

Fukushima fishermen concerned for future over release of radioactive water

On the afternoon of 11 March 2011, Tetsu Nozaki watched helplessly as a wall of water crashed into his boats in Onahama, a small fishing port on Japan's Pacific coast.

Having spent the past eight years rebuilding, the Fukushima fishing fleet is now confronting yet another **menace** — the increasing likelihood that the nuclear plant's operator, Tokyo Electric Power (TEPCO), will dump huge quantities of radioactive water into the ocean.***

menace 威胁; 恐吓

"We strongly oppose any plans to **discharge** the water into the sea," Nozaki, head of Fukushima **prefecture's** federation of fisheries cooperatives, told the Guardian.

discharge 释放; 排出; 开枪

prefecture 县; 辖区

Currently, just over one million tonnes of contaminated water is held in almost 1,000 tanks at Fukushima Daiichi, but the utility has warned that it will run out of space by the summer of 2022.

Releasing the wastewater into the sea would also anger South Korea, adding to pressure on diplomatic ties.

Seoul, which has yet to lift an import ban on Fukushima seafood introduced in 2013, claimed last week that discharging the water would pose a "grave threat" to the marine environment — a charge rejected by Japan.

Japanese Government officials say they won't make a decision until they have received a report from an expert panel, but there are strong indications that dumping is preferred over other options such as **vaporising**, burying or storing the water **indefinitely**.

vaporize 使蒸发

indefinitely 无限期地

Critics say the government is reluctant to openly support the dumping option for fear of creating a fresh controversy over Fukushima during the Rugby World Cup, which starts this week, and the buildup to the 2020 Tokyo Olympics.