

Special Kind of Fisherman Finds Lost Money

今回は、ちょっと変わった“釣り”のニュースです。ニューヨークでは、釣り竿の代わりに強力な磁石を使って金属を引き上げる「マグネットフィッシング」が静かなブームになっています。記事では、「decomposed」という単語が登場しますが、これは「分解された」「ボロボロになった」といった意味で、decomposed food waste（腐った食品ごみ）や decomposed paper（風雨にさらされて劣化した紙）など、時間の経過や自然の作用で原型を失った状態を指します。意外な発見もあるマグネットフィッシング、あなたなら何を釣り上げたいですか？講師と話してみましょう！



1. Article

Read the following article aloud.

James Kane of New York City is a fisherman. But he does not eat what he catches.

Instead of catching fish, he uses powerful magnets attached to long ropes to “fish” for junk in the city’s lakes, rivers and ponds.

Sometimes he pulls out trash, like old car parts.

But recently, Kane said he found a heavy metal box called a safe. People use safes to store valuable items such as money, gold coins, jewelry or important documents. A safe has a door that swings open and can be locked.

Last Friday, Kane and his girlfriend, Barbi Agostini, were magnet fishing in a lake in the Queens area of New York City. They pulled out the safe, opened it and found **soaking** wet bags of \$100 bills.

They recorded their catch on video.

“Oh, that’s money,” Kane said in the video of the discovery. “Oh, it is! Stacks of bills, dude!”

“Oh, my God!” Agostini says.

The pair said they found almost \$100,000 in hundred-dollar bills. However, many of the bills had **decomposed** and some were stuck together. It is not clear how many of the bills can be recovered and used again.

Many of the bills showed recent **markings** - Kane said he plans to bring the found money to the Bureau of Printing and Engraving in Washington, D.C. to redeem it.

In these still images from video, magnet fisher James Kane displays the part of the contents of a safe he pulled out of a pond, in Flushing Meadows Corona Park, in the Queens borough of New York, Friday May 31, 2024. (James Kane and Barbl Agostini @LetsGetMagnetic via AP) When Kane and Agostini found the money, they called the police to investigate. According to a police statement, the money was not connected to a crime, so the couple is permitted to keep it. But the police warned the money was in very bad condition.

“I guess you call it a finders keepers thing,” Kane said.

Kane and Agostini record their fishing **outings** and put the results on social media services such as YouTube.

They have found bicycles, guns, jewelry and even a war weapon known as a grenade. They often find themselves calling police. Some videos show police taking **possession** of the dangerous objects. One showed them giving police a safe filled with credit cards.

Magnet fishers work all over the country. They find things many others do not because they use very powerful magnets and ropes. These things let them reach parts of water far away from land. One magnet fisher found a human skull attached to an exercise weight in New Orleans, Louisiana. Another, in Georgia, found a gun and the belongings of two people who were killed nine years ago.

Many people see the popularity of the magnet fishers on YouTube and wonder if the videos are real. In comments, they wonder if the finds are staged, or placed in the water ahead of time to make for a good video.

Kane said he may just be lucky.

“I have seen and worked with other magnet fishers that can hit a spot for three months, and I’ll come along and throw the same magnet and get and find something that they’ve been trying to get the entire time,” he said. “I personally can’t explain that.”

Kane and Agostini have ideas for how to spend their \$100,000. They plan to buy a new vehicle and more equipment so they can make better videos of their magnet fishing adventures.

I’m Dan Friedell.

Dan Friedell adapted this story for Learning English based on a report by the Associated Press.

Source: Special Kind of Fisherman Finds Lost Money
VOA

2. Key phrases and vocabulary

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

1. soaking (adj.) completely wet

My daughter was soaking after she walked home from school in the rain.

2. decomposed (adj.) broken down by a chemical process; rotten

Decomposed coffee grounds and eggshells can be good for the soil in your garden.

3. marking (n.) a mark, scratch, or symbol on the surface of something

The markings on the sword show that it was made in Osafune.

4. outing (n.) a short trip or outdoor adventure

We really enjoyed our outing at New Brighton State Beach.

5. possession (n.) control over or ownership (often of something valuable)

Stephanie is in possession of a large collection of professional art materials.

3. Questions

Read the questions aloud and answer them.

1. What is a magnet fisher?

2. What did James Kane and Barbi Agostini discover?

3. What other things have they found while magnet fishing?

4. The expression, "Finders, keepers," is an idiom meaning that if you find a lost item in a public place, you can own it. Do you agree with this idea?

5. What would you do if you found a 10,000-yen bill on the sidewalk?