

Tsunami debris found 3,000 km from Japan coast

October 16 2011



File photo shows a man stands in front of grounded fishing boats, up-turned cars and other debris in Kesennuma, Miyagi prefecture, on March 21, 2011. A Russian ship has found debris from the Japanese tsunami, including a fishing boat, floating adrift in the Pacific thousands of kilometres from the disaster zone, a Hawaiian research group said.

A Russian ship has found debris from the Japanese tsunami, including a fishing boat, floating adrift in the Pacific thousands of kilometres from the disaster zone, a Hawaiian research group said.

The Russian training ship STS Pallada found the debris in late September after passing the central Pacific island of Midway, said the International Pacific Research Center at the University of Hawaii.

"The Russian ship... found an array of unmistakable [tsunami debris](#) on

its homeward voyage from Honolulu to Vladivostok," it said in a statement.

The debris -- located some 3,100 kilometres from Japan -- was washed into the Pacific by giant [tsunami waves](#) that struck the country's northeastern coast after a [devastating earthquake](#) in March.

The crew spotted a 20 feet long fishing vessel, which was hoisted up onto the Pallada. They are trying to trace its owner, who is believed to be from the Fukushima prefecture, the area hardest hit by the tsunami.

"We also sighted a TV set, fridge and a couple of other home appliances," a crew member said.

"We keep sighting things like wooden boards, plastic bottles, buoys from fishing nets (small and big ones), an object resembling a wash basin, drums, boots, other wastes."

The 9.0-magnitude quake and tsunami in Japan left 20,000 dead or missing and crippled cooling systems at the Fukushima plant, triggering the world's worst atomic disaster since Chernobyl 25 years ago.

Scientists at the university, including senior researcher Nikolai Maximenko, estimate that tsunami debris from Japan will wash up on the shores of [Northwestern Hawaiian Islands](#) in one year and the US west coast in three years.

(c) 2011 AFP

Citation: Tsunami debris found 3,000 km from Japan coast (2011, October 16) retrieved 20 March 2024 from <https://phys.org/news/2011-10-tsunami-debris-km-japan-coast.html>

This document is subject to copyright. Apart from any fair dealing for the purpose of private

study or research, no part may be reproduced without the written permission. The content is provided for information purposes only.