

# New Basic Plan on Ocean Policy

**May 29, 2018**

**National Ocean Policy Secretariat, Cabinet Office, Government of Japan**

# The Basic Plan on Ocean Policy

The measures on the ocean around Japan are **promoted in a comprehensive and prudent manner based on the Basic Act on Ocean Policy and the Basic Plan on Ocean Policy.**

The Second Basic Plan on Ocean Policy was formulated in April 2013 and covered five years to April 2018.

\* The Basic Act on Ocean Policy states, “the Government shall review the Basic Plan on Ocean Policy almost every five years, and shall make necessary changes.”

**On May 15, 2018, the Third Basic Plan on Ocean Policy was approved by the Meeting of the Headquarters for Ocean Policy, followed by Cabinet decision.**

## <Structure for Implementation of Ocean Policy>

Basic Act on Ocean Policy enacted on April 20, 2007

First Basic Plan on Ocean Policy  
(Cabinet decision March 2008)

Second Basic Plan on Ocean Policy  
(Cabinet decision April 2013)

Revised almost every 5 years

Advisory Council/Councilors' Meeting for  
National Headquarters for Ocean Policy  
(experts appointed by the Prime Minister)

Cabinet

Headquarters for Ocean Policy

Director-General: Prime Minister  
Vice Director-General: Chief Cabinet  
Secretary, Minister for Ocean Policy  
Members: All ministers of state except  
the Director-General and Vice Director-  
General

- Formulate and implement the Basic Plan for Ocean Policy
- Overall policy coordination with relevant government institutions

National Ocean Policy Secretariat

Formulating the Third Basic Plan on Ocean Policy  
\*FY2018

## (1) Introduction: Evaluation and Current Situation Awareness

Recap of progress from the enactment of the Basic Act on Ocean Policy until today and current situation

## (2) Chapter 1

**General Remarks (philosophy for ocean policy, policy direction, basic policy for measures)**

- (1) “The challenge toward a new oceanic state” is positioned as the policy direction for the Basic Plan on Ocean Policy to aim for the goal of the Basic Act on Ocean Policy, which is to realize a new oceanic state.
- (2) The following is a concise summary of the policy direction in point (1) above
  - (a) Toward open and stable seas. Protect the nation and its citizens.
  - (b) Use seas to make the nation prosper. Pass on abundant sea to posterity.
  - (c) Challenge unknown seas. Improve technology and enhance awareness of sea.
  - (d) Take the lead to realize peace. Create world standards for seas.
  - (e) Familiarize people with seas. Develop human resources with knowledge of ocean

- (3) Based on a broad understanding of ocean policy from the perspective of maritime security, the plan clearly states that the whole government shall come together to promote **Comprehensive Maritime Security**, which cover not only the core maritime security measures, but also the ocean measures that could contribute to maritime security.
- (4) Main measures other than “Comprehensive Maritime Security,” based on the change of the situation in ocean:
- (a) Use ocean more for the purpose of industries
  - (b) Maintain and protect the maritime environment
  - (c) Improve scientific knowledge
  - (d) Promote Arctic policy
  - (e) International collaboration and cooperation
  - (f) Develop human resources with knowledge of ocean and to advance citizens’ understanding

This is the first time for the plan to state the policy for the Arctic as one of the main measures.

## (3) Chapter 2: Detailed Exposition (Specific Measures)

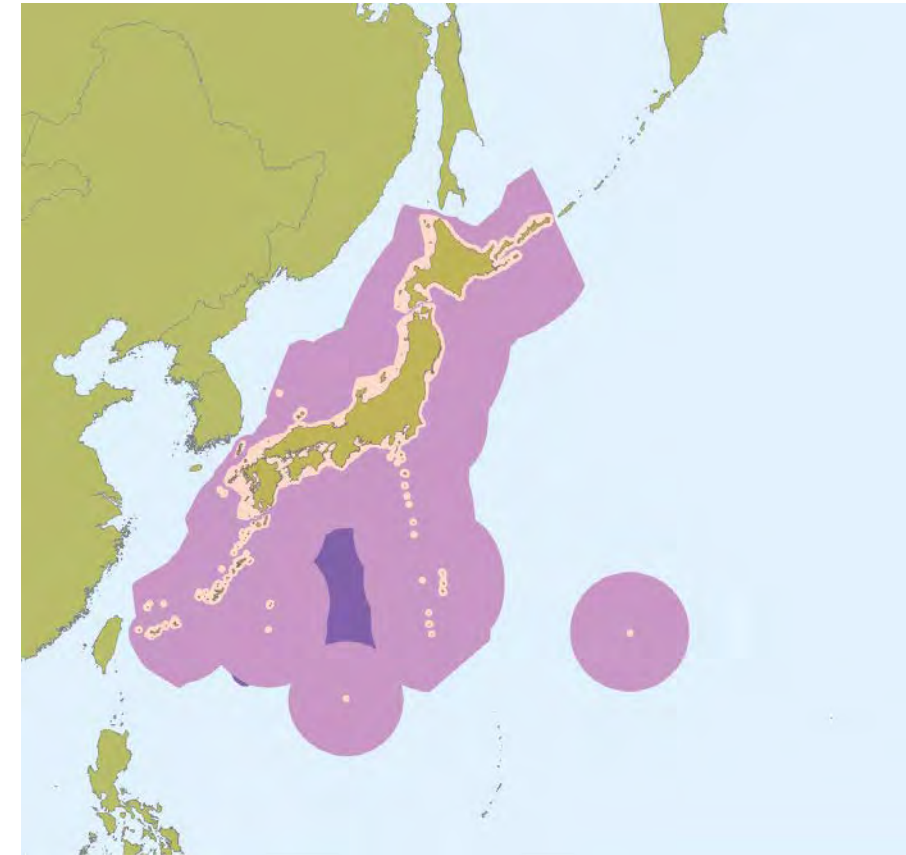
- (1) List for measures approx. 370 items
- (2) To secure the effective implementation of the ocean measures, **the plan clearly states the name of the implementing ministry or agency** for each measure.
- (3) Strengthening the capacity of Maritime Domain Awareness (MDA) is treated as an independent item in this Chapter.

## (4) Chapter 3: Required Matters for Implementation

- (1) The Headquarters for Ocean Policy will promote ocean policies by carrying out a **control tower** function for the government, together with the National Ocean Policy Secretariat.
- (2) Describes the PDCA cycle and **process management using indicators** to gain a panoramic and quantitative understanding for the purpose of better understanding and evaluating the progress of each measure as well as securing the systematic and comprehensive implementation.

## 1. Recap of 10 years since enactment of the Basic Act on Ocean Policy

- Implement measures listed in the first and second plans approved by the Cabinet based on the Basic Act on Ocean Policy
- The enactment of related acts and the decisions by the Headquarters for Ocean Policy in the fields that cut across ministries and agencies.  
Specific examples: the Anti-Piracy Act (2009), the Low-Tide Line Preservation Act (2010), conferring names on remote islands (2014), offshore methane hydrate production test (2017), test for seafloor polymetallic sulphides (2017)
- Need to reinforce process management to promote the steady implementation, inter alia, through the progress evaluation for the measures.
- Room for improvements in the ability to communicate a broader message about ocean policy to the citizen



Japan's territorial waters and  
Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ)



## 2. Current situation awareness based on recent circumstances

- Depopulation, dwindling birthrate and aging population / globalization / accelerating technical innovation in the IT field.
  - Having promoted the steady improvement of the system responding to the changing circumstances concerning maritime security situation.
  - Having promoted initiatives relating to marine resource development, according to changing circumstances concerning ocean industries.
- \* Specific examples: Intrusion into territorial waters by foreign official vessels, illegal operations by foreign fishing vessels as well as their drift and drift ashore, surveys by foreign research vessels without consent, ballistic missiles fired inside Japan's EEZ, unilateral attempts to change the status-quo etc.