

## What you can watch at the TMG maguro observation

### Middlemen



This is a typical style of a tuna middleman bidding.

He's bidding by hand signs with his right hand. He's holding a hand hook and a flash light in his left hand.

The blue badge on his cap is his middleman license.

### Auctioneer



The auctioneers are the employees of the auction houses.

The auction houses are the private companies that gather fish from the fishermen, fish processors, whatever. By selling the fish to the middlemen, they earn commissions.

There are five major auction houses at Tsukiji and each separately auction from the other auction houses.

This young auctioneer doesn't have one, but auctioneers usually have white badges on their caps.

### Romu-in (labor man)



The senior man wearing a white towel around his forehead is a romu-in.

Now, he's cutting the tail of the froze tuna so that the middlemen could inspect the tail meat later.

The knives that they are using are very much the same as the samurai's swords.

Romu-in are in charge of the chore jobs like cleaning-up and muscle-type of jobs. They are also carpenters and sometimes, they construct the wooden decks of the auctions, the wooden lockers for tools, etc.

### Koage (delivery men)



The man using the hand hook and pulling the froze tuna that was just unloaded from the truck is a koage.

The man with the blue shirt standing by the romu-in in one picture before is also a koage. He is supporting the romu-in. Displaying tuna at the auction site is also one of koage's jobs.

When the tuna get sold at the auction, the koage get busy again because they have to deliver the tuna to the buyers. Ask one of the men holding hand hooks in both of his hands, "Are you a koage-san?"

### Froze maguro (tuna)



There is a lot of information painted on and stuck on by pieces of papers on the tuna.

The pink sticker on the left pictures indicates that the tuna weighs 66.4 kilograms. The tuna on the right is 32.8 kilograms. The circled 'J' stands for Japan and it means that the tuna was caught by a Japanese factory ship.

They also have 'C' for China, 'T' for Taiwan, 'K' for Korea, 'P' for Portugal.