

13 Disposal of fishes polluted by methyl mercury and Restoration of Minamata Bay.

【What happened to the polluted sea and fishes in Minamata Bay?】

Chisso had discharged waste water with methyl mercury for 36 years since 1932 to 1968. The amount of discharged methyl mercury from Chisso plant into Minamata Bay is estimated about 70 to 150 tons or more. Eventually there are many polluted fishes in the bay and there is a lot of polluted sludge on the bottom of the bay.

So, Kumamoto prefectural government took such measures as putting dividing nets in the bay to isolate the polluted fishes and catching them

to dispose in 1974. They had caught about 487 tons of polluted fishes for 23 years since 1974 to 1997, till the dividing nets were taken away.

They removed sludge from Minamata Bay to inside of Shinsui shore

(Eco Park), and restored. And the restoring construction of Minamata Bay took 14 years and cost 485,000,000 yen. In 1990 the restoration was finished and there appeared a reclaim land, the spread of 58.2 hectare. It is 13.5 times spreads of Tokyo Dome, and called Eco Park Minamata. The park is abundant with green trees, symbolizing preservation of environment and good health.

