

1 Article : Massive Bluefin Tuna Sold for Almost \$800,000 at Toyosu Auction

Directions: Read the following article aloud.

On January 5, the first bluefin tuna auction of the year [took place](#) at Toyosu Market in Koto Ward, Tokyo. A 238-kilogram (525-pound) bluefin tuna, caught off the coast of Oma in Aomori Prefecture, fetched the highest bid of the day at ¥114.24 million JPY (over \$786,000 USD). This marks the fourth-highest rate since records began in 1999.

The winning bid was a joint effort by the wholesaler Yamayuki based in Koto Ward and the company behind the sushi chain Ginza Onodera. The [previous](#) record was set in 2019 after the market relocated from Tsukiji to Toyosu, with a bid of ¥333.6 million JPY (around \$2.3 million USD). In 2023, the highest bid was ¥36.04 million JPY (\$250,000 USD).

President Yukitaka Yamaguchi of Yamayuki expressed satisfaction, stating, "Since business has been doing well recently, I had expected the value to reach at least ¥100 million JPY [\$689,000 USD]. The decisive factors in choosing the tuna were its freshness and color. I [am grateful to](#) the fishermen who caught it in the cold weather."

Regarding the Noto Peninsula earthquake, he stated, "I was torn about whether to abstain from bidding, but I ultimately chose to participate because we also need some positive news."

The fisherman behind the noteworthy catch is 57-year-old Masayoshi Kikuchi from Oma, Aomori Prefecture. In an interview at his home, Kikuchi shared his surprise, saying, "I'm surprised that my tuna was chosen as the best and also by the price it fetched. It's [fulfilling](#) a long-cherished dream, as I was second two years ago and last year."

Kikuchi, with around 30 years of fishing experience, captains the fishing vessel No. 57 Taiunmaru. He and his son, Shoma, caught the prized tuna off the shore of Cape Shiriya in the northern part of Shimokita Peninsula before dawn on December 31, 2023. [Reflecting on](#) the catch, Kikuchi said, "We caught a big, high-quality tuna. I hope people enjoy it."

Source : [Massive Bluefin Tuna Sold for Almost \\$800,000 at Toyosu Auction](#)
[JAPAN Forward](#)



2 Key phrases and vocabulary

Directions: First repeat after your tutor and then read aloud by yourself.

1. take place 開催される、行われる、（災害・事故などが）起こる

The concert will **take place** in the park at 6pm next Saturday.

2. previous 前の、以前の、事前の、これまでの

I reviewed my notes from the **previous** class to prepare for the upcoming quiz.

3. be grateful to ～に感謝する

We **are grateful to** the firefighters who bravely saved our neighborhood from the wildfire.

4. fulfill （夢などを）かなえる、（義務などを）果たす、（契約などを）実行する・履行する・実現させる

Saving money each month will help you **fulfill** your goal of going on a vacation.

5. reflect on ～を回顧する、～を熟考する・検討する、～を反省する、～に反射する

Every year on her birthday, Sarah likes to **reflect on** the happy memories of her childhood.

3 Questions

Directions: Read the questions aloud and answer them.

1. How much was the winning bid for the 238-kilogram bluefin tuna?
2. What were the decisive factors in choosing the winning tuna?
3. In your opinion, why do you think companies are willing to pay such high amounts of money for a bluefin tuna?
4. Have you ever fulfilled your long-cherished dream?
5. How do you feel about events taking place during challenging times like natural disasters?

4

**日本語関連記事：
大間マグロに1億1424万円 「明るいニュースも必要」決め手は…**

東京都江東区の豊洲市場で1月5日、今年最初の取引となる「初競り」が開かれ、238キロの青森県大間産クロマグロが、この日最高値の1億1424万円で競り落とされた。都によると、記録が残る1999年以降で4番目。

仲卸の「やま幸」（江東区）と「鮪 銀座おのでら」などを運営する会社が共同で落札した。過去最高落札額は、旧築地市場（中央区）から移転後初となった2019年の3億3360万円。昨年は3604万円だった。

やま幸の山口幸隆社長（61）は「最近の景気の良さを感じ、1億円はいくと思っていた。決め手は鮮度と発色の良さ。寒い中、釣ってくれた漁師さんに感謝しています」と話した。能登半島地震に触れ「自粛するべきか複雑な思いもあったが、明るいニュースも必要と挑んだ」とした。

238キロのクロマグロを釣ったのは、青森県大間町の漁師菊池正義さん（57）だ。自宅で取材に応じ「一番マグロに選ばれたのも、値段にもびっくり。去年、おととしと2番だったので念願かなってうれしい」と笑顔で話した。

菊池さんは漁師歴約30年で「第57大運丸」の船長。今回のマグロは下北半島・尻屋崎沖で昨年12月31日未明に息子の正真さん（32）と釣った。「大きくて身質のいいマグロが取れた。おいしく食べてほしい」と語った。

出典：大間マグロに1億1424万円 「明るいニュースも必要」決め手は…

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