Fish caught near crippled Japanese N-plant with 2,500 times the legal limit of radioactivity for human consumption

- Caught as part of Tokyo Electric's scheme to monitor seafood near the plant
- Firm says nets will now be installed 20km off the coast to try and prevent contaminated fish migrating
- Fish lives in shallow reefs near the plant
- Comes as the two year anniversary of the nuclear disaster approaches

By Mark Prigg

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A fish caught close to the Fukushima nuclear plant is over 2,500 times the legal safe radiation limit for seafood, the plant's operator has revealed.

The company Tokyo Electric Power (Tepco) caught the fish, dubbed 'Mike the Murasai' online, in the bay close to the Fukushima Daiichi main reactor.

It was confirmed by Tepco to have amounts of radioactive cesium equal to 254,000 becquerels per kilogram, or 2540 times the limit of 100 becquerels/kg set for seafood by the government.
'Mike, the Murasoi', the fish so contaminated by radiation from the Fukushima nuclear disaster it is over 2,500 times the legal limit | Mail Online

The Murasoi caught by Tokyo Electric Power which had over 2,500 times the legal limit of radiation for seafood due to Fukushima fallout

WHAT IS A BEQUEREL?

A Becquerel (BQ) is a unit of radioactive decay equal to one disintegration per second.

The Becquerel is the basic unit of radioactivity used in the international system of radiation units, referred to as the “SI” units. 37 billion (3.7×10¹⁰) becquerels = 1 curie (Ci).

The maximum level of radiation allowed in foods for human consumption is 100 becquerels/kilogram.

Scientists in the region are increasingly worried that other fish in the area are feeding off these and other contaminated species.

However, the murasoi specimen caught near Fukushima did not seem to show any major abnormalities in terms of its physical appearance.

Tepco is installing a new series of nets beneath the surface of the water around the 20 kilometer perimeter in hopes of restricting the migration of the contaminated fish outside of the region.

A report in October last year found radiation levels in most kinds of fish caught off the coast of Fukushima haven't declined in the year following Japan's nuclear disaster in March 2011.

An earthquake knocked out nuclear plant's cooling system, causing three reactor cores to melt and spew radiation into the ocean.

Researchers believe that deposits of the chemical cesium on the seafloor or leakage from the damaged
‘Mike, the Murasoi’, the fish so contaminated by radiation from the Fukushima nuclear disaster it is over 2,500 times the legal limit | Mail Online

Reactors is continuing to contaminate the waters - and has the potential to threaten fisheries for decades.

The levels in the fish are also 10 times higher than the radiation measured last August in scorpion fish caught near Fukushima.

On 21 August last year, Tepco announced that rockfish caught in the Pacific Ocean within the circular area of 20 km around the plant, which is closed to all human activity, had a level of 25,800 becquerels of cesium per kilogram.

The fish is a murasoi, which typically lives in shallow waters near reefs in the region.
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I'll have fish and chips and a geiger counter, please.

- The Jester, Chester, United Kingdom, 23/1/2013 00:35
'Mike, the Murasoi', the fish so contaminated by radiation from the Fukushima nuclear disaster it is over 2,500 times the legal limit | Mail Online

Percival 22/1/2013 -- You'd do yourself - and your insane superstition - a huge favour if you stopped ramming it down our throats at every drop of his hat. Keep your ludicrous beliefs private for goodness' sake. This is the 21st century. Science, verified and proven, rules. Dusty old books, conflicting and proven wrong, should remain a private hobby.

- Peter, Kingston, 22/1/2013 22:46

So what would happen if I or someone would eat this fish ?. I wish this article would tell us more. How do we know that fish from supermarkets doesn't contain high levels of radiation and we don't know about it.? Best to check before you eat fish next if it glows in the dark.

- peter, helsinki, Finland, 22/1/2013 20:08

Well seeing as they are not on Earth for human consumption, why is this news. It's sad that through no fault of it's own this has happened to it, but otherwise, don't eat them and we don't have a problem!

- Laura, Cardiff, 22/1/2013 13:13

Most of the radiation, from the Fukushima nuclear plant, that went into the sea is currently circulating in the North Pacific ocean. Eventually it will spread throughout all of the oceans but that should take many years.

- Michael Haymar, Oxford UK, 22/1/2013 11:56

Time to bring out the lab rats and see the health effects from this mess...

- StateofmindHI, Maui, 22/1/2013 09:01

On disconnecting the supplier, install this fish into your main power box see if it power the whole house!! (A bit of a wet Joke isn't it?)

- Stormy Wolf, Help And Get Me Out Of, United Kingdom, 22/1/2013 00:53
Coming to a can of tuna near you. But, as an aside, the very fact that Dr Helen Caldicott uses facebook says enough about her scaremongering. She would have you believe all nuclear power is a death sentence. Us brits have an excellent safety record. PS. Windscale was NOT a power station, it was a weapons fuel factory. Let's face it, if you want wind, sea and solar in this country then you had best forget hot showers and electric cars. THAT is reality, do the maths (not that environmentalists I've seen use either)

- **e euun S**, Barrow in Furness, 22/1/2013 00:33

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