

MOP Hospitality Japanese Students of Maritime Studies



MOP student guides and the JMMTS group aboard the Kaiwo Maro, docked at Pier 8.

Photo by Sherwood Maynard

Seven students from the Japan Marine Technical Training School (JMTTS) were led on a whirlwind tour of marine facilities on O'ahu by MOP Director Sherwood Maynard. MOP students Patrick Burns, Travis Gulnac, Susie Johnsen and Mary Roney and (thank goodness) a translator from the Center for Japanese Studies accompanied the group.

The day began at the Hawaii Institute of Marine Biology (HIMB) on Coconut Island with Cindy Hunter serving as guide. Hunter explained that Coconut Island was originally the high areas in the middle of the island only, and that the low coastal regions were man-made with a dredge from Kaneohe Bay. The group toured the research facility to observe various projects in operation. Translating the technical, and scientific terms was difficult, but the students were intrigued by the fact that a pet elephant and chimpanzee used to live on the island.

The next stop was a tour of the *RVTownsend Cromwell*, led by the ship's captain, Cmdr. Richard E. Marriner. The *Cromwell* is a NOAA fisheries research vessel that docks at the UH Marine Center.

The students were impressed by the *Cromwell's* fishing capabilities; 10,000 long-line fishing hooks on ten miles of line. While at the UH Marine Center the group also visited the Hawaii Undersea Research Laboratory (HURL) facility where Kevin Kelly introduced *SNOOPY*, a Remotely Operated Vehicle (ROV).

The assemblage stopped at Hawaii Maritime Center for lunch and tours of the museum and the Falls of Clyde. There was less of a language barrier during this tour because much marine terminology is international. Lunch consisted of Bento boxes for everyone and for the Mainland haoles in the group, lessons in the proper use of chopsticks.

The highlight of the trip for the MOP students was the tour of the *Kaiwo Maru*, the JMTTS training vessel. The *Kaiwo Maru* is a four-masted, 110.09-meter sailing vessel that holds 199 crew members. The ship was christened in 1988. The JMMTS students explained that their routine included a 6:00 a.m. wake-up call and two daily scrubs of the spotless wooden deck with coconut shells.

When asked about the sea conditions during their sail from Tokyo to Honolulu, the students described a storm they encountered in the North Pacific Ocean where the ship sailed at a 40+ degree angle and one of the guard rails was washed away.

The group continued on to the Hyperbaric Treatment Center and Look Ocean Engineering Lab for tours arranged by Lab Director Hans Krock. Final destination for the travelers was the UHM study center for a small reception.

During the day MOPers learned that JMMTS students enjoy baseball. In their honor MOP student coordinator, Mary Roney, arranged a trip to the UH Rainbows vs UCLA game at the UH stadium. The group enjoyed getting to know each other in a relaxed setting, though no translator was on this part of the tour. Their English improved with their consumption of beer. After the game, the JIMMITS students headed to Waikiki to buy Mickey Mouse T-shirts and UH baseball caps.

Instead of braving the high seas at the end of their stay in Honolulu, the group gratefully returned to Japan by plane.

☉ - Mary Roney

MOP Mail Bag

Dear Editor:

Let me take this opportunity to strongly differ with your editorial opinion in the article entitled "Local Incident Sparks Controversy." (Seawords, January 1992). Enclosed is an article I wrote to the Honolulu Advertiser, publicly stating my opinion. Please consider printing it as a counterpoint to your view.

Why wait for a tragedy to strike again before doing something? Why not do some controlled remedial fishing now, at selected sites, like those heavily used for snorkeling, swimming and tourism, such as Olowalu? Why not take reasonable and prudent steps beforehand to lessen the risks? The key word here is control, not eradication.

The last shark control program in Hawaii was conducted in the mid-70s, about 15 years ago. According to a study done at the University of Hawaii, it takes approximately 15 years for a tiger shark to grow to 10 feet in length and weigh 1,000 lbs. At that size they have no natural enemies, except other large sharks.

The late Dr. Alber Tester of the University of Hawaii conducted a successful two-year shark research and control program in our coastal waters from 1967-69. At the completion of this program, Dr. Tester stressed that if fishing was not continued, the shark concentration would automatically rise again. I'm afraid we're seeing that happen right now.

- George Balazs,
1/13/92 Hawaii Kai

In a hand-written aside Balazs also note noted: Large numbers of 10-foot-long predators are simply inconsistent with marine recreation and tourism in nearshore waters at many sites in Hawaii. However, the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands' nearshore waters don't host tourism and are a place where tiger sharks are left to flourish. 1/30/92

