

RESCUE: KINGMAN REEF

On 23 November 1979, Rescue Coordination, Honolulu, HI was contacted by M.S.A. Japan in regards to the grounding of the 134 ton F/V RYOYU MARU NO.8 on Kingman Reef 925 miles south of Honolulu, HI in the central Pacific.

POLAR SEA was contacted early in the morning on 23 Nov. 1979 while moored in Honolulu preparing for departure to continue on to DEEP FREEZE 80, and was requested to evacuate the Japanese crewmembers, evaluate the pollution, and salvage potential of the RYOYU MARU NO.8.

Two Japanese F/V's arrived on scene prior to the POLAR SEA but had no small boats capable of rendering assistance. The TOKO MARU which had an english speaking radio operator onboard, remained on scene awaiting the arrival of the POLAR SEA.



Left: The RYOYU MARU aground on Kingman Reef. Top right: The TOKO MARU the ship that waited to take the crewmembers home. Bottom left: The SEAI being used to evacuate the Japanese off the reef. Bottom right: Transferring the crew to the TOKO MARU.

