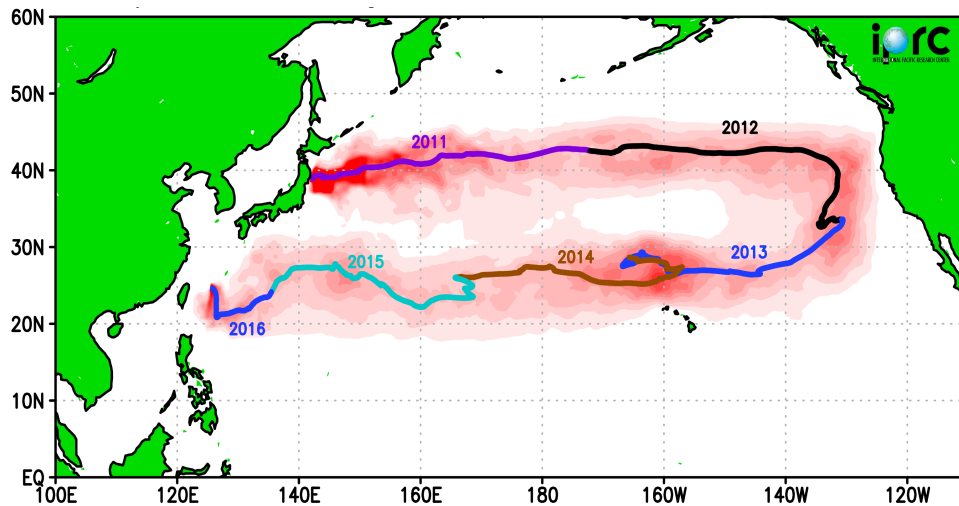


## Amazing 10,000-Mile Journey of the *Research Vessel Kaisyou*

Kaisyou before 2011



and when found on May 12, 2016, in Okinawa



The path of *Research Vessel Kaisyou*, lost during the Great Tohoku Tsunami in 2011, from Miyagi Prefecture to waters off of Miyakojima, Okinawa, May 12, 2016, as simulated in the IPRC Drift Model. The model has been used to successfully simulate the motion of tsunami debris. [http://iprc.soest.hawaii.edu/news/marine\\_and\\_tsunami\\_debris/debris\\_news.php](http://iprc.soest.hawaii.edu/news/marine_and_tsunami_debris/debris_news.php)

Red-color saturation shows probability of the vessel's path during its over 10,000 mile-journey in the North Pacific Subtropical Gyre, first towards the North American West Coast and then circulating back; the solid line shows the probable daily locations of the vessel.

The windage of 1.6% was used for simulating *Kaisyou's* path. This windage was computed in a project that dealt with the journey of dozens of other boats lost in the tsunami and washing up on the West Coast. Scientists of the project, which was funded by the Japan Ministry of Environment and managed by the North Pacific Marine Science Organization (PICES), concluded that at the end of 2015 nearly half of the boats washed away by the tsunami were still floating in the ocean. The study is published in PICES Press (2015, No.1) and available on [http://pices.int/publications/pices\\_press/volume23/PPJuly2015.pdf](http://pices.int/publications/pices_press/volume23/PPJuly2015.pdf).

Credit: Nikolai Maximenko and Jan Hafner, International Pacific Research Center, University of Hawaii.