

GLOBAL FORUM



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From the U.S.

NYK was honored to recently be chosen by the Columbia River Maritime Museum (CRMM) to participate in its Miniboat Program

The program provides the opportunity for students in grades 5 to 8 in the Pacific Northwest and Japan to cooperatively research, design, and build small fiberglass sailboats throughout the school year. The boats are then launched and tracked via GPS with the goal of crossing the Pacific Ocean.

Through the program, students are given a window to the nautical world and the opportunity to develop skills like critical thinking, data collection, strategic communication, design thinking, and team participation. Moreover, the participants are introduced to a range of exciting career paths.

The Miniboat Program was started in 2017 by CRMM Director of Education Nate Sandel. The program partners students in the Pacific Northwest with their counterparts in Hachinohe, Japan, facilitating international exchange and cultural learning and promoting international student cooperation and collaboration.

Following the 2011 earthquake and tsunami in Japan, debris from Japan washed up on Oregon and Washington



Captain Suzuki being presented with a plaque in front of S/V NATE THE GREAT for his participation in the Miniboat Program

shores. One of those items, a fishing vessel, is now on display at the Columbia River Maritime Museum. That boat and its journey across the Pacific Ocean became the inspiration for this educational program.

Since its inception in 2017, over 2,700 students have participated from five schools in Japan and 21 in the Pacific Northwest. The students have launched 30 boats that have travelled over 70,000 nautical miles. Boats have been recovered in Mexico, Alaska, Kiribati, and the Marshall Islands.

NYK's own M/V LIBRA LEADER was given the honor of launching the two newest boats after departure from Portland, Oregon. On October 5, NYK representatives Capt. Atsushi Suzuki and James Tully attended the christening of S/V KIMURA-SENSEI and S/V NATE THE GREAT at Warrenton Middle School. The

students had many questions for Capt. Suzuki about the maritime industry. Plaques were presented to both Capt. Suzuki and M/V LIBRA LEADER Capt. Abrenica for their participation in the Miniboat Program.

M/V LIBRA LEADER safely launched S/V NATE THE GREAT at about 700 nm off the U.S. west coast. And M/V LIBRA LEADER then safely launched S/V KIMURA-SENSEI at about 600 nm off Japan's east coast.

Many thanks to Capt. Abrenica and the crew of M/V LIBRA LEADER for all their assistance.

NYK looks forward to a long partnership with CRMM's Miniboat Program!

 James Tully
PNW Area Operations Manager
RORO Division
NYK Group Americas Inc.



S/V NATE THE GREAT and S/V KIMURA-SENSEI



S/V NATE THE GREAT is set for sail



☞ The students asking Captain Suzuki about onboard food, whether anyone has ever fallen overboard, etc.

Link to Live Miniboat GPS and Program Information
<https://www.crm.org/miniboat-program.html>



Link to Miniboat Christening and Q&A with Captain Suzuki
<https://educationalpassages.org/boats/natethegreat/>

