

Tosenjima

The port of Shimizu in central Tosashimizu is both deep and calm, thanks to relatively minor land uplift in the surrounding area and the lack of a river bringing sediment into Shimizu Bay. Besides being the home port of most of Tosashimizu's fishing fleet, Shimizu is noted for a small island in the innermost part of the bay. This island, known as Tosenjima, is named after the foreign ships (*tosen*) that once docked here on their way north toward Honshu or south toward mainland Asia and beyond. The island was designated a Natural Monument in 1953, when geological evidence discovered on Tosenjima proved that the land in the Shimizu area had been raised 80 centimeters by a powerful earthquake in 1946. In addition to its scientific significance, the island is also known as a nesting ground for several species of herons.