

# Annual Report 2022

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

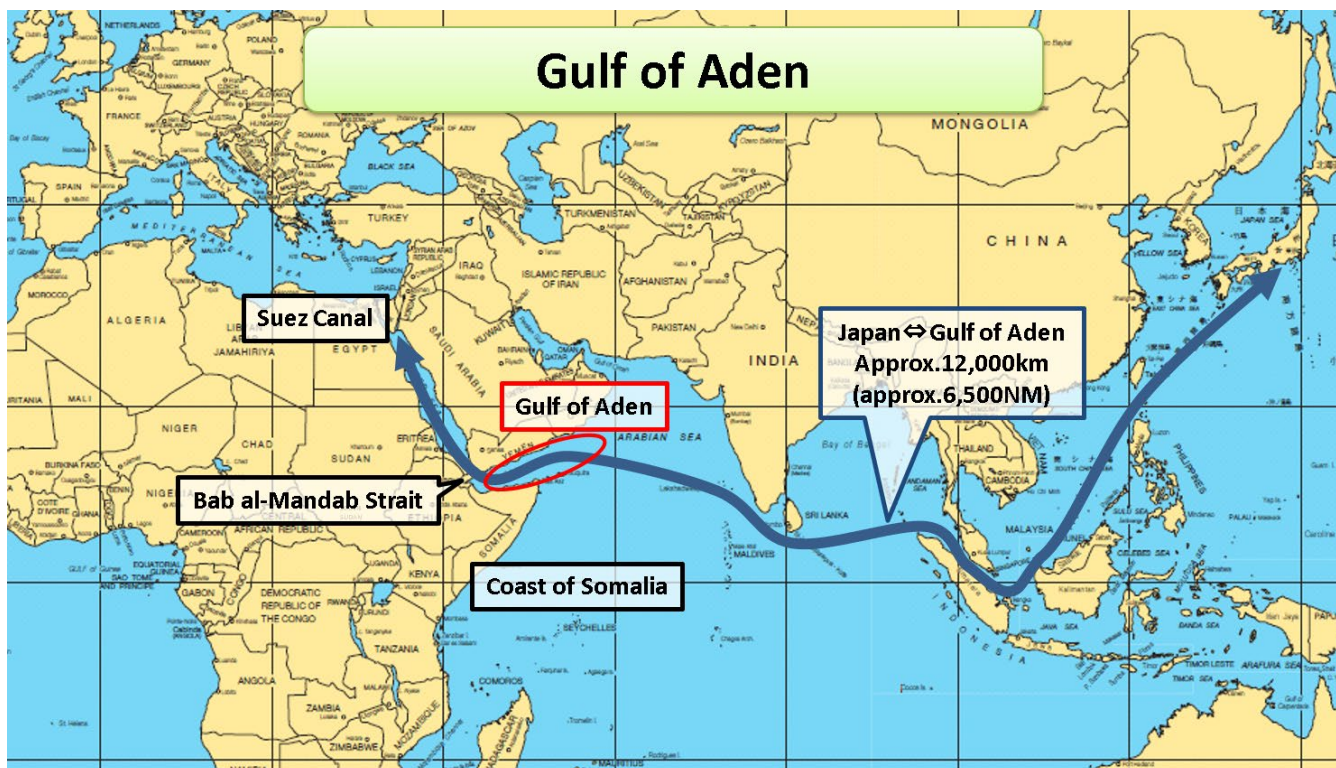
March 2023

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

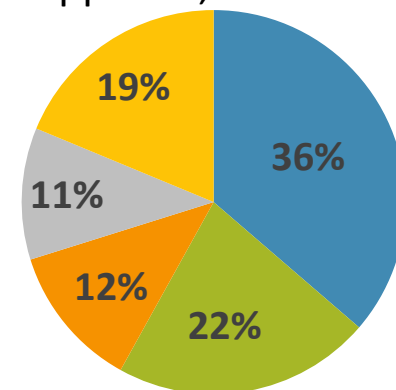
Japan depends on maritime transportation for 99.5% of its international trade volume. Therefore, navigational safety is essential for the daily life of its people as well as for its economy. The Gulf of Aden, which connects Asia with Europe via Suez Canal, is one of the vital shipping lanes for Japan. Furthermore, approx. 17% of container cargos over the world, and about 18% of the vehicles exported from Japan were transported through the Gulf of Aden in 2022. Therefore, navigational safety of merchant vessels in this Gulf is still one of the urgent and critical issues for Japan.



## 2022 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. 1,700 Vessels



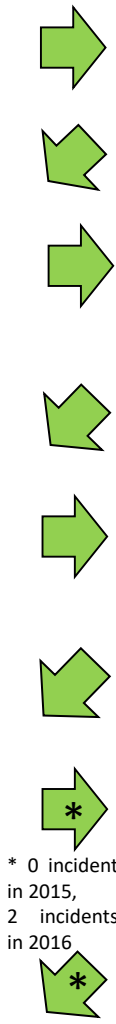
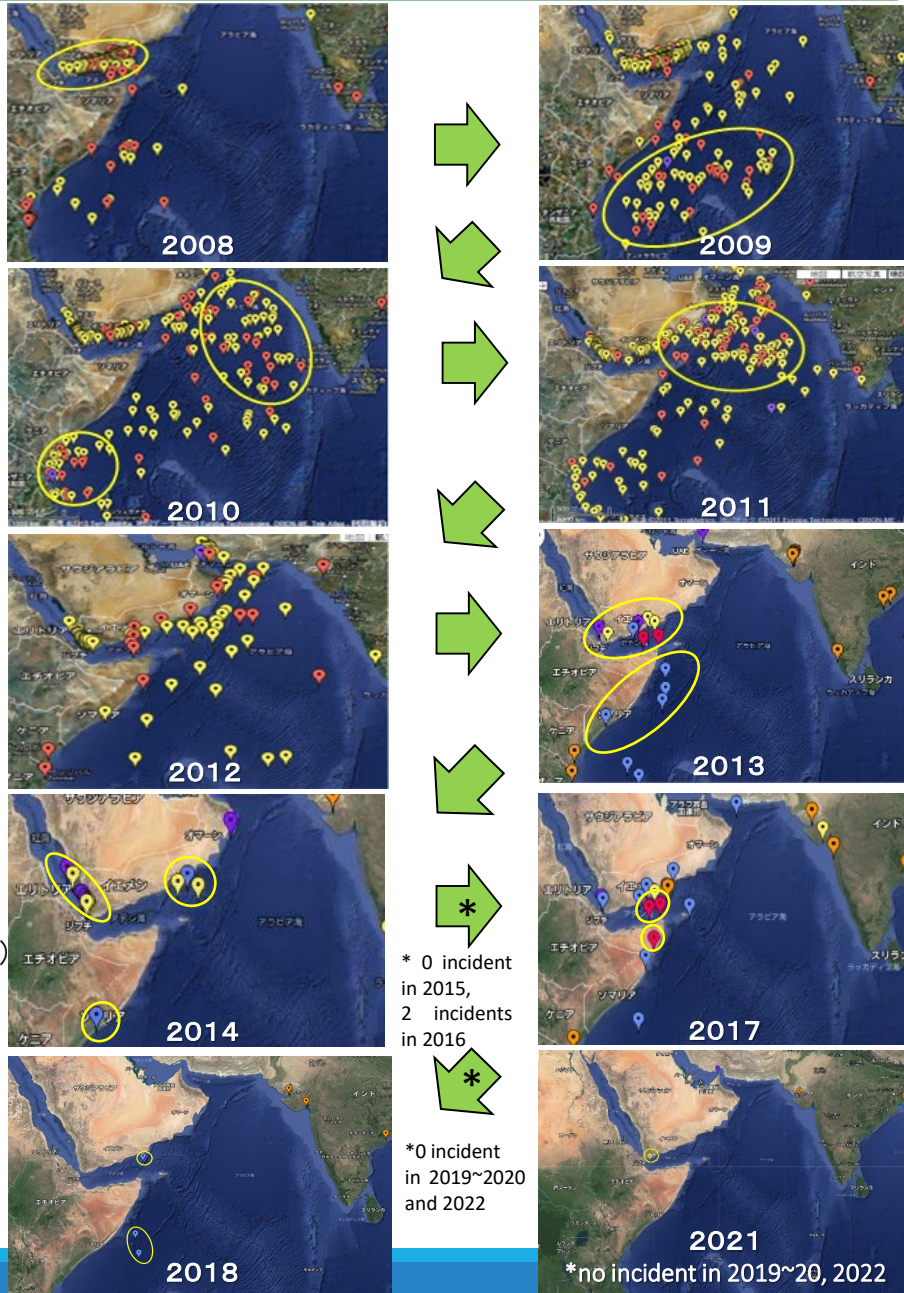
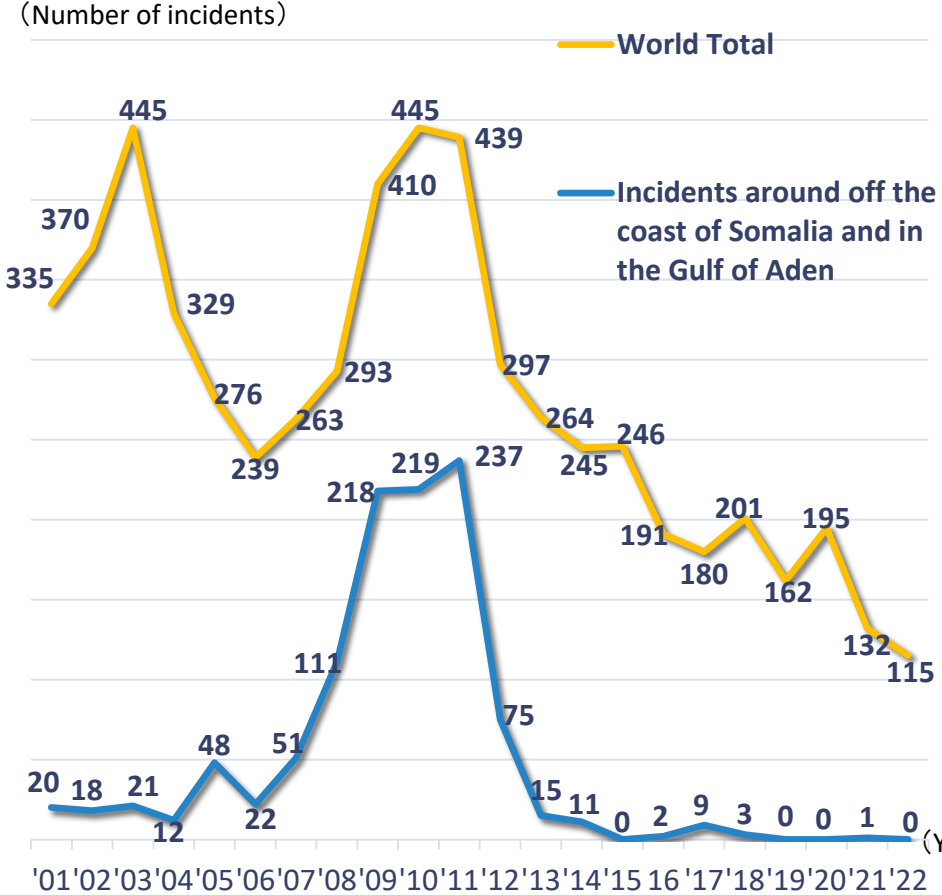
- Pure Car Carriers
- Container Carriers
- Bulk Carrier
- Chemical Tankers
- Others

Total is not 100%, due to rounding off

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

According to ICC-IMB\* in 2022, no piracy incident was reported around off the coast of Somalia and in the Gulf of Aden.

\*International Chamber of Commerce International Maritime Bureau



\* 0 incident in 2015, 2 incidents in 2016

\* 0 incident in 2019~2020 and 2022

\*no incident in 2019~20, 2022

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

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 still has the assumed root cause of piracy.

- ❑ Japan's Actions against Piracy off the Coast of Somalia and in the Gulf of Aden
- The Counter-Piracy Operation by Japan Maritime Self-Defense Forces(JMSDF) and Japan Coast Guard(JCG)
- Act on Special Measures concerning the Guarding of Japanese Ships in Pirate-Infested Waters

➤ The Counter-Piracy Operation by JMSDF and JCG (See "Overview" on Page 5)

In Mar. 2009, with the approval of the Prime Minister for "Maritime Security Operations", two destroyers of Japan Maritime Self-Defense Forces(JMSDF) 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 Jun. 2009, two P-3C patrol aircraft 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 "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.

In Jul. 2013, Government of Japan decided to join in 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, JMSDF destroyers started "zone defense"\*\* in addition to the escort missions. And since Feb. 2014, JMSDF's flight team has been participating in the CTF151.



JSDF's Destroyer Escorting the Merchant Vessel



The JSDF's Helicopter Departing the Destroyer

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

\*\*Stationing in certain waters to protect navigating vessels

In Nov. 2016, Government of Japan decided to reduce the number of destroyers deployed in the Gulf of Aden from two to one, because the demand of direct escort by JMSDF had been decreasing and this trend would be expected to continue. While vulnerable vessels against pirates, such as tankers with relatively low speed and low freeboard, still require escort service, some other vessels have taken initiatives of self-defense including private armed security guards on board. This reduction has been applied since Dec. 2016.

On the other hand, P-3C patrol aircraft utilize excellent cruising capability in conducting warning and surveillance activities. Currently, they are responsible for about 90% of the warning and surveillance activities of entire multinational operations by patrol aircraft in the Gulf of Aden. The flight activities are in total 3,041 flight missions and 21,870 flying hours as of Dec. 31, 2022, counted from Jun. 2009, when JMSDF started the surveillance activities. Furthermore, P-3C aircraft have identified 261,546 vessels, and provided information to vessels navigating the area and to other countries engaging in counter-piracy operations on 15,873 occasions.

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



**The JSDF's P-3C Ready for Warning and Surveillance Activities**



**The JSDF P-3C's Staff Identifying the Vessel**

# JSDF's Counter-Piracy Operations

## Deployed Forces

- DSPE (approx. 200 personnel/1 destroyer)
- DAPE (approx. 60 personnel/2 P-3Cs)
- DGPE (approx. 120 personnel)

## International Activities

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

**CTF151**

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

Yemen

Djibouti

Somalia

IRTC  
 (900km)

※ International Recommended Transit Corridor

**CTF151**

**National Tasking**

**Zone Defense** ※  
 Deterring acts of piracy by warning and surveillance activities

or

**Direct Escort** ※  
 Accompanying the convoy

Potions Copyright©2016 GeoCatalog Inc.

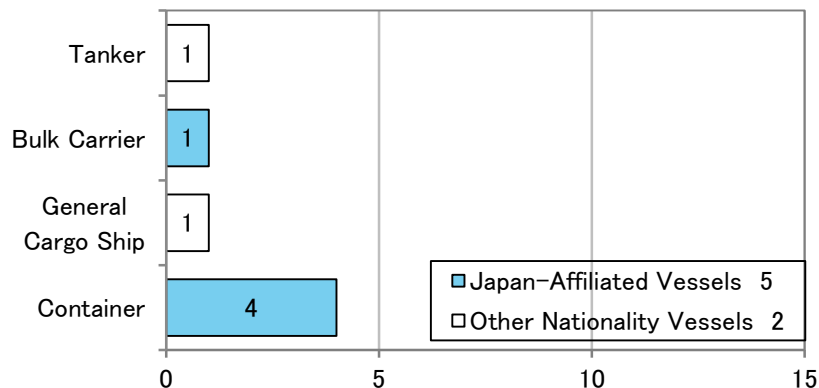
Source: Esri, DigitalGlobe, Earthstar Geographics, CNES/Airbus DS, USDA, USGS, GeoEye, Getmapping, AeroGRID, IGP, UPR-EGP, and the GIS Community

# ➤ Outline of the Escorted Vessels and Seafarers

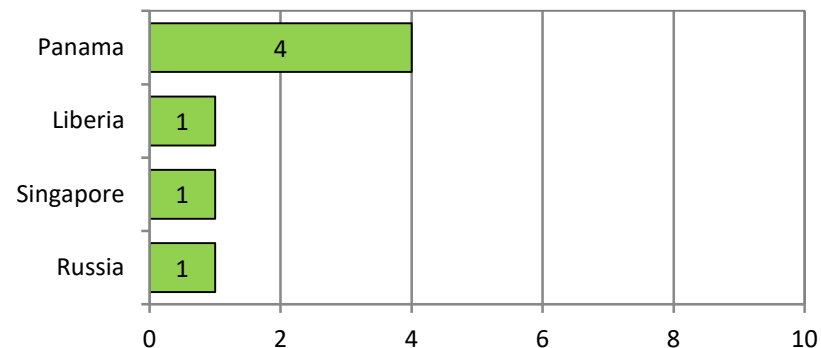
As of Dec. 31 2022, 3,947 vessels have been escorted under the protection of JMSDF's destroyers. Not a single vessel has come to any harm from pirates, and these vessels have all passed safely through the Gulf of Aden. The Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism (MLIT) of Japan provides a single contact point for coordination with JMSDF's escort.

## Escort Results of 2022

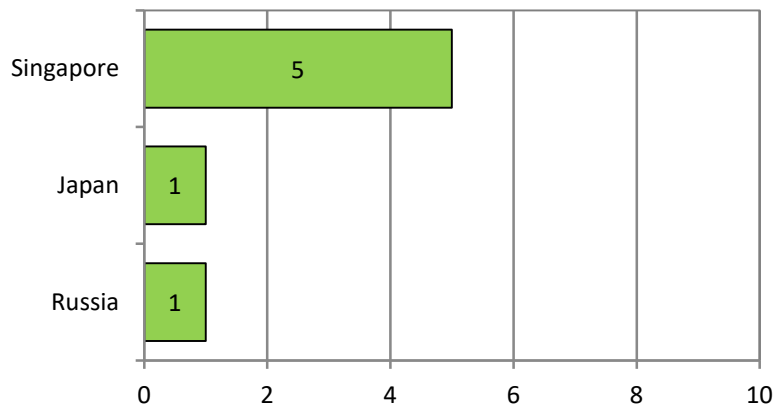
Type of Vessels



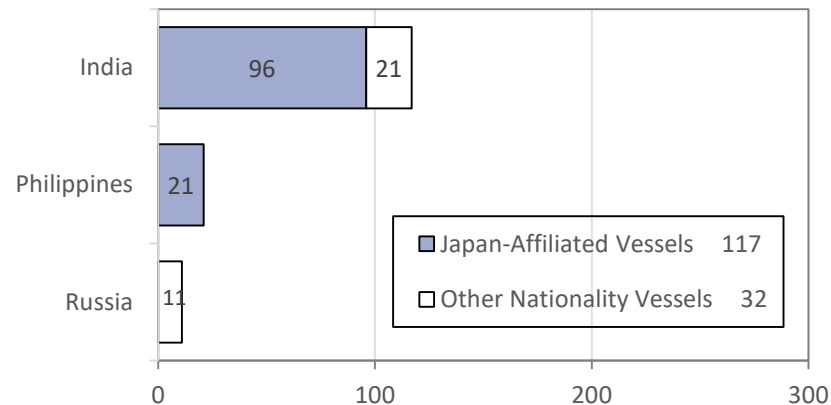
Nationality of Vessels



Nationality of Operating Companies



Nationality of Seafarers



Japan-Affiliated Vessels : Japanese flag vessels, and foreign flag vessels operated by Japanese shipping companies, owned by Japanese ship owners, or managed by Japanese ship management companies etc. to be related to Japan

# 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 .

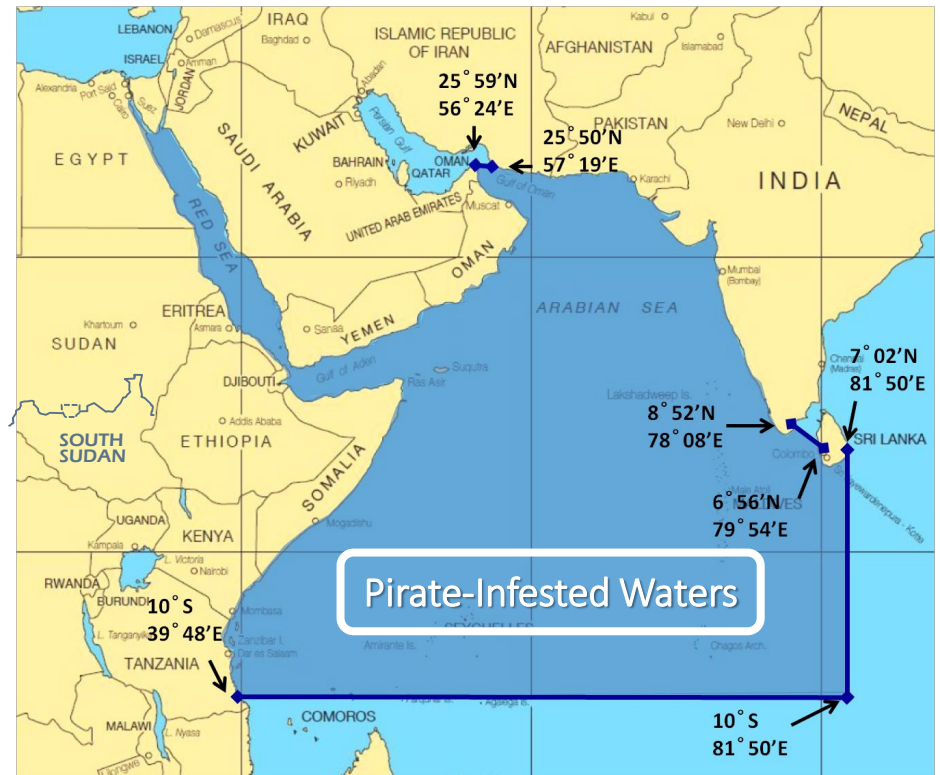
Therefore, the Act on Special Measures Concerning the Guarding of Japanese Ships in Pirate-Infested Waters was enforced on Nov. 30 2013 to ensure the security of Japanese flag vessels by PCASP. And on Dec. 1 2022, the Act was revised to expand\* the coverage of Japanese flag vessels with PCASP on-board.

Under the Act, PCASP confirmed by Minister of MLIT of Japan can guard Japanese flag vessels in the Pirate-Infested Waters, based on 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.

## Overview of the Act

- (1) Applicable sea areas  
: Pirate-infested waters as shown in the map  
Applicable vessels  
: Japanese flag vessels vulnerable to piracy attacks
- (2) Ship owners, seeking to protect their vessels by PCASP, shall submit, for each vessel, Designated Guarding Plan(DGP) specifying any Private Maritime Security Companies (PMSC), implementation method of guarding, etc., and shall obtain the authorization from 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.





## ➤ Joint Exercises with Other Countries' Forces

In 2022, JSDF's counter-piracy units conducted joint exercises as follows, with various navies of European Union Naval Force (EU NAVFOR) and CTF151, off the coast of Somalia and in the Gulf of Aden.

Month	JSDF	EU NAVFOR	Types of Exercises
September	Destroyer "Harusame"	"Guepratte" (French Navy)	Approaching Maneuvering, Cross-deck and Photographing
November	P-3C	P-3M (Spanish Air Force)	Search, Identification and Photographing

Month	JSDF	CTF151	Types of Exercises
October	Destroyer "Harusame"	"Burgazada" (Turkish Navy)	On-site Inspection, Maneuvering Exercise and Photographing



## Assistance to Somalia

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

Japan shares the view with the international community that improving of the capability of 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 such sectors 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 enhancement of human security

### 2) Improvement of the Capability of Security Institutions

- Assistance to 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

## 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 Djibouti Coast Guard for the improvement of its capacities for maritime security.

