

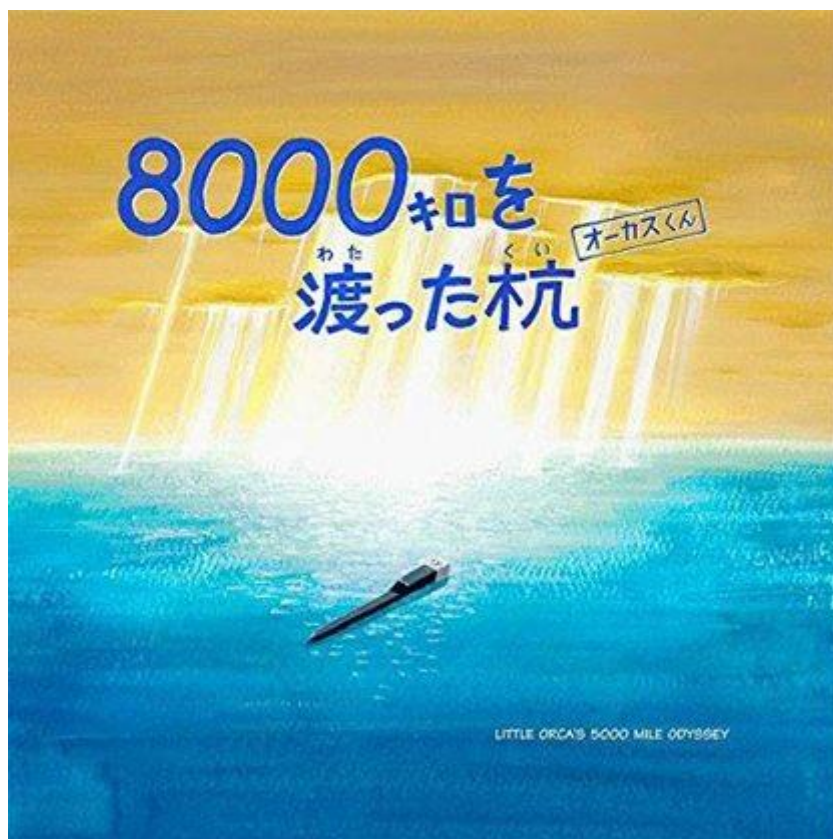
# The Incredible 8000 Kilometer Odyssey of a Survey Marker

Kengo OKADA, Japan and John HOHOL, USA

**Keywords:** Survey Marker, Incredible Odyssey, Japan, Orcas Island

## SUMMARY

This is the amazing and true story of a Japanese survey marker uprooted by Typhoon Talas in September 2011 and travelling for 6 months 8000 km (5000 miles) across the Pacific Ocean being discovered by a boat charter captain alongside his dock at Orcas Island, Washington, USA. As a result of the amazing journey of this survey marker a Japanese Manga graphic comic book was created to tell the story.



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The Incredible 8000 Kilometer Odyssey of a Survey Marker (7619)  
John Hohol (USA) and Kengo Okada (Japan)

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From the Wisdom of the Ages to the Challenges of the Modern World  
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## BACKGROUND

One evening in early 2013 I was browsing the Internet searching surveying-related stories. I discovered a TV news story broadcast by KIRO-TV in Seattle, Washington about a charter boat captain finding a plastic item, with a Japanese inscription on it, floating alongside his boat dock on 31 March 2012. He found out that it was a survey marker set for a government survey. He thought was debris from the tsunami that struck Japan on 11 March 2011. (It actually was a result of Typhoon Talas which occurred on 2-3 September 2011) I immediately recognized that the marker had been by Ripro Corporation in Okayama, Japan with whom I had worked with and known for almost 30 years. I immediately contacted the president of Ripro, Kengo Okada, and told him about it. Of course he was very surprised and very interested about how a marker set in Japan ended up in the USA. I contacted Tom Avena, the charter boat captain owner of Deer Harbor Charters who found it and made arrangements for Kengo and I to meet him.



Orcas.mp4

## THE STORY

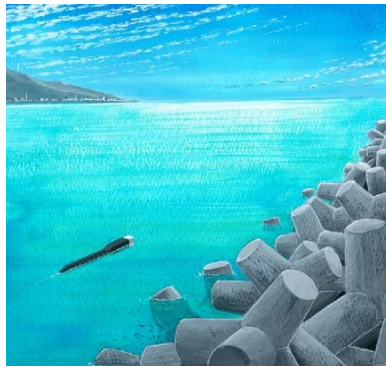
Much damage resulted from the typhoon that struck western Japan (Typhoon Talas) in early September 2011. In addition to great property damage and many deaths a small casualty of the typhoon was a government land survey marker set by the small town of Hidaka (population 7202 in 2003) in the prefecture of Wakayama.



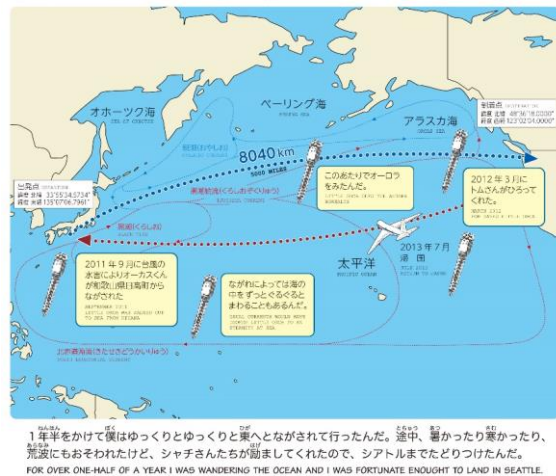
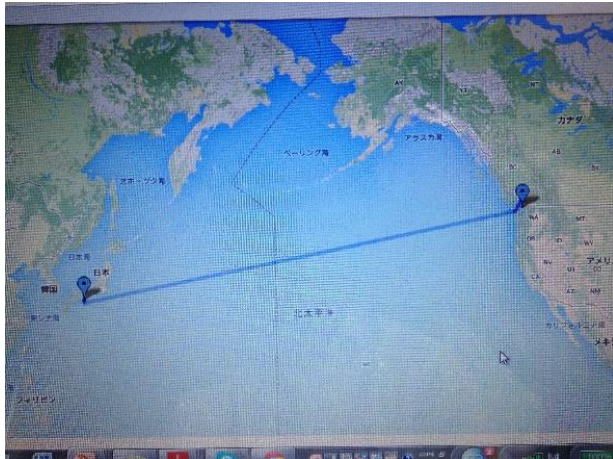
The survey marker began its long 8000 km journey traveling down an irrigation canal.



The marker continued as it floated out into the bay.



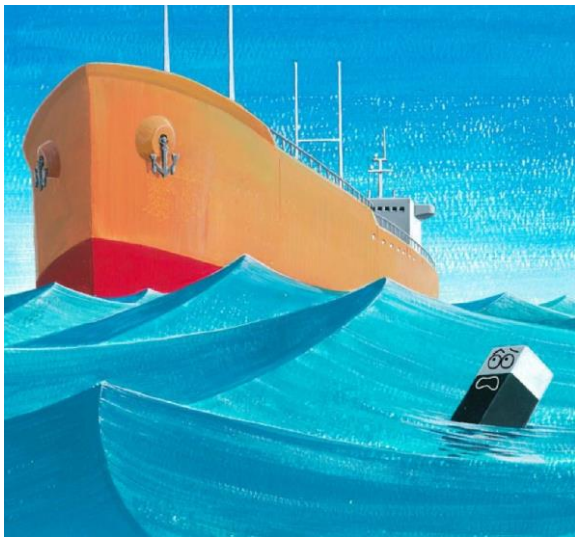
And then began its journey across the Pacific.



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Through calm waters and violent storms.



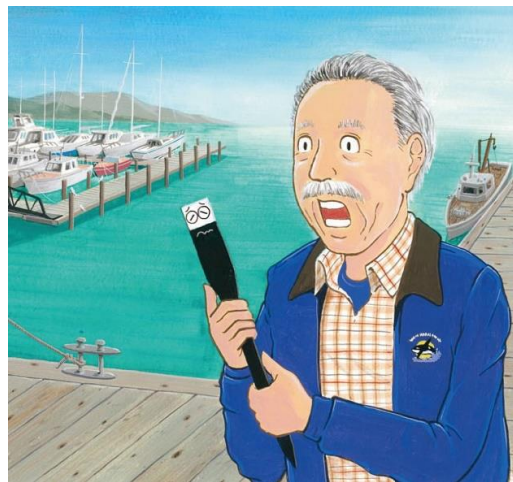
Navigating the San Juan Islands



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Until reaching the dock alongside Deer Harbor Charters office and was found by Tom Averno



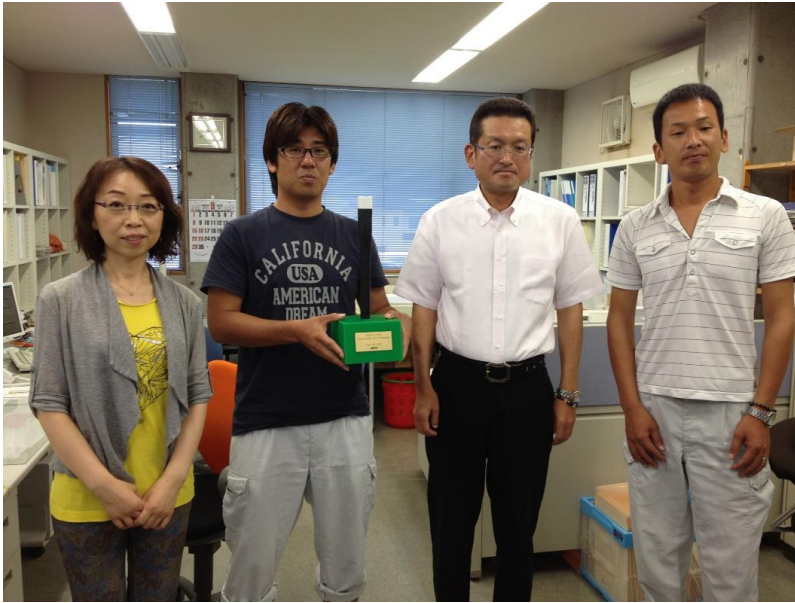
Kengo and John met Tom and the little plastic survey marker that started the whole story. Kengo presented Tom with a special replica of the marker and brought the survey marker which experienced such an amazing journey back to Japan



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## The land administration office of Hikada



## And the little marker that started it all

8000 キロの漂流ストーリー  
8000 MILE ODYSSEY

これがオーカスくんのモデルになった本物の杭です



長い長い旅ですこし傷ついてしまったけど、大切な印字は消えなかったから無事に日本に帰ってくる  
ことができました。杭の形は、強度と地面への埋め込みやすさを工夫した結果、このような形になり  
ました。また、この杭はプラスチックのゴミを再生したもので、地球環境にも配慮しています。

### LITTLE ORCA A MODEL FOR ALL STAKES

MY JOURNEY SHOWS THAT A STAKE CAN SURVIVE A TRIP TO AMERICA AND BACK. THIS IS BECAUSE  
I AM DURABLY MADE, AND TO RIPRO I OWE MY THANKS FOR MY SURVIVAL. I AM ALSO VERY  
ENVIRONMENTALLY FRIENDLY.

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Okada, Kengo. 2014. Little Orca's 8000 Kilometer (5000 Mile) Odyssey.

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