

Living on

SHAKY GROUND

HOW TO SURVIVE EARTHQUAKES AND TSUNAMIS IN NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

The little boat that could – a story of tsunami endurance

THE CRESCENT CITY TSUNAMI BOAT

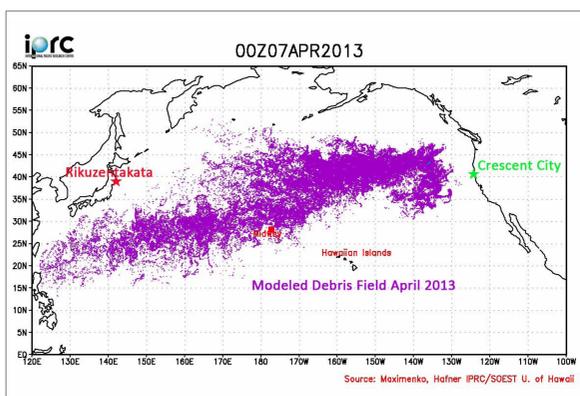
On April 7, 2013, a small boat was spotted on the beach just south of Crescent City. Beneath the masses of goose-necked barnacles, decals and Japanese writing could be seen on the side. The decals and Japanese characters connected the boat to Takata High School in Rikuzentakata, a city that was devastated by the March 11, 2011 tsunami. After a post on the City's facebook page and the assistance of the Japanese Consulate in San Francisco, the boat became the first bit of debris found on the California coast to be definitively linked to the tsunami.

As much as 1.5 million tons of debris may have been swept by the tsunami far enough offshore to be caught in the Pacific Gyre, an ocean wide circulation system. Over 1,700 sightings of possible debris have been made to NOAA's tsunami debris tracking program, but only 29 have been positively identified as from the tsunami.

The Rikuzentakata boat is one of the few that will be returned to Japan. A Japanese shipping company is transporting it home in fall 2013.



Download an information sheet on what to do if you find tsunami debris



The 20-foot panga fishing boat was used in Takata High School's aquaculture program.

The boat was covered with goose-necked barnacles that were very content to hitch hike across the Pacific during the boat's two-year voyage.

A snapshot of the computer-modeled distribution of tsunami debris on the day the boat was found in Crescent City.

The name Takata High School was written on the side of the boat.

