

Sky Rising in Yusuvara: #2 Fishing in Susaki City

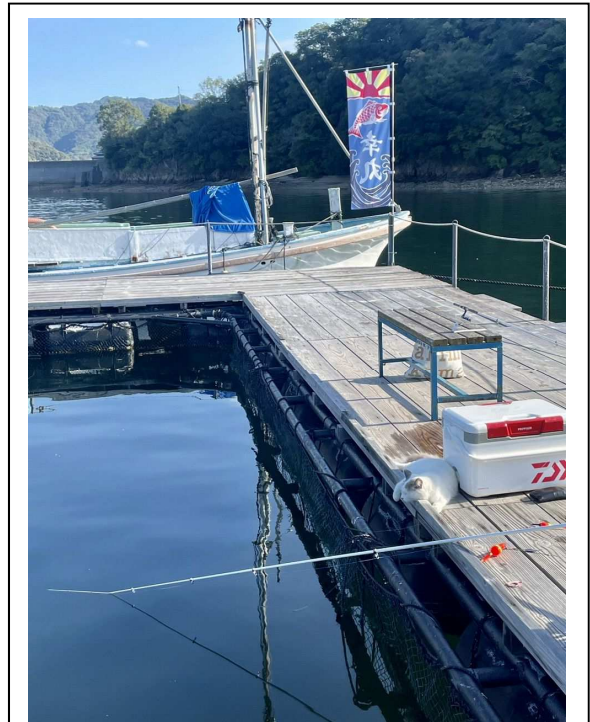
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On this year's Sports Day holiday, I had the opportunity to go fishing with some of my fellow co-workers. While this was my first time fishing in Japan, my first fish was caught years ago in America. During the summers of my childhood, my father often took me freshwater fishing in numerous lakes across the eastern side of the Sierra Nevada—one of the most iconic mountain ranges in the United States. This region of the United States is definitely a must visit location for anyone who loves nature and outdoor activities. On these fishing trips, we caught rainbow trout, brook trout, and the occasional Sacramento perch. Remembering these past memories always leaves me with a feeling of appreciation for my father. He used to be a professional fisherman, thus I feel lucky to have had the opportunity to learn from him.

As for my first fishing trip in Japan, it was a wonderful experience. The trip started early in the morning and the rising sun beautifully reflected off of the sea as we departed from the dock in Susaki City. It was comforting to see a familiar sight from home, the Pacific Ocean, albeit the opposite end of the ocean that I am accustomed to seeing. A large white cat greeted us as we hopped off the boat and onto the sea-fishing pond. The cat's size was probably due to it feasting on fish every day. The morning started off action-packed, and people were reeling in fish left and right.

Excitement flowed through my body when I got my first chance. The hooked fish fought hard, but I successfully reeled it in. The rest of the day was much more tame but still fun. During the tranquil moments, I enjoyed watching the surrounding nature. For example, I saw hawks dive from the sky and grab fish out the sea with their talons, I saw schools of fish jump out of the water, and I saw gray herons majestically glide through the air. Even though I only caught two red sea breams (マダイ), as a group we caught a large amount of fish. My co-workers definitely worked hard and displayed their fishing skills. I have much to learn from them when it comes to fishing.

Overall, I had a great experience. This was my first time at a sea-fishing pond, and it was fun trying a Japanese-style of fishing. I am grateful to my co-workers for inviting me, and hopefully I can go fishing with them again sometime!



The friendly cat resting by the sea-pond before its next meal.