In June 2009, Japan enacted the “Anti-Piracy Measures Act”. In July 2009, the JSDF commenced escort and warning/surveillance activities off the coast of Somalia and in the Gulf of Aden as the Counter-Piracy Operation under the Act.

Under the Act, privately contracted armed security personnel, who are confirmed by the Minister of Land Infrastructure, Transportation and Tourism of Japan, can guard Japanese flag vessels in the Pirate-Infested Waters.

Although a marked reduction has been seen in the number of attacks and hijackings in 2012, Japan observes that the underlying causes of piracy remain in place, and the current decline is inherently reversible.

The Counter-Piracy Operation by the Japan Self-Defense Forces (JSDF) and the Japan Coast Guard (JCG)

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According to the ICC-IMB*, 3 Somali piracy incidents were reported in 2018.

*International Chamber of Commerce
International Maritime Bureau

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