



Observer report for Under the Sea 2026

Observer: Szymon Nowicz

Date: October 24th – 25th 2026

Place: Turku, Finland

Website or other source(s) of information: All information was on the website of the Nagashi club: registration, schedule and list of participants.

Price: 25 euro (20 euro for Nagashi members)

Participants: 56 players (59 registered)

Finland	42
Sweden	7
Ireland	2
Latvia	2
Poland	1
France	1
Hungary	1

4 substitute players were on site.

Playing schedule: 2 days, 8 hanchans: Saturday 12:00–20:00, Sunday 9:00–17:00.

Location: T-Talo in Turku. The playing room was spacious, with plenty of space between tables. A similar-sized room next door, separated from the playing hall by a movable wall, was used as the break room. The wall was well soundproofed, so noise from the break room did not carry into the playing hall.

Equipment: Mostly 28 mm AMOS sets, some 26 mm sets, and one black-backed Byakko set.

Every table was equipped with a wind compass (either AMOS or 3D-printed), a calculator, an erasable orasu sheet, a dry-erase marker, paper towels to wipe the orasu sheets, a pen and rule sheets.

All tables had 500-point sticks: some had the traditional green sticks and some had 3D-printed red ones. Before the start of the tournament, it was announced that the red stick is worth 500 points.

Refereeing: Eero Pihkala was the sole non-playing referee.

Information / communication during the tournament:

A clock was projected on a screen from a computer. A ringtone and a signal from the referee announced when to play one more hand. Standings were projected between hanchans. Seating with names was posted on the wall every 2nd hanchan, covering the next 2 hanchans. During the tournament, updates were posted on the club's Discord server.

Sessions: Overall, the atmosphere of the tournament was friendly, and I have no complaints in this regard.

Catering: Lunch was not included in the tournament; during the break, players went to various restaurants. A sheet of paper listed the restaurants, and players could tick where they were going so that no single place got overwhelmed.

Snacks and fruit were available in the break room, along with coffee, tea, sodas and sparkling water.

Complaints: 59 players had registered for the tournament. The evening before the tournament, one Finnish player informed the organizers that they would not be able to participate, and on Saturday 2 more registered players (one from Sweden and one from the United Kingdom) did not show up without notifying the organizers, so 56 players took part. The organizers initially wanted to run the tournament with 60 players by filling the empty seats with the 4 substitute players. On my and Klaudia Lensu's recommendation, they instead reassigned the tables for 56 players, so that the substitutes remained available in case of emergencies, illness, a player arriving late and similar situations. A 56-player seating plan had been prepared in advance, so the tables did not have to be regenerated on site. However, every player still had to be given a new seating card, and players 57–60 had to be reassigned to lower numbers. Handing out the new seating cards and reassigning the players delayed the start of the 1st hanchan by 30 minutes, and all subsequent hanchans were delayed by 30 minutes as well. This could have been resolved faster, for example by showing the seating for the 1st hanchan on the projector and only reassigning players 57–60.

In my opinion, the option to pay the fee on site makes it more likely that players do not show up without notifying the organizers. I would avoid this option in the future.

There was no still water in the break room.

The referee and the EMA observer were not announced on the website before the tournament. There was also no confirmation of whether a player's fee had been received; this could be added as a 3rd column in the registration table so that players know whether their payment went through.

Prizes: Trophies for individual ranking (1st, 2nd and 3rd). Chocolates were shared among everyone who won a hand with haitei, houtei or rinshan, and a bigger chocolate went to the player who scored a yakuman.



Conclusion: Overall, a nice tournament in Turku. I definitely recommend attending.