

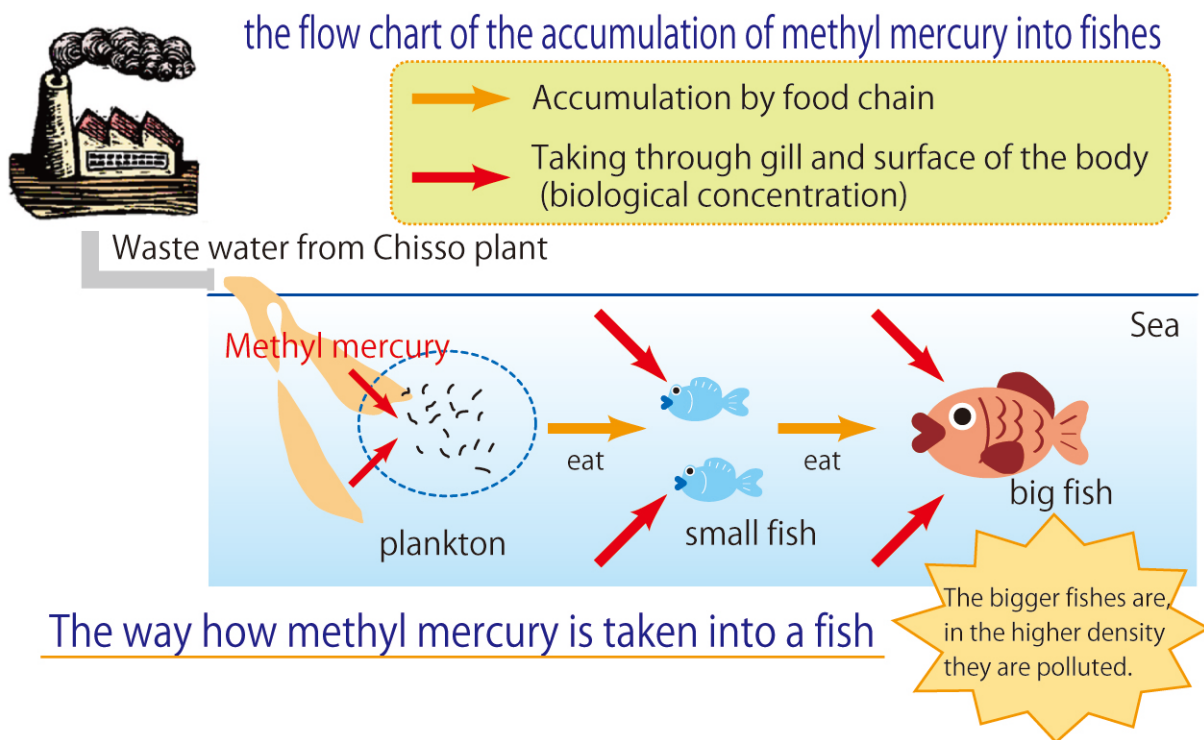
6 Polluted fishes by poisonous waste water from Chisso plant

【How to fishes in Minamata Bay were polluted?】

Methyl mercury flew out with the waste water from Chisso plant, was taken through the surface of plankton or through the bill of fishes into their bodies. This phenomenon is called “Biological concentration” .

Plankton with methyl mercury was eaten by a small fish, and then the small fish was eaten by a big fish, and the big fish was eaten by bigger one, and so on. This relation is called ” Food Chain” . And the bigger the fish was, the more methyl mercury was accumulated in the body of the fish.

There were extremely polluted fishes, which looked normal at first sight, in Minamata bay and the neighboring sea. People had kept on eating many fishes without knowing that the fishes had been polluted. And finally they had gotten Minamata disease.



The way how methyl mercury is taken into a fish