

OKINAWA'S OCEAN

Okinawa has a beautiful ocean environment, with world class scuba diving, fishing, and surfing. However, the ocean environment in Okinawa is exceptionally dangerous.

Fast moving ocean swells crash with great force onto the island's sharp, shallow reefs.

Local reef structures create semi-permanent rip/reef currents in many areas.

Seasonal changes bring wildly unpredictable conditions.

Okinawa is located in the middle of "Typhoon Alley" and storms create extremely dangerous ocean conditions.

Several species of dangerous marine life reside in Okinawa's surrounding waters.

HIGH RISK LOCATIONS



These popular recreation areas have been deemed *high risk locations* based on recurring drownings and near drownings.

DAILY SEA CONDITIONS

ALL CLEAR
WATER CONDITIONS ARE IDEAL FOR OCEAN ENTRY.

CAUTION
PERSONNEL MUST BE EXPERIENCED IN BOTH THE WATER ACTIVITY AND AT THE LOCATION OF OCEAN ENTRY.

DANGER
PERSONNEL ARE PROHIBITED FROM ENTERING THE WATER.

MARFORJO 5101.1
Personnel shall wear appropriately-sized snorkel/life vest designed for the specific activity.

*Daily Sea Conditions are a generalized assessment of the entire coastline. Conditions will often vary from location to location. Assess water conditions thoroughly before entering the ocean.

OKINAWA OCEAN SAFETY



The Water Watcher who's Always on Duty!

These 3 factors contribute to the formation of Rip Currents



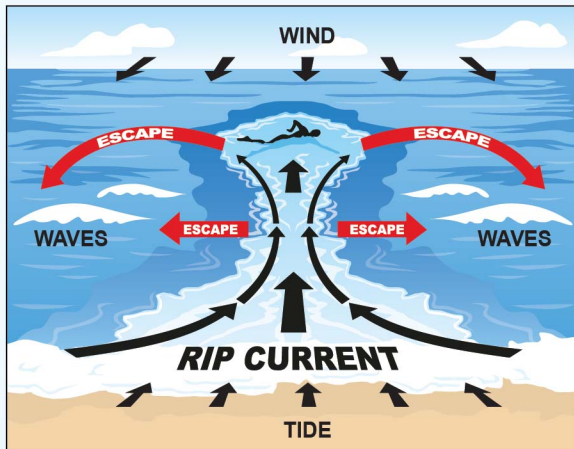
Rip currents are formed when wind pushes surface water towards the beach. This water must find an outlet to escape back to sea. Rip currents are more likely to occur when the wind is blowing onshore (when winds blow from sea to land).



Breaking waves push water towards the shore. Water collected near shore will find the lowest point (usually a break in the reef) to make its way back out to sea. These low points in the reef act as funnels that return wave energy back into deeper water. The higher the waves, the more water is added to the flow; and therefore the stronger the rip.



Full and new moons create large tidal variances (very high, and very low tides). During these monthly moon phases, tides greatly contribute to the intensity of rip currents. The risk to swimmers is greatest when the tide is going out. Therefore it is important to know if the tide is coming in or going out before entering the ocean.



How to deal with a Rip Current



Oku Fishing Port South
(Kunigami Village)



Iegawa Estuary
(Kunigami Village)

KEEP CALM:

Being caught in a rip current can lead to panic. Don't exhaust yourself swimming toward the beach. You cannot fight a rip current.

The first step is to **Stay Calm**. Focus on **floating and keeping your head above water** while you assess the situation.

SWIM TO THE SIDE:

Once you have determined which direction the current is pulling you, **swim at an angle perpendicular (90 degrees) to the direction the current is flowing.**

USE A RESTING STROKE:

Using an energy saving **backstroke** or a **breaststroke** will make it easier to keep your head above the water.



MCCS LIBERTY APP

Daily sea conditions, emergency translator, variety of water safety resources



KADENA WEATHER WEBSITE

Check your daily sea conditions



OKINAWA OCEAN SAFETY FACEBOOK GROUP

Current ocean conditions, ask your questions to group experts



OKINAWA OCEAN SAFETY WEBSITE

Interactive ocean safety website/Site specific safety information



INSTALLATION SAFETY WATER SAFETY WEB PAGE

Find a variety of water safety resources



MCCS TSUNAMI SCUBA

Learn to dive safely/borrow a snorkel vest for up to 3 days at no cost

