up and UW macro photographers.

Namiisokaimen LS: *Halichondria panicea*), **Tappi Sponge** (generic name, color variations include brown, white, ivory, and pale green) (JP: *Mokuyokukaimen* LS: *Unknown*), **Sargassum Grass** (JP: *Mametawara* LS: *Sargassum piluliferum*), **Kelp** (JP: *Arame* LS: *Eisenia bicylis*), **Red Coraline Algae** (JP: *Heritorikaninote* LS: *Marginisporum crassissima*), **Pink Stone Coraline Algae** (JP: *Hiraibo* LS: *Lithophyllum okamuras*).

- **MARINE LIFE [INVERTABRATES]:**
- Feather Star Crinoid** (common species found along Japan Sea coast – yellow or orange polyp tip colors) (JP: *Nipponumishida* LS: *Oxycomanthus japonica*), **Sea Pineapple** (Sea Squirt) (JP: *Hoya* LS: *Halocynthia roretzi*), **Orange Sea Squirt (Breast Squirt)** (JP: *Chibusaboya* LS: *Unknown*), **Sea Cucumber** (JP: *Namako* LS: *Apostichopus japonicus*), **Purple Sea Urchin** (JP: *Uni* LS: *Strongylocentrotus purpuratus*), **Sand Starfish** (JP: *Momijigai-Hitode* LS: *Astropecten scoparius*), **Bat Starfish** (JP: *Itomaki-Hitode* LS: *Asterina pectinifera*), **Orange Starfish** (JP: *Aka-Hitode* LS: *Certonardoa semiregularis*), **Sun Starfish** (JP: *Ezonichirin-Hitode* LS: *Solaster dowsoni*), **Common Pacific Starfish** (JP: *Ma-Hitode* LS: *Asterias amurensis*), **Common Japanese Starfish** (JP: *Nippon-Hitode* LS: *Distolasterias Nippon*), **Octopus Starfish** (JP: *Takko-Hitode* LS: *Plazaster Borealis*), **Brittle Starfish** (JP: *Toumekumo-Hitode* LS: *Ophiarachnella gorgonia*), **Nudibranches** (All specimens)(JP: *Umiuchi* LS: *Unknown*), **Sea Hare** (Sea Slug) (JP: *Amefurashi* LS: *Aplysia kurodaï*), **Sea Slug** (JP: *Kuroheriamefurashi* LS: *Aplysia parvula*), **Tube Worm** (Feather



[Above] Ocean Strawberry Coral (jp: Umi-ichigo) grows in abundance during the late spring and early summer months. Each finger of coral averages 10 to 15 cm in length.



[Above] Sea Squirts such as this (jp: Chibusaboya) are prevalent during the spring and early summer months and vary in size from a few centimeters to over 30cm in diameter.



[Above] Starfish are everywhere at Tappi and make colorful subjects for underwater photography. Their colors range from the blue and red of the Bat Star to bright orange, fire red, and deep blue. *All photographs this page: Nikonos V 1:2 / 1:3 Macro*



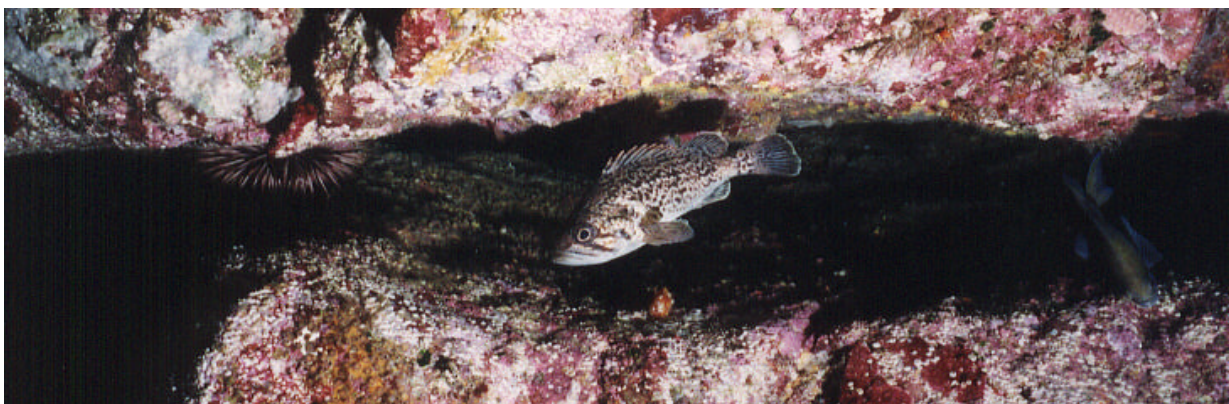
[Above] This Yellow Sponge is one of the most common types found in the Japan Sea, Mutsu Bay, and along the Pacific Coast.

Dusters) (*JP: Oomekeyari LS: Megalomma acrophthalmos*), **Jellyfish** (Most common species) (*JP: Mizukuragu LS: Aurelia aurita*)

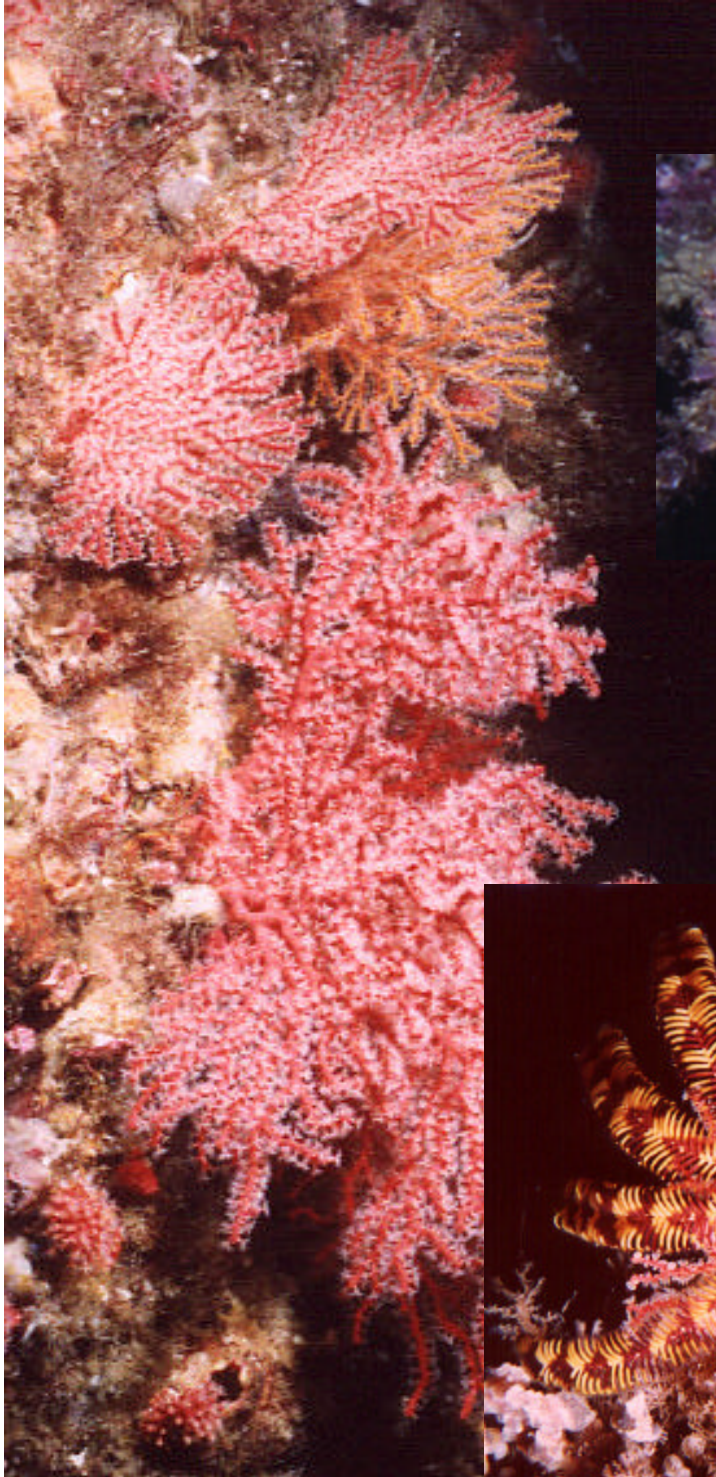
□ **SAFETY CONSIDERATIONS:** 1. Diving to the right of Breakwater 2 is hazardous due to pull from the current. Restrict all diving activities to the areas around Breakwater 1 as illustrated in the site diagrams and the photograph on the preceding page 2. Never attempt to dive if high wave conditions exist. 3. Watch the current! It is highly recommended that you carry both visual and audible signaling devices. 4. Always swim

alertly. Tappi seems to be a favorite place for fishermen to drop gill nets. These nets are made of thin monofilament line and suspended below the surface where they are hard to see. Look for two or more small surface floats outside the breakwaters, they usually indicate a net is present.

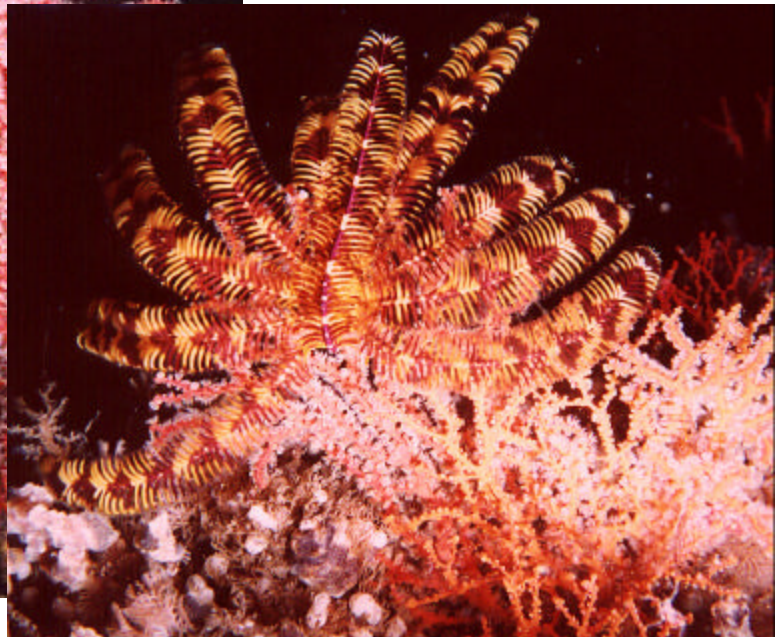
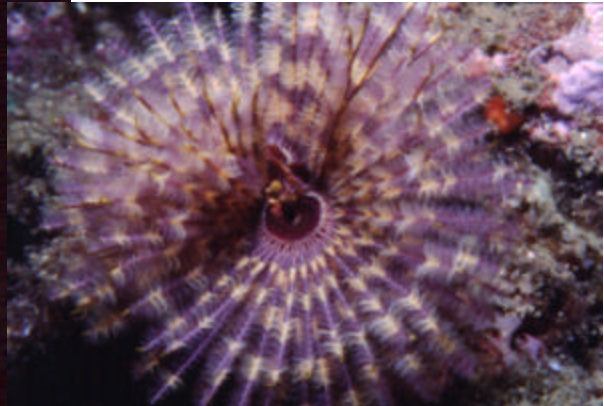
- **OTHER SITE HIGHLIGHTS:** The area around Tappizaki offers much more than just diving! There is beautiful shore sightseeing, gift shopping, and a seaside trail from the lighthouse to the campground if you still have the energy after getting out of the water. On the top of the hills overlooking the coastline is Tappi Wind Park with several power generating windmills. From the lighthouse lookout point you can enjoy outstanding views of Hokkaido when the weather is calm and the air clear. The drive to Tappi goes through dozens of small rustic fishing villages and along the western shores of Mutsu Bay. You also pass the Seikan Tunnel Entrance Plaza Visitor's Center, and located just above the campground is the tunnel's historical museum. The museum documents the tunnel's construction and visitors can ride a cablecar 140 meters beneath the sea to view even more displays or construction equipment. During the peak summer months the water slide is open and free to the public (although the water is bone chilling cold since it comes from mountain runoff and tunnel seepage.) Swimming and snorkeling inside the lagoon is the best in northern Japan. Snorkelers are able to experience much of the same marine life that divers will see outside the breakwaters. If you enjoy fishing there are many points along



the rocks to the south of the dive site that offer easy casting to deep water (30 feet). For beachcombers Tappi won't offer up treasures like glass balls, but you'll find many other interesting items. Natural sponges can be found in the rocks after storms and rough seas.



[This Page] More of the colorful marine life at Tappizaki. Red Gorgonian Sea Fan Coral, Tube Worms and colorful Hydroid Sea Feathers.





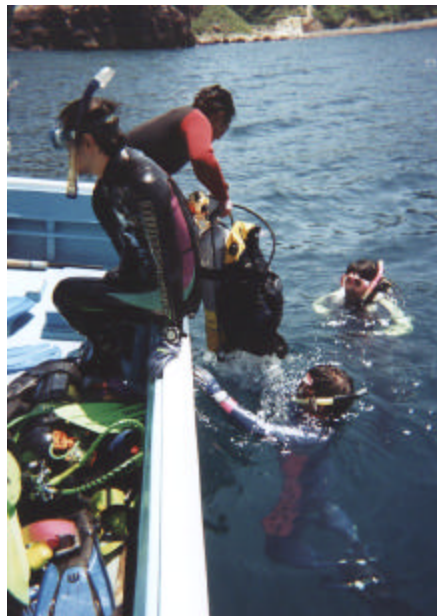
Distance from Misawa: 140 Km
Approximate Driving Time: 3 1/2 Hours
Geographic Area: Western Tsugaru Peninsula
GPS Reference: 41°07.925N 140°17.604E (Sea Port)



boat diving excursion with one of the Japanese dive shops mentioned later in this guide. There is no shore access to any of these diving sites. Located approximately 35 kilometers south of Tappizaki, the Kodomari Peninsula sticks out into the Japan Sea like a thumb and deflects the northerly flowing current. The northern shoreline of the peninsula is rocky and steep with no roads and very

First off, if you want to dive Kuroshima and Unoshima you'll have to sign on for a





few trails. The shore topography extends underwater into a number of canyons, cliffs, and pinnacles making this a definite “must dive” location. There are two well-known dive locations and boat anchorage’s along the north shore.

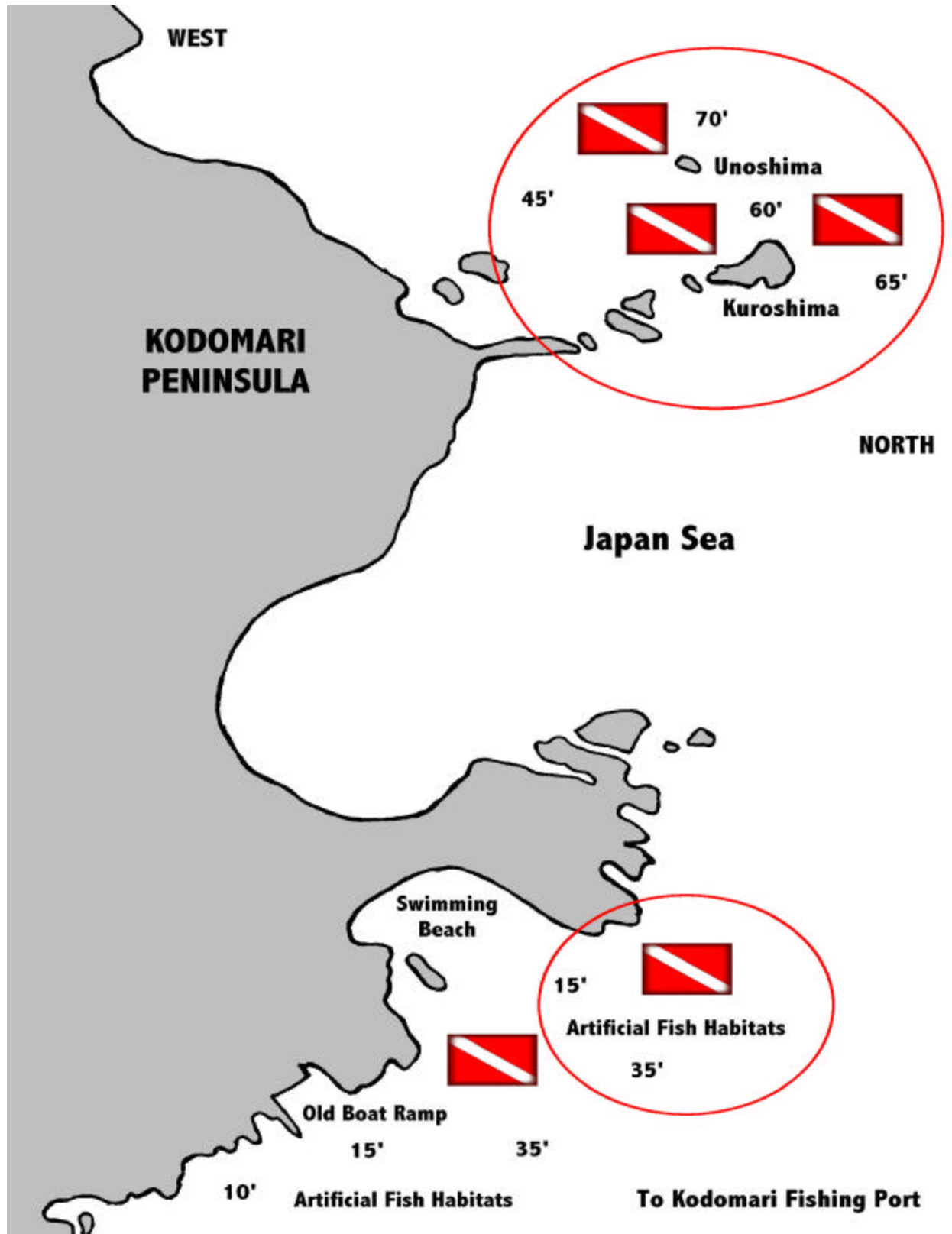
The first is Kuroshima, a large rocky mound that extends a few meters above the surface and covers a few dozen square meters. The other is Unoshima, a rock pinnacle that protrudes only a few feet above the surface but extends almost 80 feet to the sandy bottom and is surrounded by smaller sub-surface pinnacles.

Kuroshima: GPS Coordinates: 41°08.490N 140°16.522E. The boat ride from Kodomari Fishing Port to Kuroshima is a quick ten minutes with a great view of the rocky coastline all the way. As you descend on the line at Kuroshima you'll find yourself dropping into a canyon of volcanic pinnacles and large boulders. Take the time to peer under every overhang and into every crevice because this is where all of the colorful



[Above] Kuroshima’s jagged rocky surface extends below the surface to a depth of 40 to 60 feet with several vertical walls and a swim through lava tunnel. This photograph shows the eastern end of the rocks with Kodomari Village and Fishing Port out of the picture to the right.

marine life is. The walls of the pinnacles are alive with the red, orange, and white gorgonian sea fan coral that is common at Tappizaki. Other varieties of hard coral also grow here, with one growth exceeding a meter in diameter. Your divemaster will point out the most popular coral attractions but keep a sharp eye out in the dark corners, you



[Above] This diagram shows the Kuroshima and Unoshima Dive Sites as well as a newly identified site near the fishing port (The Old Boat Ramp). While the two islands require a boat the ramp site does not.

never know what you may find. The turnaround point for Kuroshima dives is usually a cluster of cement fish habitats dropped on the bottom like discarded building blocks. Several large perch tend to hang around here, and multitudes of rainbowfish, greenlings, and many rockfish are always present.

Unoshima: GPS Coordinates: 41°08.525N 140°16.450E. This small bit of sometimes-dry land is only about 150 meters from Kuroshima so the boat ride is of equal length. The part of Unoshima that protrudes from the water is so small I am surprised someone even took the time to name it! Your view will change though as you look down to see a large pinnacle rising below you. The walls of Unoshima are covered with marine life of all types. You'll see bright gorgonian sea fans, feather star crinoids, sponges, starfish, and just about everything else known to exist in the Aomori Prefecture. Take the time to explore the pinnacles adjacent to Unoshima and you'll find even more colorful attractions. If you stay on the coastal side of the pinnacle and limit your depth to no more than 60 feet you'll have plenty of bottom time and won't have to swim in a current. This area is a paradise for underwater photographers equipped with close-up or macro systems. Nudibranchs, corals, sponges, anemones, and crinoids abound!



[Above] A large group of divers requires 2 boats, and they frequently moor to each other over the site.

The Divemaster Briefing

- ❑ **SPECIAL NOTE:** It is highly recommended that anyone not familiar with diving this site dive under the supervision of an experienced Divemaster or Advanced Open Water Diver familiar with both locations and proper anchoring/mooring procedures. Obtain a detailed dive and safety hazard briefing on-site before entering the water. If diving with a Japanese tour group stay close to the divemaster as well as your buddy at all times.
- ❑ **SKILL LEVEL:** A minimum of an Advanced Open Water certification is recommended. A Boat Diving specialty rating would be helpful but is not absolutely necessary.
- ❑ **SPECIAL EQUIPMENT:** A “safety sausage” visual signaling device, an audible signal device such as a “dive alert”, and a dive flag is recommended because of the moderate current and occasional fishing boat traffic in the area. Carrying a dive light is also highly recommended. Most of the colorful marine life is in dark crevices or shadow so a light is needed to really enjoy the scenery. Avoid carrying collection

bags as the Japanese will think you're poaching and notify the local police. My favorite piece of equipment to bring on these boat dives is a DPV so I can get a free ride back against the current!

- ❑ **NIGHT DIVING:** Not available at these sites.
- ❑ **BEST ENTRY POINT:** A seated backroll entry from the boat is the preferred method since there is no real reference entry point ... pick a spot and roll!
- ❑ **BEST EXIT POINT:** The odds are strong that you'll be diving from a Japanese fishing boat. If the boat has a ladder, or the divemaster brought a home-made one along consider yourself lucky. If not look for the lowest point on the gunwales (that's the side of the boat) and try to get a grip to pull yourself up. The boat captain will generally assist divers by taking gear (weight belts and tanks).
- ❑ **VISIBILITY:** Excellent! Next to Wakinosawa or Tappizaki this is the best visibility you will find in northern Japan. Expect 40 to 50 feet in calm seas and good weather. The sunlight penetration is excellent. Real "Blue Water" is possible here!
- ❑ **TEMPERATURE:** Surface Averages: **May** 60F – 65F, **June** 68F – 72F, **July** 72F – 79F, **August** 75F – 79F, **September** 75F – 68F, **October** 68F – 70F, **November** 62F – 56F. Bottom Averages: Bottom temperatures may be between 3 and 5 degrees lower than surface temperatures depending on recent weather patterns.
- ❑ **DEPTHS:** 50 to 60 feet under the boat at Kuroshima. 60+ (maximum 75 feet) under the boat at the Unoshima site. All boat captains will drop anchor lines at either site and divemasters will generally set a separate descent line.



[Above] Unlike Tappizaki to the north, hard coral formations can be found at these sites. Some rare growths can exceed 1 meter in diameter while smaller colonies are abundant.

- **CURRENT: Kuroshima:** There is always a current of about 1 Knot present. Because of the anchoring location you will end up swimming with the current at the start of the dive, and against it to return to the ascent line. Save some energy as well as a sufficient air supply for the return trip. If you run a bit short just surface with your buddy apart from the group. The current is milder on the surface and the boat can come pick you up. **Unoshima:** No noticeable current if you stay on the coastline side of the pinnacle, 1 Knot approximately if you go around to the sea side.

- **BOTTOM CONTOURS:** Volcanic rock pinnacles and large boulders descending to a flat sandy bottom. Some of the pinnacles have vertical sides extending from the bottom straight to the surface.



[Above] Crinoids or Feather Stars are not only colorful but easy to find at both locations. Their colors vary from black to bright red and orange.

- **MARINE LIFE [FISH]:** **Fox Jacopever (or) Tiger Rockfish** (JP: *Kitsumebaru* LS: *Sebastes vulpes*); **Spotbelly Rockfish** (JP: *Murasoi* LS: *Sebastes pachycephalus*); **Darkbanded Rockfish** (JP: *Mebaru* LS: *Sebastes inermis*); **Goldeneye Rockfish** (JP: *Usumeburu* LS: *Sebastes thompsoni*); **Saddled Brown Rockfish** (JP: *Togotomebaru* LS: *Sebastes joyneri*); **Greenling** (JP: *Ainame* LS: *Hexagrammos otakii*); **Spotbelly Greenling** (JP: *Kujime* LS: *Hexagrammos agrammus*); **Perch Sculpin** (JP: *Anahaze* LS: *Pseudoblennius percoides*); **Sunrise Sculpin** (JP: *Asahianhaze* LS: *Pseudoblennius cottoides*); **Veda Sculpin** (JP: *Idatenkajika* LS: *Ocynectes maschalis*); **Striped Beak Perch (or) Japanese Parrot Perch** (JP: *Ishidai* LS: *Oplegnathus fasciatus*); **Surf Perch** (JP: *Aotanago* LS: *Ditrema viridis*); **Multicolored Rainbowfish** (JP: *Kyuusen* LS: *Halichoeres poecilopterus*); **Bulgyhead Wrasse** (JP: *Kobudai* LS: *Semicossyphus reticulatus*), **Beauty Gobi** (JP: *Ryuuguuhaze* LS: *Pterogobius zacalles*), **Olive Flounder** (JP: *Hirame* LS: *Paralichthys olivaceus*), **Japanese Filefish** (JP: *Amimehagi* LS: *Rudarius ercodes*), **Threadsail Filefish** (JP: *Kawahagi* LS: *Stephanolepis cirrhifer*).
- **MARINE LIFE [CORALS, SPONGES & PLANTS]:** **Red Branch Coral** (JP: *Isobana Sango* LS: *Melithaea flabellifera*), **Yellow Star Polyp Coral** (JP: *Mutsu Sango* LS: *Rhizopsammia minuta mutsuenisis*), **Ocean Strawberry Coral** (JP: *Umiichigo* LS: *Bellonella rubra*), **Orange Branch Coral** (JP: *Isobana* LS: *Dendrophyllia cribosea*), **Sponges** (multiple specimens) (JP: *Kaimen*), **Yellow Sponge** (common along Japan Sea and Northern Mutsu Bay coasts) (JP:

Kakuresenkoukaimen LS: *Cliona celata*), **Breadcrumb Sponge** (JP: *Namiisokaimen* LS: *Halichondria panicea*), **Tappi Sponge** (generic name, color variations include brown, white, ivory, and pale green) (JP: *Mokuyokukaimen* LS: *Unknown*), **Sargassum Grass** (JP: *Mametawara* LS: *Sargassum piluliferum*), **Kelp** (JP: *Arame* LS: *Eisenia bicylis*), **Red Coraline Algae** (JP: *Heritorikaninote* LS: *Marginisporum crassissima*), **Pink Stone Coraline Algae** (JP: *Hiraibo* LS: *Lithophyllum okamuras*).

- **MARINE LIFE [INVERTABRATES]: Feather Star Crinoid** (common species found along Japan Sea coast – yellow or orange polyp tip colors) (JP: *Nipponumishida* LS: *Oxycomanthus japonica*) , **Sea Pineapple** (Sea Squirt) (JP: *Hoya* LS: *Halocynthia roretzi*), **Orange Sea Squirt (Breast Squirt)** (JP: *Chibusaboya* LS: *Unknown*), **Sea Cucumber** (JP: *Namako* LS: *Apostichopus japonicus*), **Purple Sea Urchin** (JP: *Uni* LS: *Strongylocentrotus purpuratus*), **Sand Starfish** (JP: *Momijigai-Hitode* LS: *Astropecten scoparius*), **Bat Starfish** (JP: *Itomaki-Hitode* LS: *Asterina pectinifera*), **Orange Starfish** (JP: *Aka-Hitode* LS: *Certonardoia semiregularis*), **Sun Starfish** (JP: *Ezonichirin-Hitode* LS: *Solaster dowsoni*), **Common Pacific Starfish** (JP: *Ma-Hitode* LS: *Asterias amurensis*), **Common Japanese Starfish** (JP: *Nippon-Hitode* LS: *Distolasterias Nippon*), **Octopus Starfish** (JP: *Takko-Hitode* LS: *Plazaster Borealis*), **Brittle Starfish** (JP: *Toumekumo-Hitode* LS: *Ophiarachnella gorgonia*), **Nudibranches** (All specimens)(JP: *Umiuchi* LS: *Unknown*), **Sea Hare** (Sea Slug) (JP: *Amefurashi* LS: *Aplysia kurodaï*), **Sea Slug** (JP: *Kuroheriamefurashi* LS: *Aplysia parvula*), **Tube Worm** (Feather Dusters) (JP: *Oomekeyari* LS: *Megalomma acrophthalmos*), **Jellyfish** (Most common species) (JP: **Mizukuragu** LS: **Aurelia aurita**)

- **SAFETY CONSIDERATIONS: 1.** Be aware of diving reverse profiles. Japanese dive operators generally dive Kuroshima first and then move to the deeper Unoshima site. If you're diving with a computer dive conservatively. If you are using tables adhere to the rule of making the deeper dive first and limit your depth at Unoshima to less than your dive at Kuroshima. **3.** Watch the current! It is highly recommended that you carry both visual and audible signaling devices.



[Above] Divers videotaping marine life near Unoshima.

- **SITE HIGHLIGHTS:** Excellent coastal scenery. Japanese boat diving tours generally do one dive in the morning and then return to the seaport for lunch. You'll have some time to walk around Kodomari Village and take in some of the traditional fishing village sights (and smells!)