Otaru Ko (43°12'N., 141°01'E.)

World Port Index No. 61230

1.18 Otaru Ko is entered between Kayashiba Misaki, about 1 mile S of **Takashima Misaki** (43°14'N., 141°01'E.), and Haraiso Misaki, about 2.8 miles farther SSE. The harbor is formed by a N breakwater and a S breakwater, with a detached breakwater at the N end of the S breakwater. A small detached breakwater extends about 0.2 mile seaward of the S end of the N breakwater. A short detached breakwater extend from the N end of the S breakwater.

Lights are shown marking the harbor entrance. The harbor is surrounded by hills on its N, W, and S sides, and is well-sheltered. The city of Otaru, W of the harbor, has many hilly streets due to the mountainous terrain close to the shore. Benten Shima, 17m high, about 0.5 mile SSW of Kayashiba Misaki, has breakwaters extending N and S of it, forming a fishing harbor.

Winds—Weather

At Otaru, SW to W winds predominate for most of the year, though in June, E winds slightly exceed those from the SW, and in July E winds roughly equal those from SW. Snowstorms may delay cargo operations during the winter.

From November to March the sea is usually rough, but from April to October, it is generally calm. When strong N winds persist for 4 or 5 hours, swells tend to penetrate into the harbor.

Sea fog forms in the vicinity of Otaru Ko from early April to late August. The peak season is June and July. Fogs usually start to form about 1400, reach maximum density from 1600 to 1700, and dissipate by 1900. The incidence of fog is low, and the moisture content is barely enough to dampen one's clothes. In winter, Otaru is sometimes covered with haze.

Depths—Limitations

Outside the breakwaters, the depths are generally over 14.9m. The fairway into the harbor has least depths of about 11.9m.

The principal berthing facilities are described in the table titled **Otaru Ko—Berthing Facilities**.

Otaru Ko—Berthing Facilities

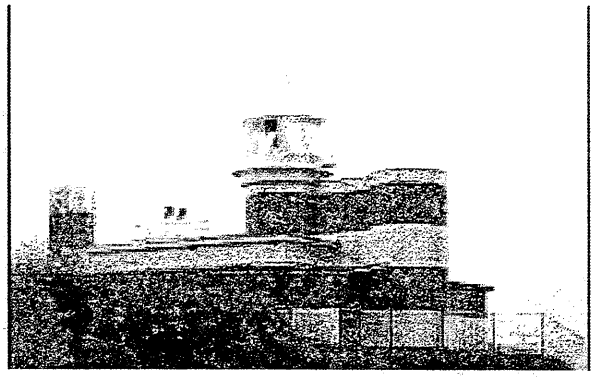
Name		Position		Length	Depth	Vessel size
Minato Machi Wharf	Nos. 1-2 Quays	Sec. 1	South side	370m	7.5-12.0m	3,000 to 20,000 dwt
	No. 3 Quay		East side	280m	13.0m	35,000 dwt
	Nos. 4-5 Quays		North side	293m	9.0m	6,000 dwt
	Sakai Machi Quay		South of Nos. 1-2 Quays	189m	7.5m	3,000 dwt
No. 2 Wharf	Root Quay (No. 6)		North of root of No. 1 Wharf	128m	4.0-7.0m	1,000 dwt
	Nos. 7-8 Quays		South side	293m	7.5-8.5m	6,000 dwt
	No. 9 Quay		East side	126m	7.5-8.5m	3,000 dwt
	Nos. 10-11 Quays		North side	293m	6.5-9.0m	6,000 dwt
No. 3 Wharf	Root Quay (No. 12)		North of root of No. 2 Wharf	128m	7.0m	1,000 dwt
	Nos. 13-14 Quays		South side	344m	9.0m	6,000 dwt
	No. 15 Quay		East side	127m	9.0m	3,000 dwt
	Nos. 16-17 Quays		North side	326m	9.0-10.0m	6,000 to 10,000 dwt
	No. 18 Quay		West of No. 17 Quay of No. 3 Wharf	128m	6.0m	1,000 dwt
Ironai Wharf	Ironai Quay No. 2		East side of wharf	140m	6.5-9.0m	
	Ironai Quay No. 3		North side of wharf	245m	3.0-5.0m	
Kitahama Quay			North of root of Ironai Wharf	251m	5.5m	2,000 dwt

Otaru Ko—Berthing Facilities

Name		Position		Length	Depth	Vessel size
Temiya Quay		Sec. 1	Northeast of Kitahama Quay	140m	5.0m	1,000 dwt
Temiya Pier		Sec. 1	East of Temiya Quay	132m	5.0m	1,000 dwt
Umaya Cho Quays (Nos. 1-3)		Sec. 1	Southwest of root of North Breakwater	390m	7.5m	3,000 dwt
Wakatake Chiku—10m mooring pillar		Sec. 2	North of log pond at S end of the inner port	301m	10.0m	15,000 dwt
Katsunai Wharf	Katsunai No. 1 Quay	Sec. 2	Northwest side of the log pond (in order from E)	260m	13.0m	30,000 dwt
Katsunai Wharf	Katsunai Nos. 2-3 Quays	Sec. 2	Northwest side of the log pond (in order from E)	370m	10.0m	10,000 dwt
Katsunai Wharf	Katsunai Nos. 4-5 Quays	Sec. 2	Northwest side of the log pond (in order from E)	436m	9.0-10.0m	10,000 to 17,000 dwt
Central Wharf	Central No. 1, 2 Quays	Sec. 2	A central wharf W of Shimazutsumi Light — South side	312m	7.5-10.0m	3,000 to 10,000 dwt
Central Wharf	Central No. 3 Quay	Sec. 2	A central wharf W of Shimazutsumi Light — East side	185m	10.0m	10,000 dwt
Central Wharf	Central Nos. 4-5 Quays	Sec. 2	A central wharf W of Shimazutsumi Light — North side	377m	7.5-12.0m	3,000 to 20,000 dwt

Aspect

Takashima Misaki (43°14'N., 141°01'E.) rises to Hiyori Yama, a hill 44m high, from which a light is shown. A white building, on the E slope of a hill, is conspicuous nearly 0.5 mile W of the light structure; the building, which is illuminated by mercury lights at night (usually until midnight), and being higher and brighter than Hiyori Yama Light, should not be mistaken for the light. Todo Iwa, a black rock, 22m high, lies about 0.4 mile NW of Takashima Misaki.



Hiyori Yama Light

Akaiwa Yama, a hill, 371m high, with a conspicuous cliff on its seaward side, lies about 1.5 miles WSW of Takashima Misaki.

Kayashiba Misaki is a useful landmark for vessels approaching from the N, as the headland is silhouetted against the city lights in the background.

Haraiso Misaki, at the S end of the port, has a cliff at its outer end, which is easy to identify even in poor visibility; a building on the headland is conspicuous day or night.

Teine Yama, 1,024m high, with a TV relay station near its summit, lies about 9.5 miles SE of Haraiso Misaki. The mercury lights of the station are visible from off Shakotan Misaki, distant 40 miles. Six TV relay towers are conspicuous. Another tower is reported conspicuous 2.5 miles W of the summit.

Tengu Yama, 533m high, and Maru Yama, 629m high, lie about 3 miles WSW and 5 miles W, respectively, of Haraiso Misaki, and are excellent landmarks when approaching Otaru Ko.

The Combined Port Affairs Office Building, an eight-story building with radio masts on the roof, is situated on the W side of the area between Wharf No. 2 and Wharf No. 3, about 1 mile W of harbor entrance.

Ishi Yama, 145m high, with a cliffy, pointed summit and a round glass-walled building, is conspicuous about 0.8 mile farther WNW.

Fish traps may be laid within 1 mile of the shore from August to November. A fish haven lies 5 miles WNW of Ishikari Ko.

Pilotage

Pilotage is not compulsory, but pilots are available and usually board about 1 mile NE of the harbor entrance. In rough weather, pilots board and disembark near the harbor entrance. The harbormaster can be contacted by telegraph or VHF radio (call sign: Otaru-ho-an) on VHF channels 16 and 12.

Anchorage

Anchorage is available within the breakwaters, in 9.1 to 12.8m; the holding ground is generally poor. The bottom in the N part of the harbor is sand and mud, while in the S part of the harbor the bottom is often bare bedrock. A dangerous cargo anchorage lies W of the S part of the detached breakwater.

A quarantine anchorage is established 1 mile SSE of Kayashiba Misaki, as indicated on the chart.

Caution

At night, the lights at the heads of the breakwaters are not easily distinguished due to the city lights in the background.

Vessels should not approach the coast within 0.75 mile between Takashima Misaki and Kayashiba Misaki from March to November, due to the possible presence of fish traps, marked by towers, 3.1m high, and red lights.