

Isso

With some 350 households on the northern coast of Yakushima, the tight-knit community of Isso is the island's sixth-largest township. Its fishing industry is thriving, notably because of blue mackerel and flying fish. The prized *kubioresaba*—mackerel caught in the morning and bled immediately, meant to be enjoyed as sashimi that day—is a real treat, since most of the daily catch is earmarked for processing into high-quality *sababushi* fillets for stock-making.

The beach is filled with swimmers each summer, and there are excellent diving points near the port, among them a sunken World War II fighter plane that is host to many colorful subtropical fish. Get an early start exploring Isso at its fish auction, held from 6 a.m. at the wharf every day but Sunday (unless inclement weather has docked the boats). A map in front of the community center outlines a two-to-four-hour walking course that includes most of the sights.