

Annual Report 2023

“Japan's Actions against Piracy off the Coast of Somalia and in the Gulf of Aden”

March 2024

Cabinet Secretariat The Government of Japan

Somalia and the Surroundings (off the Coast of Somalia and in the Gulf of Aden)

➤ Importance of the Gulf of Aden for Japan

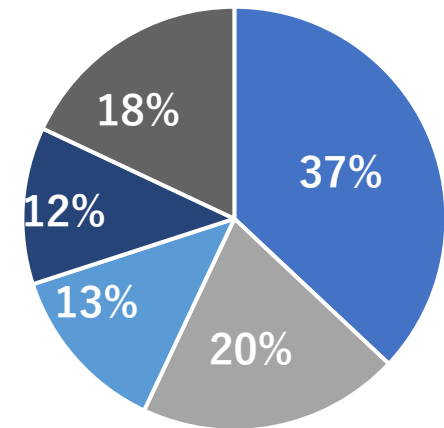
Japan imports many of the various energy resources, mineral resources, marine products, agricultural products, and other resources that form the basis of the nation's economic activities and social life from overseas, and 99.6% of its trade volume (based on tonnage) is dependent on marine transportation. Therefore, it is extremely important for Japan's economy and the lives of its citizens to ensure safe navigation of ocean-going vessels. The Gulf of Aden, about 12,000 km from Japan, is located on the east side of the Bab el Mandeb Strait, the entrance to the Red Sea that connects to the Suez Canal, and is a strategic point on the maritime transportation route linking Asia and Europe. The area is also extremely important for Japan, as approximately 1,800 vessels* related to Japan pass through it each year.



2023 Annual Passage of Japan-Related Vessels* through the Gulf of Aden

*Japanese flag vessels, and foreign flag vessels operated by Japanese shipping companies or overseas subsidiaries wholly owned by the companies

Approx. 1,800 Vessels



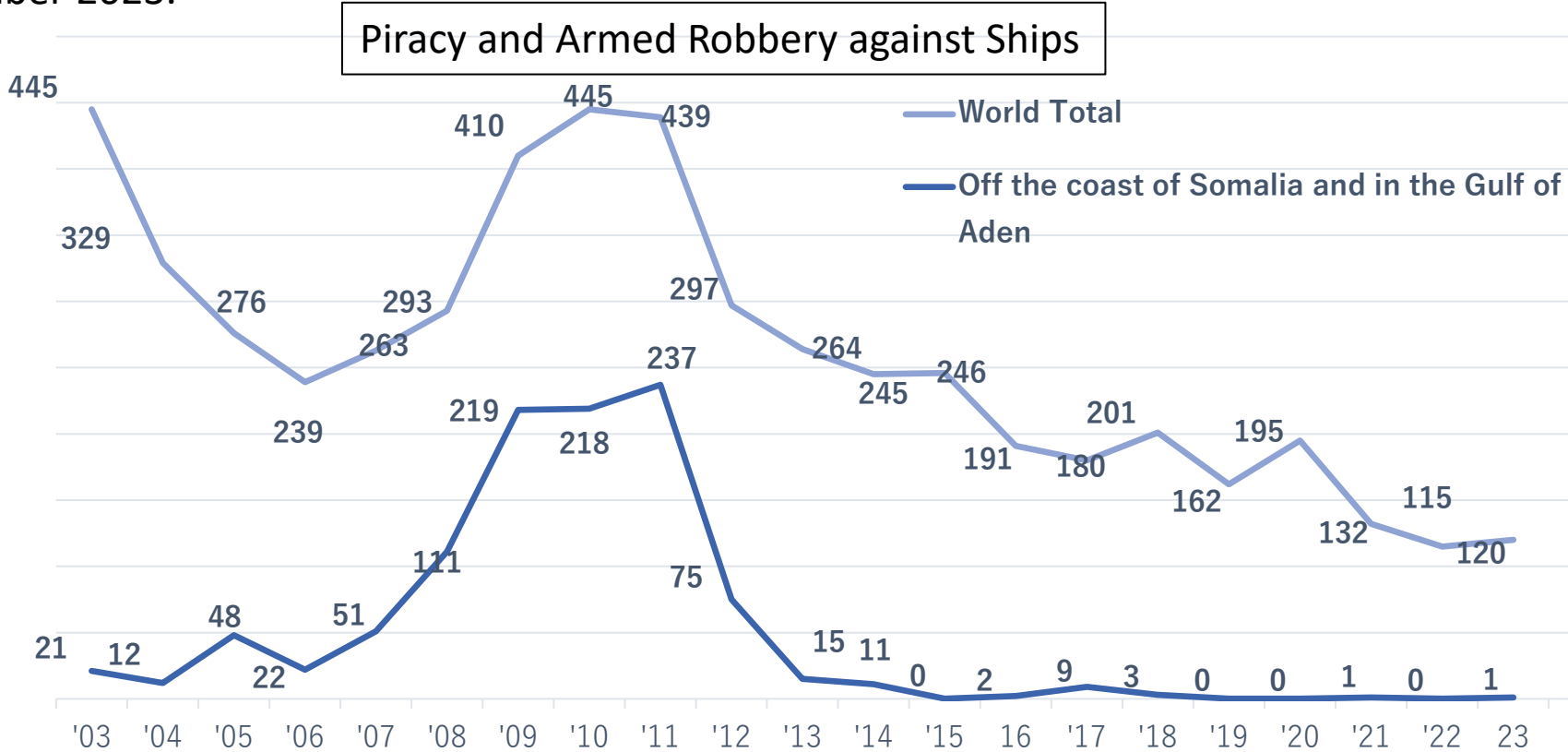
- Pure Car Carriers
- Container Carriers
- Bulk Carrier
- Chemical Tankers

Piracy Incidents off the Coast of Somalia and in the Gulf of Aden

➤ Number of Annual Incidents

Japan remains concerned about the threat of piracy off the coast of Somalia and in the Gulf of Aden. Although the number of attacks and hijackings has been greatly decreasing since 2012, the situation could be easily reversed if the international community reduces its efforts, considering the fact that Somalia is still dealing with the assumed root cause of piracy.

In fact, for the first time since 2017, a merchant vessel was hijacked by Somali pirates in December 2023.

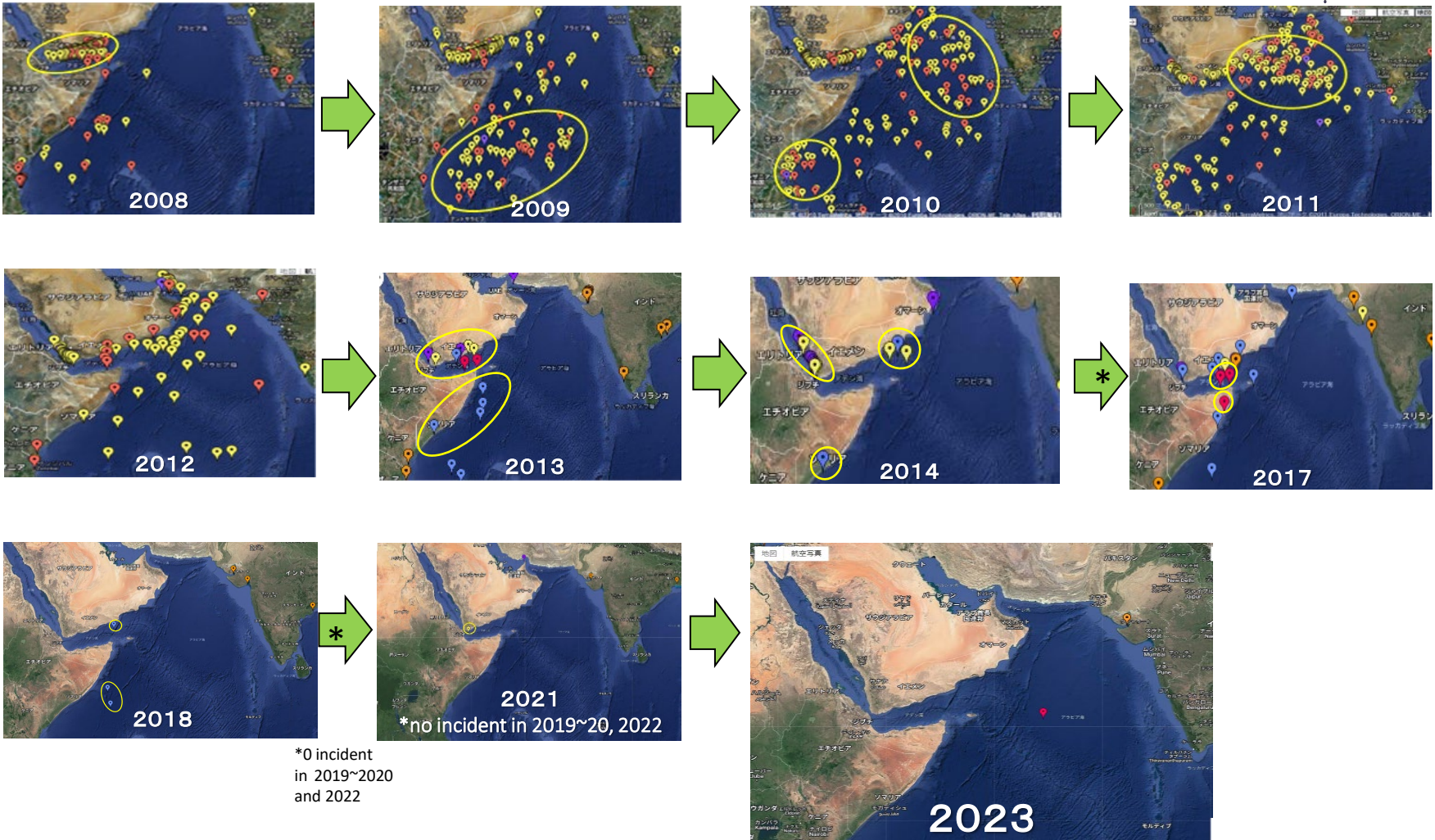


*(Source: International Chamber of Commerce International Maritime Bureau Annual Report 2023)

Piracy Incidents off the Coast of Somalia and in the Gulf of Aden

➤ Locations of Incidents

📍 =Hijacked 🟢 =Boarded 📍 =Fired upon 📍 =Attempted Attack 🟣 =Suspicious vessel



*(Source: International Chamber of Commerce International Maritime Bureau Annual Report 2023)

Japan's Actions against Piracy

- The Counter-Piracy Operation by Japan Self-Defense Forces (JSDF) and the Japan Coast Guard (JCG) (See “Overview” on Page 9)

In March 2009, with the approval of the Prime Minister for “Maritime Security Operations”, two destroyers of Japan Self-Defense Forces (JSDF) started the mission to escort Japan-related vessels in order to protect them from pirates off the coast of Somalia and in the Gulf of Aden. 8 officers of Japan Coast Guard (JCG) also are on board for judicial police activities of counter-piracy. In June 2009, two P-3C patrol aircrafts joined surveillance activities in the Gulf of Aden to cover the extensive marine area. Also, in view of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, Japan subsequently enacted the “Law for Punishment of Acts of Piracy and Measures to Deal with Acts of Piracy” (Counter-Piracy Measures Act) in Jul. 2009, in order to deal appropriately and effectively with acts of piracy. Since the following month, JMSDF and JCG have implemented “Counter-Piracy Operations”. The current base of these activities is in the Republic of Djibouti.



Japan's Actions against Piracy

- The Counter-Piracy Operation by Japan Self-Defense Forces (JSDF) and the Japan Coast Guard (JCG) (See “Overview” on Page 9)

In Jul. 2013, the Government of Japan decided to join CTF151*, for the purpose of conducting more flexible and effective operations with other countries' forces deployed around Somalia for counter-piracy operations. In Dec. 2013, JSDF destroyers started “zone defense”** in addition to the escort missions. And since Feb. 2014, JSDF's flight team has been participating in CTF151.

In Nov. 2016, the Government of Japan decided to reduce the number of destroyers deployed in the Gulf of Aden from two to one, since the demand of direct escort by JSDF had been decreasing and this trend was expected to continue. Vulnerable vessels such as tankers with relatively low speed still require escort services; however, some vessels have taken initiatives of self defense by placing private armed security guards on board. This reduction has been applied since Dec. 2016.

In addition, four JSDF officers have served as a CTF151 Commander so far (May. till Aug. in 2015, Mar. till Jun. in 2017, Mar. till Jun. in 2018 and Feb. till Jun. in 2020). These opportunities have boosted JSDF's reliability in the international community and represents JSDF's continuous contribution to maritime peace-keeping.

*In Jun. 2021, CMF and CTF151 were reorganized for the purpose of more efficient operation.

**Destroyers are stationed in certain waters to protect navigating vessels

Japan's Actions against Piracy

- The Counter-Piracy Operation by Japan Self-Defense Forces (JSDF) and the Japan Coast Guard (JCG) (See “Overview” on Page 9)

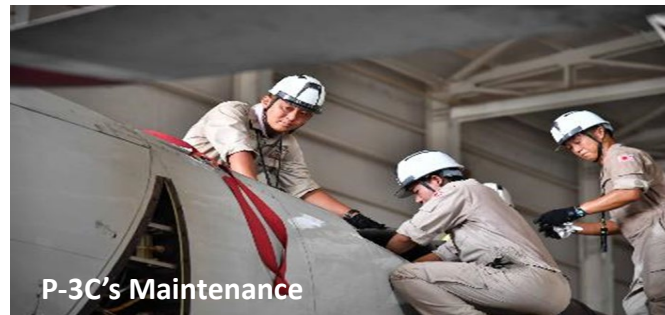
The P-3C patrol aircraft is based in Djibouti. Considering its operational experience, improvements were made on the maintenance infrastructure at the base through the deployment of necessary auxiliary supplies and maintenance equipment. This has made it possible for the base to continue its mission even in the unlikely event of a malfunction of the P-3C patrol aircraft, now that appropriate on-site repairs can be conducted. As a result, it is expected that activities previously carried out by two P-3C patrol aircrafts can now be carried out by a single aircraft at the same level as up to now.

In addition, as the security environment surrounding Japan becomes even more severe, there is growing need to operate fixed-wing patrol aircrafts to the maximum extent in areas surrounding Japan and respond appropriately to this situation.

In light of the above, on November 7, 2023, the Cabinet decided to reduce the number of P-3C patrol aircrafts deployed in the Gulf of Aden from two to one, and since December of the same year, the JSDF has been operating with a single P-3C patrol aircraft.



The JMSDF P-3C's Staff Identifying the Vessel



P-3C's Maintenance

JSDF's Counter-Piracy Operations

Deployed Forces

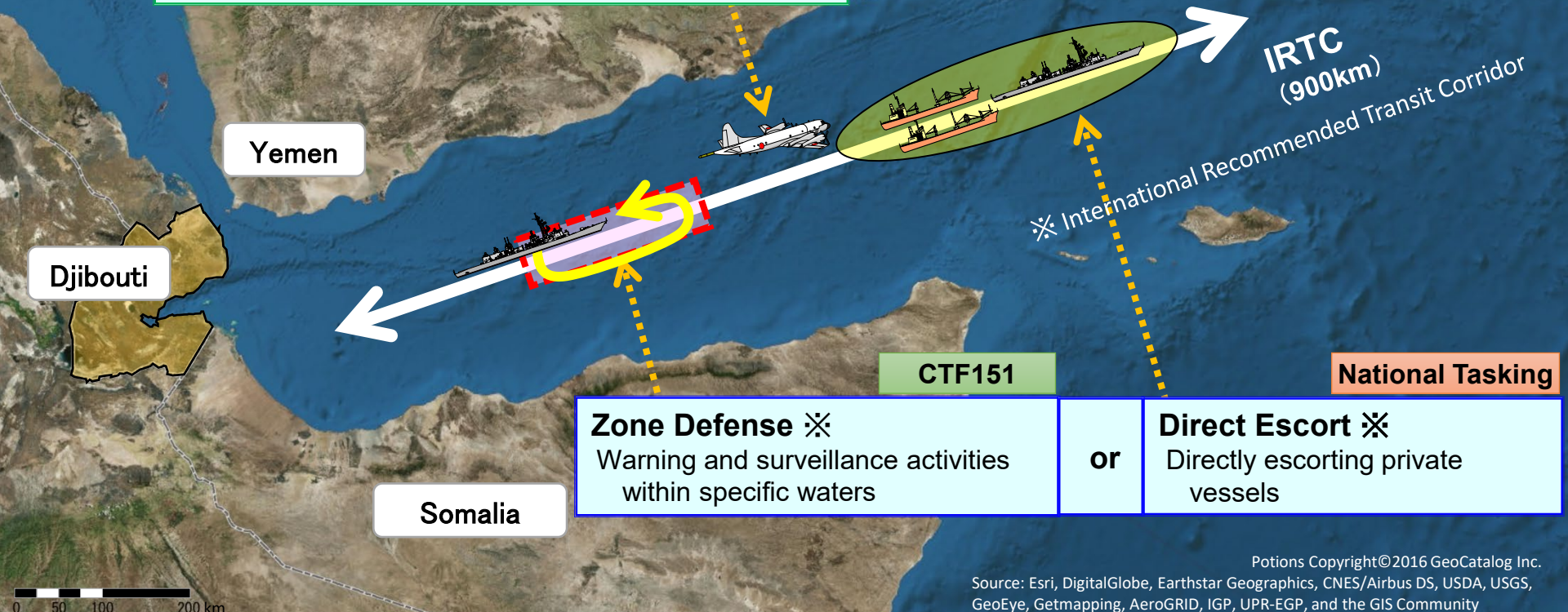
- DSPE (approx. 200 personnel/1 destroyer)
- DAPE (approx. 60 personnel/1 P-3C)
- DGPE (approx. 130 personnel)

International Activities

Naval Vessels		Aircraft
Direct Escort National Tasking (Japan, China, India etc.)	Zone Defense CTF151 (Japan, Korea etc.) EUNAVFOR (Spain, Italy etc.)	CTF151 (Japan) EUNAVFOR (Spain)

CTF151

[Surveillance activities(P-3C patrol aircraft)]
 Provision of information from the airspace over the escort route



Zone Defense ✘ Warning and surveillance activities within specific waters	or	Direct Escort ✘ Directly escorting private vessels
---	-----------	--

National Tasking

Potions Copyright©2016 GeoCatalog Inc.
 Source: Esri, DigitalGlobe, Earthstar Geographics, CNES/Airbus DS, USDA, USGS, GeoEye, Getmapping, AeroGRID, IGP, UPR-EGP, and the GIS Community

Japan's Actions against Piracy

➤ The case of “CENTRAL PARK”

On November 26, 2023, receiving information that “CENTRAL PARK”, a Liberian tanker operated by an UK company, was hijacked in the Gulf of Aden, P-3C and destroyer Akebono of our counter-piracy enforcement, rushed to the scene and conducted surveillance and information gathering activities along with the U.S. destroyer Mason and the South Korean destroyer Yang Man-chun. We then promptly provided the gathered information to CTF151, which is in charge of counter-piracy missions.

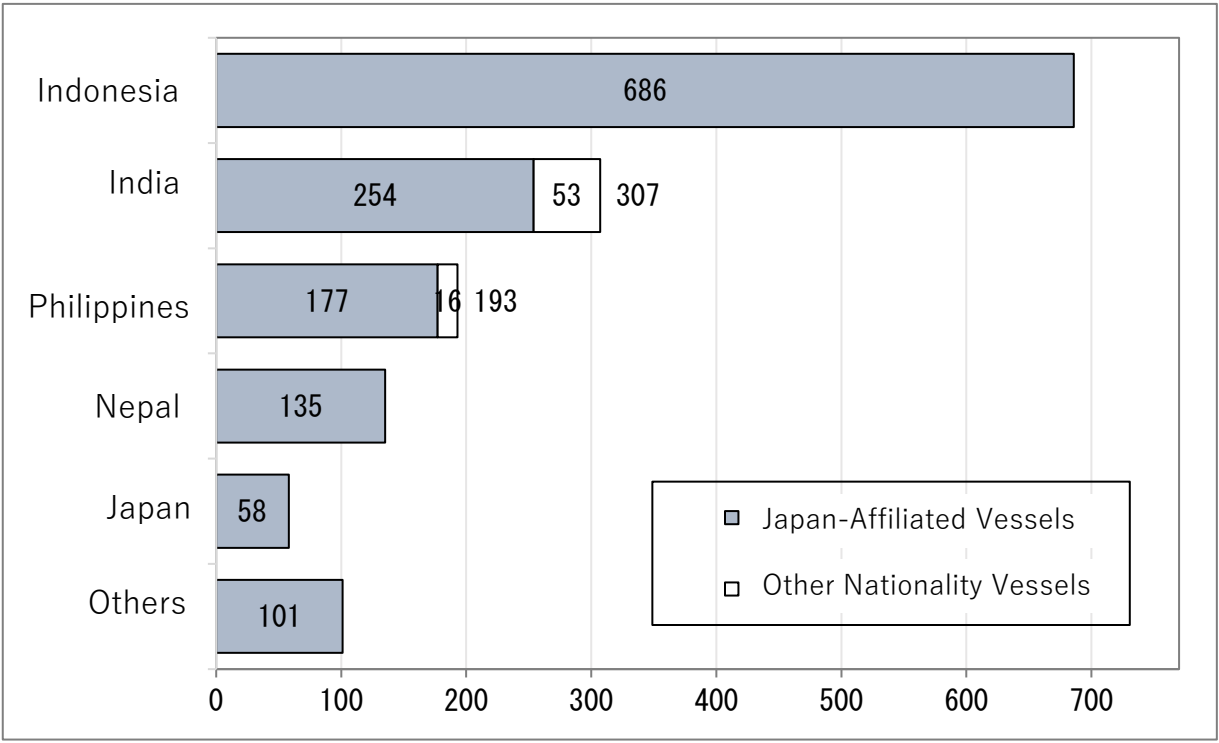


Japan's Actions against Piracy

➤ Outline of the Escorted Vessels and Seafarers

As of Dec. 31 2023, 3,952 vessels have been escorted under the protection of the JSDF's destroyers. Not a single vessel has come to any harm from pirates, and these vessels have all passed safely through the Gulf of Aden. The Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism (MLIT) of Japan provides a single contact point for coordination with the JSDF's escort.

Nationality of Seafarers



Japan's Actions against Piracy

- Act on Special Measures concerning the Guarding of Japanese Ships in Pirate-Infested Waters (Act No.75 of 2013, Enacted on Nov. 13 2013 , Enforced on Nov. 30 2013, Revised on Dec. 1 2022)

The number of piracy incidents in the Gulf of Aden rapidly increased in 2008, and later spread to the Indian Ocean. Under these circumstances, it became common among major maritime countries that Privately Contracted Armed Security Personnel (PCASP) were on-board of their flag vessels. These PCASP contributed to the decrease of attacks by the pirates. However, under Japanese laws, it was prohibited to employ PCASP on Japanese flag vessels .

Therefore, the Act on Special Measures Concerning the Guarding of Japanese Ships in Pirate-Infested Waters was enforced on Nov. 30 2013 to ensure the security of Japanese flag vessels by PCASP. And on Dec. 1 2022, the Act was revised to expand* the coverage of Japanese flag vessels with PCASP on-board.

Under the Act, PCASP confirmed by Minister of MLIT of Japan can guard Japanese-flagged vessels in the Pirate-Infested Waters, based on the Designated Guarding Plan authorized by the Minister.

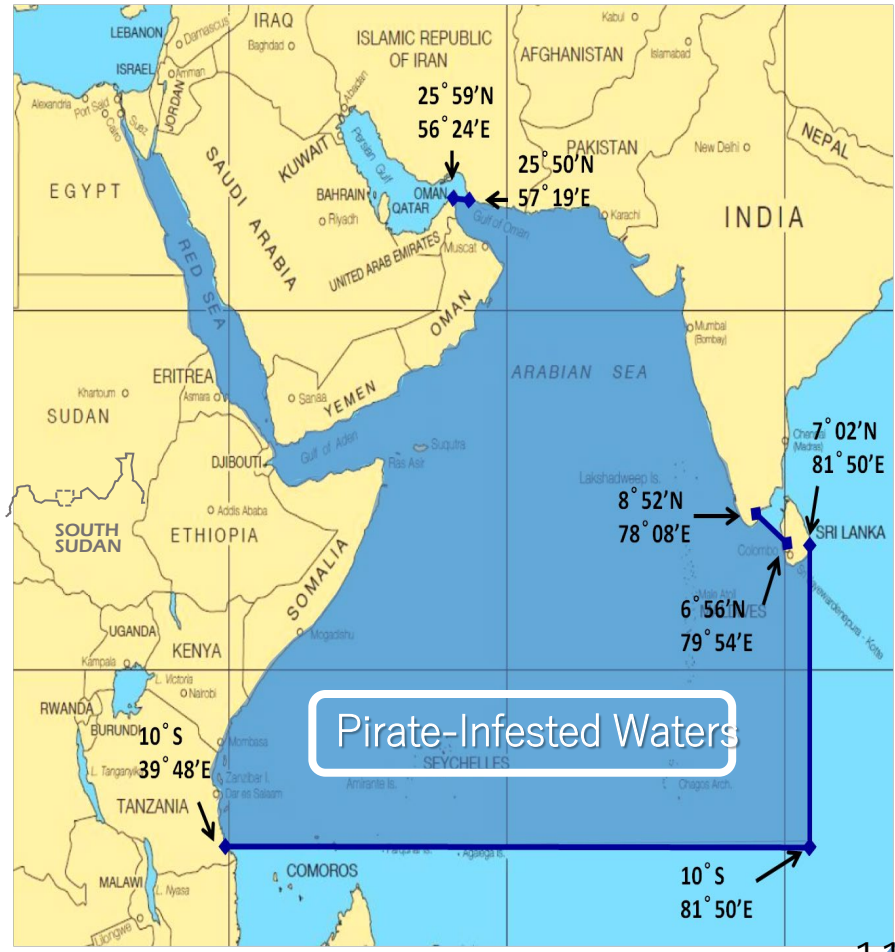
*The coverage was expanded to bulk carriers, LPG vessels and chemical tankers etc. in addition to oil tankers.

Japan's Actions against Piracy

➤ Act on Special Measures concerning the Guarding of Japanese Ships in Pirate-Infested Waters (Act No.75 of 2013, Enacted on Nov. 13 2013 , Enforced on Nov. 30 2013, Revised on Dec. 1 2022)

Overview of the Act

- (1) Applicable sea areas
: Pirate-infested waters as shown in the map
Applicable vessels
: Japanese-flagged vessels vulnerable to piracy attacks
- (2) Ship owners, seeking to protect their vessels by PCASP, shall submit, for each vessel, a Designated Guarding Plan(DGP) specifying any Private Maritime Security Companies (PMSC), implementation method of guarding, etc., and shall obtain the authorization from the Minister of MLIT of Japan.
- (3) The ship owners, before they implement their DGPs, shall obtain confirmation from the Minister that both the PMSC and the PCASP meet all requirements stipulated by the Act.



Japan's Actions against Piracy

➤ Joint Exercises with Other Countries' Forces

In 2023, JSDF's counter-piracy enforcement conducted the following joint exercises with various navies of European Union Naval Force (EU NAVFOR) off the coast of Somalia and in the Gulf of Aden.

Month	JSDF	EU NAVFOR	Types of Exercises
July	Destroyer "Ikazuchi"	"Navarra" (Spanish Navy)	Maneuvering and Communication Exercises and Photographing
September	Destroyer "Ikazuchi"	"Morosini" (Italian Navy)	Approaching, Cross-deck and Photographing
October	Destroyer "Ikazuchi"	"Navarra" (Spanish Navy)	Maneuvering Exercise, Cross-deck and Photographing



Japan's Actions against Piracy

➤ Japan's Financial and Technical Cooperation to Tackle Piracy

Assistance to Somalia

The total amount of financial Assistance to Somalia (Fiscal Year 2007-2021): US\$530 million

Japan shares the view with the international community that improving of the capability of the Somali Authority is urgently needed for the stability of Somalia. From this point of view, since 2007, Japan has been providing Somalia through international and regional organizations with necessary assistance for responding to humanitarian crisis and for stabilizing sectors such as public security, humanitarian assistance, and infrastructure with the following three pillars.

1) Recovery of Basic Social Services

Food aid, Water supplies, Public health, Education, Basic infrastructure development, Humanitarian Assistance including the enhancement of human security

2) Improvement of the Capability of Security Institutions

Assistance to the Somali Police Force

Assistance to enhance border control

Collection and destruction of small arms and light weapons in the Horn of Africa

3) Revitalization of Domestic Industries

Vocational training, Employment generation

Repairing of markets

Japan's Actions against Piracy

➤ Japan's Financial and Technical Cooperation to Tackle Piracy

Assistance to Improve Capacities for Maritime Security in the Region

Contributing US\$15.53 million to the “IMO Djibouti Code of Conduct Trust Fund” (a Japan-initiated multi-donor trust fund) for capacity-building in Somalia and its neighboring countries (including assistance for construction of the Djibouti Regional Training Centre) , and US\$4.50 million to the “Trust Fund to Support the Initiatives of States Countering Piracy off the Coast of Somalia” for the purpose of prosecution of suspected pirates.

Providing patrol vessels and technical assistance to the Djibouti Coast Guard for the improvement of its capacities for maritime security.



Arresting Techniques Training by JCG's Officers



Escort Training by 3 Organizations

Japan's Actions against Piracy

➤ Djibouti's Understanding and Cooperation for JSDF's counter-piracy operations

Our counter-piracy enforcement is based in Djibouti. Therefore, we arrange activities to gain the understanding and cooperation of local residents which are indispensable for our operation. Deployment support-Group for counter- Piracy Enforcement (DGPE) and Deployment Air force for counter-Piracy Enforcement (DAPE) coordinate with Djibouti-related authorities. For example, we interact actively with local people through sports exchanges, introductions to Japanese culture, volunteer activities, etc.

As an effort to deepen our understanding of Djiboutian culture, JSDF and JICA personnel also participate in the "Souvenir Project," which is an exhibition of folk crafts created by the local people.

Moreover, in November 2023, we carried out the Ship rider Program in aim to improve the capabilities of the Djibouti Navy and further bolster the relationship between JSDF and the Djibouti Navy.

In this program, officers of the Djibouti Navy were invited to the JSDF vessel to discuss ship handling and maneuvering skills. The young officers of the JSDF and Djibouti Navy bonded with each other.



sports exchanges with local residents



JSDF personnel participate in "Souvenir Project"