

Learning Minamata disease with children

Grasping the point of Minamata disease.

1 The Shiranui Sea where Minamata disease outbreaked.

【How the Shiranui Sea where Minamata disease outbreaked has changed?】

As Minamata bay was a spawning place for fishes, it was once one of the most abundant areas in the Shiranui Sea. People called it “Welling sea” because there welled up many fish one after another there.

They got a large catch of fishes and spend a rich and peaceful life around the Minamata Bay.

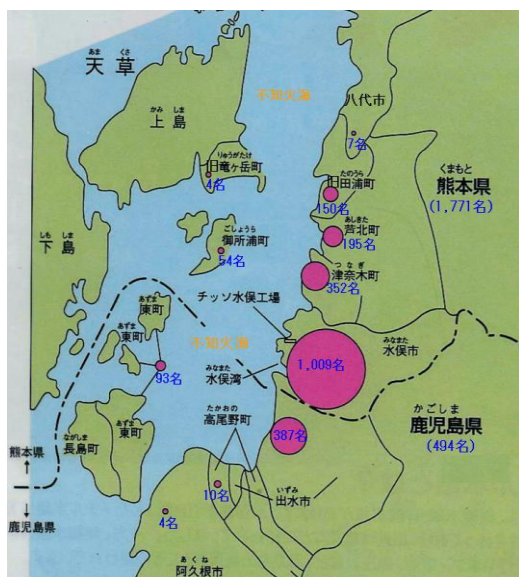
However the discharge with poisonous mercury from Chisso polluted the sea and fishes. People did not know what had been happening in the sea yet, and kept on eating the fishes.

Eventually they began ill to have disease gradually and their peaceful life was taken away at one.

Such incidents had happened in many areas not only in Minamata but also in other area around the Shiranui Sea.

Now the polluted fishes were cleared out and the construction of removing the sludge with poisonous mercury in the bottom of the sea and reclaiming the Minamata Bay was completed. And the bay became so clean that people could enjoy fishing and swimming. It became safe to eat the fishes even from the Minamata Bay, too. Fishermen also started fishing again.

The water in Minamata bay became one of the most pure and transparent water in Kumamoto prefecture.



[The zone map of certified Minamata disease patients]



IT IS CERTAIN THAT
THERE ARE 19 KINDS
OF CORAL IN
MINAMATA BAY.