Community-based Approaches to Conserving Coral Reef Ecosystem and Using its Resources Sustainably for Local Development in Kerama-shoto (Kerama Islands) National Park

29 June, 2014

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Mayor of Zamami Village, Okinawa Prefecture, Japan

Establishment of Zamami Whale Watching Association

- 1990 Apr. Send an inspection team including relevant operators and the municipal government officials to Ogasawara Islands.
- 1991 Mar. Establish Zamami Whale Watching Association. Set up its self guidelines. (See Appendix 1)
- Launch the whale watching tour mainly operated by tour agents. Using a liner, *Queen Zamami*, the tour was operated four days a week.

Goal of the Association:

The goal of the association is to contribute to the development of tourism in Zamami Village, through promoting whale conservation and watching tour in the marine area of Zamami and facilitating communication and cooperation among the association members. (Article 3 of the guideline, 1991)

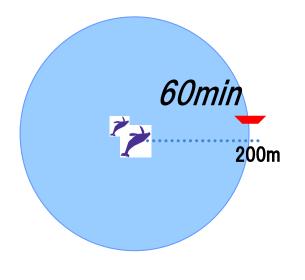
Guidelines for the Zamami Whale Watching Association

- Approach to whales slowly within 300m and keep a distance of 100m, not to surprise whales.
- * Keep a certain distance to avoid disturbing whales' behaviors.
- * When finding mother and child whales, Keep a distance of 200m. Time limit for watching is each 30 min. in the morning and afternoon.

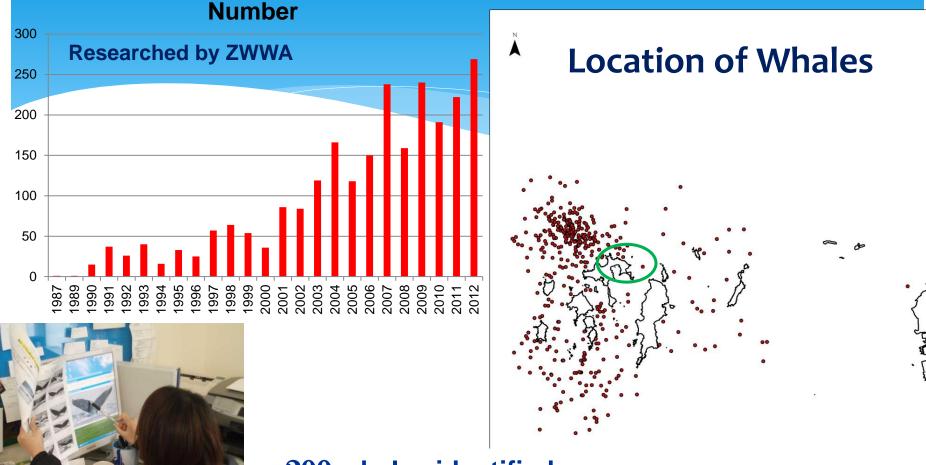








Individual Identification of Whales



- 200 whales identified

環境省調査

- A total of 1200 whales identified so far

Whales are distinguished by unique patterns on the underside of their tail



Activities by the Diving Associations in Zamami

Capturing of crown-of-thorns starfishes and muricid gastropods







Since it is impossible to protect all coral reef areas in Kerama Islands from such predators, we take priority to capture them in the most important 5 areas.

QAB (Ryukyu Asahi Broadcasting Co.) launched a fund raising campaign in 2003, has been donating to Zamami Diving Association for the cost to capture them.

Events organized by the Diving Associations to Encourage Local Communities

Held every Saturday in November









Environment Education by the Diving Associations

Observation study on Coral Spawning for Primary School Students

Guidance for snorkel technic



Two times of practice



Snorkeling rehearsal







Environment Education by the Diving Associations

Experience Scuba Diving for Junior High School Students







Ecological Surveys on Kerama Sika-deer





Students of Geruma Primary School have been surveying Kerama Sika-deer designated as Natural Monument, and presenting the results at the Biological Society of Okinawa every year.



Making a Skeletal Specimen of a Dolphin

でざまみイルカ会

骨格標本作製募金に ご協力お願い致します。

平成23年8月6日、座間味島の阿真ビーチに1頭のシワハイルカが 生きたまま打ち上がっていました。阿真区民を中心に懸命の救助活動 を行いましたが翌日の夕刻、とうとう天に召されてしまいました。



このイルカに「骨格標本」という新たな命を吹き込もうと思い、 有志が集まり活動しています。



完成予定図





将来に向けての村の資料として、また環境教育の一環として、 村内の子供たちにも関わらせ発掘・組み立て作業を行い骨格 標本作りを行います。

発掘は2月25日午後「くじらについての語り合い」の一環として国立科学博物館の協力の元行います。

Specimen completed!!

会員募集中!!

発掘作業や子供たちへの呼びかけを手伝ってくれる会員を募集しています。



098-896-4141 座間味村ホエールウォッチング協会内





