

Powerful typhoon kills 11,000 farmed tuna in Japan: reports

July 25 2015



High waves crash into the coast at Hyuga in Miyazaki prefecture, Japan's southern island of Kyushu on July 16, 2015 after typhoon Nangka makes landfall

A powerful typhoon which lashed Japan last week has killed more than 11,000 farmed bluefin tuna, costing over \$10 million in damage, local media said Saturday.

Typhoon Nangka made landfall in southwestern Japan on the night of

July 16 and slowly moved northward before turning into a tropical depression.

Torrential rain and gusts of wind wreaked havoc in various parts of western Japan, also causing high waves and clouding sea water in the fish farm near the Pacific coastal town of Kushimoto, Kyodo News and the Asahi newspaper reported.

The storm caused the sensitive bluefin tuna to panic, the Asahi said, with the Mainichi daily saying the waves had driven many of them into a barrier.

The loss of the [bluefin tuna](#)—a pricy delicacy served as sushi—cost growers about 1.29 billion yen (\$10.42 million), the reports said citing the local government.

A local government official was not immediately available at weekend.

Bluefin is usually the most expensive fish available at Tokyo's Tsukiji, the biggest fish and wholesale seafood market in the world, with a 180-kilogramme (380 pound) wild tuna auctioned for 4.51 million yen (\$36,400) in January.

But environmentalists warn that the surging global popularity for the [fish](#) is placing "unsustainable pressure" on the species, increasing the demand for farmed [tuna](#) in Japan.

Nangka killed at least two people as it lashed Japan last week, triggering floods as authorities urged more than 230,000 residents to evacuate.

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