



Greater Scaup



Mudskipper



The tidal flats and Grey heron



Great Crested Grebe

The First Ramsar Site in Tokyo Kasai Marine Park



Macrophtalmus



Memorial rose



TOKYO
METROPOLITAN
GOVERNMENT



A clam digging scene from the past (From the collection of the Edogawa Local History Room)



Seaweed cultivation (photo taken in October 1954) (From the collection of the Edogawa Local History Room)



The History of the Tidal Flats

A large portion of Kasai Marine Park is tidal flats formed at the mouths of the Arakawa and Kyu-Edogawa rivers on Tokyo Bay. The area is called “Sanmaisu.” In the past, the lives of the people were deeply connected with the sea, with this area serving as the rich fishing ground for seaweed and shellfish such as clams, and a leisure spot for residents to enjoy boating, clam digging, and other activities.

However, during Japan’s rapid economic growth in the 1960s, Tokyo’s coasts became polluted, with degradation of water quality and land subsidence due to groundwater extraction. Land reclamation was also advanced to secure sites for waste disposal and logistics facilities.

Giving serious thought to this situation, in the Kasai district development plan formulated in 1970, the Tokyo Metropolitan Government raised the goal of achieving harmony between urbanization and nature and decided to conserve the tidal flats off Kasai—the last natural seaside beach left in Tokyo.

About Kasai Marine Park

The 81-hectare Kasai Rinkai Park was built as a recreational park in the area closest from the coast in the Kasai district. In the waters in front of it, the 412-hectare Kasai Marine Park was developed to conserve the tidal flats and provide Tokyo’s residents with a place to interact with the ocean. These two parks opened in 1989.

Kasai Marine Park comprises two artificial beaches stretching for about 800 meters each, and waters extending two kilometers offshore. The West Beach is a recreational beach where people can enjoy barbecues, digging for clams, and other activities. The East Beach is closed to the public in order to preserve the natural environment.



The bustling West Beach



The tidal flats of the East Beach

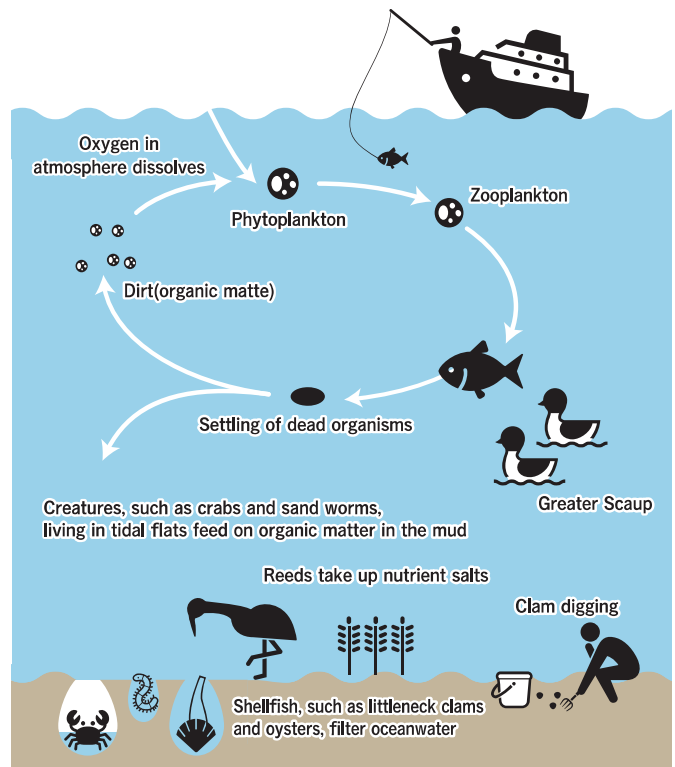


The Benefits of the Tidal Flats

Coastal mudflats that emerge and submerge with the ebb and flow of the tide, such as Kasai Marine Park, are called tidal flats. Because of nutrients delivered by the tide and good sunlight, the tidal flat is rich with plankton, with clams and crabs that feed on them living in the sand and mud. It also attracts a variety of other creatures, including fish and birds, that prey on them.

The rich nature of the tidal flats serves numerous roles that benefit people's lives.

- Serves as a spot for seaside recreation, such as clam digging, fishing and boating;
- Supplies food, such as shellfish and fish;
- Marine life such as bivalves feed on organic particles in seawater to purify the water; and
- Helps to mitigate disasters by controlling waves and conserving seashores



Kasai Marine Park and the Ramsar Convention

Kasai Marine Park is a stopover habitat for various migratory birds. During the winter, the ocean becomes covered with flocks of Greater Scaup, and many Great Crested Grebe can be seen.

In October 2018, the park was recognized as a wetland of international importance and became Tokyo's first Ramsar Site.

This park is a valuable example of the conservation of a vast natural wetland in a megacity, with human activities and rich nature coexisting in harmony.

The Tokyo Metropolitan Government will continue to work with the local residents and park visitors to advance efforts to conserve and use the tidal flats of Kasai Marine Park.



Kasai Marine Park and the city coexist in harmony



Greater Scaup



Great Crested Grebe

The Ramsar Convention

(The Convention on Wetlands of International Importance especially as Waterfowl Habitat)

The Ramsar Convention was adopted in Ramsar, Iran, in 1971, for the purpose of the conservation and wise use of wetlands.

Japan became a contracting party to the Convention in 1980, and the Kushiro Marshland, Oze, and other sites are included in the Ramsar List. One of nine criteria must be met for designation as wetlands of international importance.

Kasai Marine Park fulfills three of them: 4.Supports plant and/or animal species at a critical stage in their life cycles; 5. Regularly supports 20,000 or more waterbirds; and 6. Regularly supports 1% of the individuals in a population of one species or subspecies of waterbird.

*The wise use of wetlands

To sustainably maintain and use wetlands without damaging the ecosystem, with the goal of making people's lives richer and passing the wetlands on to following generations



Kasai Marine Park: Q&A



Roundleaf chastetree

Q 1 What was the purpose of registering Kasai Marine Park on the Ramsar List?

A 1 The Ramsar Convention is a treaty for advancing the conservation and sustainable use of wetlands, and education and exchanges on them, among others. The Tokyo Metropolitan Government will use the listing of Kasai Marine Park as a Ramsar Site as an opportunity to maintain and bolster efforts for the conservation and use of the tidal flats, and to promote Tokyo to the world as a leading environmental city where human activities and rich nature coexist in harmony near the city center.

Q 2 What kinds of creatures can be seen at Kasai Marine Park?

A 2 The park is the habitat of many sea creatures, such as fish and shellfish. Various events, including study tours, are held on the tidal flats.



Osprey
Endangered ※



Macrophtalmus



Red-necked Stint
Near Threatened ※



Mudskipper



Asari clam

※The Red List of Threatened Species in Tokyo (The Tokyo Mainland Version) (The 2010 Edition)" (Natural Environment Division, Bureau of Environment, Tokyo Metropolitan Government)

*Photo courtesy of Tokyo Zoological Park Society

Q 3 Does the registration of the park as a Ramsar Site affect the use of the park in any way?

A 3 The Convention recommends the "wise use" or sustainable use of tidal flats, and designation as a Ramsar Site will not have any impact on the use of the park itself. Seaside recreational activities, such as clam digging and swimming, as well as hands-on events including laver-making and "takehibi" in which oysters are attached to bamboo poles to filter large volumes of sea water can be held as before.



Setting up "takehibi" for oysters

Kasai Marine Park

Near Rinkai-cho 6chome, Edogawa Ward,
Tokyo 134-0086

Access

JR Keiyo Line : Get off at Kasairinkai-koen Station/11min. walk

Contact

Kasai Marine Park Service Center

TEL 03-5696-4741

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Issue : Marine Parks Section, Waterfront Development Division,
Bureau of Port and Harbor, Tokyo Metropolitan Government
2-8-1 Nishi-Shinjuku, Shinjuku Ward, Tokyo

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Kasai Marine Park MAP



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