

= Night Fishing (album) =

Night Fishing (stylized as NIGHT FISHING , Japanese pronunciation : [naitoçi? : ing?]) is the second studio album by Japanese band Sakanaction . It was released on January 23 , 2008 through Victor Entertainment 's BabeStar Label . The album primarily features music written by vocalist Ichiro Yamaguchi since the release of their debut album Go to the Future (2007) . Compared to their debut album , which compiled songs that the band had already written , the majority of the songs on Night Fishing were written specifically for the release . The album was an attempt by the band to find a better balance between popular music and underground , and was an album where the members wanted to incorporate more of their own personal styles ; which caused the members to disagree over its content much more than on their debut album .

The album was preceded by the digital singles " Word " , " Sample " and " Night Fishing Is Good " , all released in December 2007 . Out of these , " Sample " was chosen as the main promotional track for the album , receiving high radio play in Hokkaido . Critically , the band was praised for their new direction on Night Fishing , with critics praising the album 's mix of pop and electronic musical elements , Yamaguchi 's poetic lyrics and " transparent " vocals . Night Fishing was more commercially successful than Go to the Future , reaching number 53 on the Oricon singles chart .

In 2009 , the album was made available globally as a digital download , alongside the band 's debut and third albums Go to the Future (2007) and Shin @-@ shiro (2009) . In 2015 , the album was reissued on CD , LP record and lossless digital formats .

= = Background and development = =

Sakanaction was first formed in 2005 in Sapporo , Hokkaido . The band gained exposure in Hokkaido after winning the audition to perform as a newcomer artist at the Rising Sun Rock Festival in Otaru in August 2006 , and after demos of their songs " Mikazuki Sunset " and " Shiranami Top Water " performed well on College Radio Japan Sapporo . The band were signed to major label Victor Entertainment , and released their debut album Go to the Future on May 7 , 2007 , through Victor 's BabeStar Label . The group performed a short tour of Japan to promote the album 's release , performing concerts in Tokyo , Osaka , Nagoya and Sapporo in May . As a part of the Sapporo concert 's set @-@ list , the band performed the songs " Teenage " and " Amsfish " ; then unpublished songs that would later be added to Night Fishing . Since their debut , the band had been based in Sapporo , and had recorded their albums there . Night Fishing would become their last Hokkaido @-@ based release , as the group moved to Tokyo in mid 2008 .

Due to the response to the band 's debut album Go to the Future , Sakanaction 's A & R team pushed them to quickly follow this up with a second album . They felt extremely pressured while creating the album , especially by their musical director at Victor Entertainment .

= = Writing and production = =

= = = Conception = = =

Most of the songs featured on Night Fishing were written specifically for it . The band members felt like the album was their first release that they had made together as a five @-@ member band , as opposed to Go to the Future , which the band 's vocalist and songwriter Ichiro Yamaguchi described as feeling like a " business card " due to the inclusion of mostly old material . The material for the album was created based on the response and criticism for their debut album , and the members realization that they should not be frightened to make bold changes . However , several songs were already written beforehand : " Sample " was originally a song released by Yamaguchi 's high school band Dutchman 2002 , and " Amsfish " was a song written during Sakanaction 's early days in 2005 that did not make the album cut of Go to the Future , because Yamaguchi felt that the song did not fit well on their debut release . The band attempted to make a more commercial sound compared to

Go to the Future , and tried to strike a balance between underground , minimal electronic music and " high entertainment " popular music . The band wanted to keep a sense of enjoyment in their music , and attempted to do so by experimenting with different musical styles , including progressive rock and choral singing , and experimenting with elements of ambient and folk music . After performing their first Japanese tour in 2008 , Sakanaction put more consideration into choosing arrangements that would work better at live concerts .

The album was created at a point where each of the band members wanted to incorporate more of their own personalities into the music of Sakanaction , which led to Night Fishing becoming the album where the members disagreed over its content the most . Sakanaction also had difficulty between themselves and their record label over deciding which song should have been the leading promotional song . The label had chosen " Sample " , but there was a lot of opposition to this from Yamaguchi , who preferred " Night Fishing Is Good " . When the band unveiled their song to their director at Studio Milk , he did not react very well to the song , and the label chose not to promote this song due to its six @-@ minute length . During this time , Yamaguchi had begun to realize the power of music videos after the rise in popularity of video @-@ sharing websites such as YouTube , so decided to make his own low @-@ budget video for the song ; describing " Night Fishing Is Good " as the underground leading promotional song for the album .

Demo recording sessions for Night Fishing began several days before the release of the band 's debut album Go to the Future in May 2007 . The band members formally proposed the album concepts to Victor Entertainment staff in June 2007 . The album 's official studio recording sessions began in September 2007 and concluded in October , and were entirely undertaken at Discovery Studio in the Maruyama Nishi @-@ machi area of Ch?? @-@ ku , Sapporo . After the album sessions had finished , however , the band immediately kept on recording for their future projects . The album 's track order was not considered until the very final mastering stages of the album . Yamaguchi did much of the album 's final mixing himself personally .

Several of the band 's plans for the album did not come into fruition . Originally the band had planned for " Ame wa Kimagure " to be the leading song on the album , but after producing the song , Yamaguchi felt that the song 's arrangement was too stylized and not easily accessible . The band had wanted to shoot a video for " Atarashii Sekai " on location in Kyoto , however they abandoned plans for this .

= = = Song inspiration and production = = =

Lyrically , Yamaguchi worked around a " night " theme , and was inspired by creating film @-@ like imagery for each song . Yamaguchi wanted to compile lyrics featuring introspective feelings of worry and sadness that people primarily felt at night . Yamaguchi was further inspired to write more autobiographically , creating a documentary @-@ like non @-@ fiction work . He wanted to create lyrics closer to the style of haiku than standard pop lyricism , in order to express many things with as few phrases as possible .

Despite the album 's track order not being decided until the very end , Yamaguchi had thought from the start that " Ame wa Kimagure " , " Malaysia 32 " and " Uneri " should be in that order . After plans for " Ame wa Kimagure " to become the leading song were scrapped , Yamaguchi decided to elaborate on the " oriental " feel of the song . " Malaysia 32 " is the band 's first instrumental song , and was based on a synthesizer riff made by the band 's guitarist Motoharu Iwadera which was then completed with ideas from everyone in the band . The song was called " Malaysia " because of how at one point they added a vocal melody that sounded like the name of the city Kuala Lumpur . The number 32 in the title is a reference to the fact that the song is based on a synthesizer loop of 32 bars . Originally " Uneri " had been envisioned as a rock song , but the band decided against this after creating " Night Fishing Is Good " . The band 's musical director suggested that they perform the song acoustically instead , which led to the final studio arrangement of " Uneri " .

" Night Fishing Is Good " was inspired by the style of musical theatre and classical music . Originally the other band members were hesitant about the song when Yamaguchi first played it to them , and they suggested that they split the piece into two compositions . During the song 's recording ,

Yamaguchi felt that the song would benefit from having a similar style to the English rock band Queen , which the band 's pianist Emi Okazaki in particular responded well to . Iwadera added Queen @-@ style guitar riffs to the song , and the group decided to add a vocal chorus , in the style of a Queen song . Only after " Night Fishing Is Good " had been finished did the band decide to title the album after this song .

= = Promotion and release = =

The album was first announced on November 12 , 2007 . In December , Sakanaction traveled to the Tokyo area to promote the album , where they performed at the Countdown Japan 07 / 08 new year 's music festival .

On December 5 , the songs " Word " and " Sample " were released as a two @-@ track single to iTunes . On December 26 , the song " Night Fishing Is Good " was similarly released as a stand @-@ alone digital download to promote the album . " Sample " was chosen as the album 's leading promotional track , receiving heavy rotation on radio stations such as Hokkaido 's FM North Wave in early February , while " Word " received minor airplay during the same period .

Three songs on the album were promoted with music videos : " Word " , " Sample " and " Night Fishing Is Good " . The music video for " Sample " was recorded on December 20 , at a lake close to Mount Fuji in Shizuoka Prefecture , and was directed by Kanji Suto . " Night Fishing Is Good " was shot in a single day during the new year period in 2008 at the Arata River in Gifu , in two takes , by " Mikazuki Sunset " director Yoshihiro Mori . It was released after the album was available in stores , on February 4 .

In mid @-@ January , the band unveiled a special website for Night Fishing , featuring sound samples and song commentary by Ichiro Yamaguchi , and also opened their official MySpace profile . Sakanaction were featured on the February 26 episode of Fuji Television 's Factory , where they performed a four song set , featuring " Sample " as well as songs from Go to the Future . Special features on Sakanaction were published in the magazines Pia , Musica , Barfout ! , Bass Magazine and Rockin ' On Japan .

In March 2008 , the band held a Japan @-@ wide tour to promote the album , 2nd Album 2008 " Night Fishing Is Good " . The tour began in Nagasaki on March 1 , and finished in Osaka on March 29 . In 2015 , the band re @-@ released their studio albums , due to the pregnancy of their bassist Ami Kusakari . In March , Night Fishing was released for the first time as a lossless digital release and as a vinyl record / A remastered CD edition was also released during this time .

= = Reception = =

= = = Critical reception = = =

Critical reception in Japan to the album was positive . Music journalist Takehiko Hosaka gave a very positive review of the album , noting the band 's new and wider direction , and felt it was at the forefront of modern pop music . He felt that Night Fishing had a Don Quixote @-@ like strong volition that was easy to become obsessed about . CDJournal reviewer Mori listed it as his third favorite release of the year , praising the word @-@ play , melodies and arrangements on Night Fishing . Yuji Tanaka of CDJournal praised the album 's addition of " opera @-@ like choral work " on the album , noting it as the biggest change compared to Go to the Future .

Haruki Terada of Musica believed that the album was a great improvement on Go to the Future in all aspects , calling it a " masterpiece " . He felt that the album 's experimentation was " special " , likening it to the lyricism and eloquence of 1970s Japanese kay?kyoku songs . He noted that Yamaguchi 's " transparent " vocals expressed pain no matter how he sung , and felt that the band were able to incorporate funk elements due to the band having a keyboardist . Terada felt that there were three important factors to the album 's success : Yamaguchi 's vocals , the " intimacy " felt between band members , and Yamaguchi 's songwriting skills ; something that Terada saw as a

strong unchanging factor between *Go to the Future* and *Night Fishing* . Terada felt that the album 's lyrics had a consistent poetic worldview , and often switched between sentimentality and frigidity .

Atsushi Sasaki of *Invitation* described the album 's appeal being its " fusion of home recorded @-@ style arrangements and US indie @-@ like band sound , overlaid with naive and noble vocals . " He felt like *Night Fishing* inherited the " bedroom techno meets guitar pop " that the Japanese bands Supercar and Quruli had in the early 2000s . He noted progressive aspects to the album 's style , but felt that the band were still in the process of growth . Terada felt that the reason why many people saw the band as being a successor to Supercar and Quruli was not just their " nostalgic soundwork " : a mix of kay? and speedy inorganic four on the floor arrangements , but simply Yamaguchi 's " comfortable " vocals .

Shunsuke Kosugi of *Musica* called the use of electronic beats on the album " excellent " , praised them as " detailed " and " precise " , and noted how they stirred up nostalgic feelings that " pulled at the heartstrings " . Kosugi felt that there was a uniformity to the beats on the album , and stressed that listeners should listen to the work as a whole to experience this properly . Reviewers for *So @-@ en* praised the album for Yamaguchi 's vocals and Sakanaction 's atypical band sound , feeling that listening to the album created a " floating feeling like being in space " . They further praised Yamaguchi 's " unique " lyrical worldview , and the high level of perfection found in the recordings .

Kei Iwasaki of the band Sekaiichi , writing for *Musica* , felt that Ichiro Yamaguchi 's dual love of 1990s pop music and electronic musicians such as Daft Punk and Cornelius strongly expressed itself throughout the album . He lauded Sakanaction 's efforts to mix electronica and pop , but felt that mixing these two genres was a double @-@ edged sword that invariably influenced the composition of songs . Because of this , he felt that *Night Fishing* might be more successful musically if the songs were re @-@ recorded .

= = = Commercial reception = = =

In its debut week , *Night Fishing* was the number 53 most sold album in Japan , according to the Japanese music chart Oricon , selling 3 @,@ 500 copies . This was more than double the number of *Go to the Future* , which had sold 1 @,@ 500 copies and reached number 105 . It continued to chart in the top 300 albums for an additional four weeks , selling a further 3 @,@ 600 copies . During the release of the band 's single " *Aruku Around* " in January 2010 , the album re @-@ charted for a single week , bringing the total tracked number of copies sold to 7 @,@ 600 : 2 @,@ 400 more than *Go to the Future* . In 2015 the album was reissued , selling an additional 1 @,@ 500 copies . In tracking regional sales , *CDJournal* noted the album had mid @-@ level charting success in Tokyo and charted highly in Sapporo , however under @-@ performed in Hokkaido position @-@ wise compared to *Go to the Future* . Much like *Go to the Future* , the album did not see particularly strong sales in the regional centers of Nagoya , Osaka and Fukuoka .

= = Track listing = =

All lyrics written by Ichiro Yamaguchi .

= = Personnel = =

Personnel details were sourced from *Night Fishing* 's liner notes booklet .

Sakanaction

Personnel and imagery

= = Charts = =

= = = Sales = = =

= = Release history = =