

Derelict tsunami boat found off Oregon coast

A portion of a derelict fiberglass boat that was towed to Newport, Oregon has been retrieved and disposed of. The approximately 30-foot-long boat was originally spotted off the Oregon shore west of Ona Beach in Lincoln County on April 9 at about 9:30am. The debris appeared to be half to two-thirds of a larger vessel, most likely damaged and set adrift during the earthquake and tsunami that struck Japan on March 11, 2011.

Biologists with the Oregon Coast Aquarium and Oregon State University's (OSU) Hatfield Marine Science Center inspected the low-floating object and, after consulting with the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, determined the organisms still attached posed a low threat to the Oregon coast ecosystem.

After being towed to the South Beach Marina in Newport on April 9, the boat was re-towed to Riverbend Marine Services on the Yaquina River upstream from the harbor on April 10.

While still moored at the South Beach Marina, yellowtail jacks and banded knifejaw fish were removed from the boat's holding tanks and quarantined at the Oregon Coast Aquarium.

A preliminary examination indicated that the fish are a variety of yellowtail jack from the western Pacific; final determination of the origin will come through genetic testing. The knifejaw is also a species found in the waters around Japan. After the quarantine period, the Oregon Coast Aquarium plans to put the fish on public display.

After emptying the holding tanks of



FOUR-YEAR FLOAT. A portion of a derelict fiberglass boat that was towed to Newport, Oregon has been retrieved and disposed of. The approximately 30-foot-long boat was originally spotted off the Oregon shore west of Ona Beach (top photo) in Lincoln County on April 9. The debris was likely damaged and set adrift during the earthquake and tsunami that struck Japan on March 11, 2011. Yellowtail jack fish (bottom right photo) were removed from the boat's holding tanks before the 8,550-pound object was taken in one piece to a landfill on April 13 (bottom left photo). (Photos courtesy of the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department)

water, the debris was hoisted out of the river and most of the attached plants and animals were scraped off. Researchers with the marine science center collected additional samples of wood, plants, and animals to study. The entire object, which weighed 8,550 pounds, was taken in one piece to a landfill on April 13.

The Oregon Parks and Recreation Department is reminding beach visitors and marine boaters to be on the lookout for debris floating at sea. In an emergency, 911 should be called. For less urgent reports, beach-goers can call 211 from any coastal county. To learn more, visit <www.oregon.gov/OPRD>.

Mariota makes good decisions on and off the field

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vice are part of that plan, too.

Commenting on his squeaky clean image, Mariota's high school coach said, "He's not going to jeopardize this opportunity. This is a pride thing for him, for all of us in Hawai'i: We are in the middle of the Pacific Ocean, and people think all we can do is produce linemen. He can change that."

Drawing on his family and heritage, Mariota has achieved the first part of his dream by winning the Heisman Trophy, along with a raft of other awards, at the end of last season. He emphasized the source of his strength in his Heisman acceptance speech: "Young Poly athletes everywhere, you should take this as motivation, and dream big and strive for greatness."

He went on to thank his family, concluding with "Fa'afetai tele lava," Samoan for "thank you very much." The Mariota family — his Samoan father Toa, German mother Alana, and brother Matthew — have been immensely supportive of Marcus, instilling typically Samoan cultural values of respect and humility while providing more tangible support.

His parents sold their home to help send Marcus and Matthew to football camps on the mainland and improve their chances in football. Toa, a rugby player, also gave Marcus his competitive drive,

pushing Marcus to improve his throwing form and become the starter in high school. When some people wanted them to wear leis for the Heisman Award announcement, his parents humbly demurred, saying that leis were for celebration, and their son hadn't won yet — even though most agreed that his victory was assured.

Marcus Mariota will continue to draw on those lessons in humility, hard work, and respect as he competes in the NFL, where mobile college quarterbacks don't always fare well. Opposing players punish quarterbacks for leaving the safety of the pocket, and NFL offenses are designed around pocket passers, not on quarterbacks who can improvise and throw on the run like Mariota.

Scouts also note that Oregon's offense, like the one he learned in high school, didn't require Mariota to make many decisions. Pro offenses require quarterbacks to make quick choices under pressure, in the face of intimidating defenses.

But if there's one thing that Mariota has shown he can do, it's make good choices. Thanks to his family and Samoan roots, NFL fans can expect Mariota to excel as a professional, defying expectations, shattering stereotypes, and pleasing Asian sports fans everywhere.

Editor's note: The NFL draft begins April 30. To learn more, visit <www.nfl.com/draft/2015>.

Clackamas High School's Karol Wai awarded \$5,000 scholarship

Seventeen-year-old Karol Wai of Happy Valley was recently awarded a \$5,000 scholarship through a program sponsored by the Trail Blazers Foundation, Portland guard Wesley Matthews, and Wells Fargo. Wai was one of more than 600 applicants who were judged on their grades, community involvement, volunteerism, and a brief essay. She and five others received a scholarship.

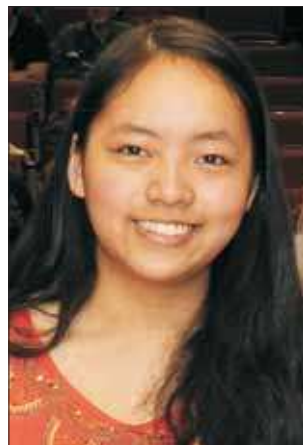
Wai, a student at Clackamas High School, is from Burma. She coordinates tutoring groups to help Burmese refugees adjust to life in America, helps low-income families and immigrants obtain jobs and find translators, and participates in cultural fairs to inform others about her heritage.

"My efforts integrating cultural identity have led my community to be more accepting," Wai wrote in her essay.

Wai is also vice president of her school's National Honor Society chapter, a Kaiser Teen volunteer, and a member of the Clackamas High School Green Team, orchestra, and swim team. She aspires to a career in healthcare.

"The importance of education in the lives of young people can never be understated," said Matthews. "I'm proud to be associated with this scholarship program, and with a great Trail Blazers corporate partner like Wells Fargo. Congratulations to all the scholarship recipients. We wish them the very best as they pursue their dreams."

Recipients of the scholarship can use the funds to help pay for a four-year, two-year, or trade-school education. To learn more, visit <www.trailblazers.com>.



Scholarship recipient Karol Wai. (Photo courtesy of Wells Fargo)

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