

## Hikarimono by Dick "coach" Benbow



This is the Japanese word for "bright Scale" and a koi show classification. Hikarimono is broken down into two separate categories, one with one solid color called Hikari Muji and one with a pattern called Hikari Moyo.

This group exhibits a metallic sheen that is critical to their quality. Examples for Muji class fish would include Orenji, Platinum and Yamabuki Ogons. Moyo would include those varieties such as Gin Shiro Utsuri, Kin Ki Utsuri, Kin Showa, Hariwake, Kujaku and Kikusui.

This metallic finish is not to be confused with Gin Rin scale, where specific scales have a diamond-like fracture.

When selecting tosai (one year olds) in this class, a good idea is to take them in a bowl outside into the sunshine and away from the dealer's florescent lights. You are better able to see the sheen in natural light. Another selection technique is to allow those Hikari varieties with black (Showa and Shiro) to sit in a bowl covered with net for about 5 minutes to see if the black holds true or fades away to grey. Selecting those that hold true will make a stronger appearance at the shows.

AKCA and ZNA judging organizations differ in their classification of Kikokuryu. The American version allows the koi to be entered in Hikari class while the Japanese organization prefers to have it entered into the Kawarigoi or catch all class.

I think one of the hardest things learners have to cope with is selecting fish with patterns. They tend to put pattern first. But the classification the fish is entered in should give you the importance regarding selection. With Hikari, sheen is consideration #1. In Gin Rin, again pattern is not paramount, it's the quality and alignment of scalation and not pattern.

Perhaps it's easier to learn with Hikari Muji where solid color is easier to grasp the quality of sheen while not confusing the issue with pattern.



**Hikari Muji Ogon**

**Image provided by [www.koimudpond.com](http://www.koimudpond.com)**

Learning to select a good koi of any variety can take time and effort but the rewards of enjoyment in our own ponds is worth it!

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**Hakari Moyo Kin Showa**

**Hakari Moyo Kikusui**

**Hakari Moyo Kujaku**

**Images provided by [www.koimudpond.com](http://www.koimudpond.com)**

Here is a question to study and discuss. Where do you assign Matsuba patterned koi that are Hikari? Does the pine cone pattern make them Moyo or Muji? You might be surprised. That's the beauty of Koi, the more you know the more you realize there is more to learn ....

*Dick Benbow, aka coach, has been with koi close to 35 years. He is a Pacific Northwest Koi Club Association (PNKCA) Bronze Koi recipient and founding father for both Puget Sound Koi Club and Washington Koi and Water Garden Society. Dick is active on many of the koi chat lines. He is married, has two children and two grandchildren. His favorite koi subjects are filtration and understanding tosa development.*