

# Introduction of the MDA Framework in Japan's Ocean Policy

March 2018

National Ocean Policy Secretariat  
Cabinet Office, Government of Japan

# Basic Act on Ocean Policy

## ○International legal framework related to oceans:

UNCLOS, Agenda 21, Convention on Biological Diversity, etc.

## ○Various challenges at sea around Japan :

marine pollution, depletion of fisheries resources, coastal erosion, serious maritime accidents

## ○Increasing role of the oceans for all mankind :

food security, ocean resources and energy, cargo transport, global environment



Need to establish executive structure and  
to promote comprehensive and integrated approach  
to the ocean issues

## Basic Act on Ocean Policy

Enactment : 20 April, 2007

Enforcement : 20 July, 2007



# Structure to execute the Act

## Government of Japan

### Headquarters for Ocean Policy

Director-General: **Prime Minister**

Vice-Director-General: **Chief Cabinet Secretary**  
**Minister for Ocean Policy**

Members: **All Ministers**



### **Councilors Meeting**

Key figures appointed by Prime Minister  
with deep insight  
Deliberations for  
the Basic Plan

**Cabinet Office**

**National Ocean Policy Secretariat (NOPS)**

**Ministries**

Implementing the measures

### Basic Plan on Ocean Policy (1st) (approved by the Cabinet in March 2008)

Period of the Plan Five years (from FY2008 to FY2012)

### Basic Plan on Ocean Policy (2nd) (approved by the Cabinet in April 2013)

- 4 visions as an oceanic nation
- 12 basic measures that the government shall implement

Period of the Plan Five years (**from FY2013 to FY2017**; the 3<sup>rd</sup> Plan is now under consideration)

# Integration of Marine-related information

## Promotion of Integration of Marine-related information under the policy

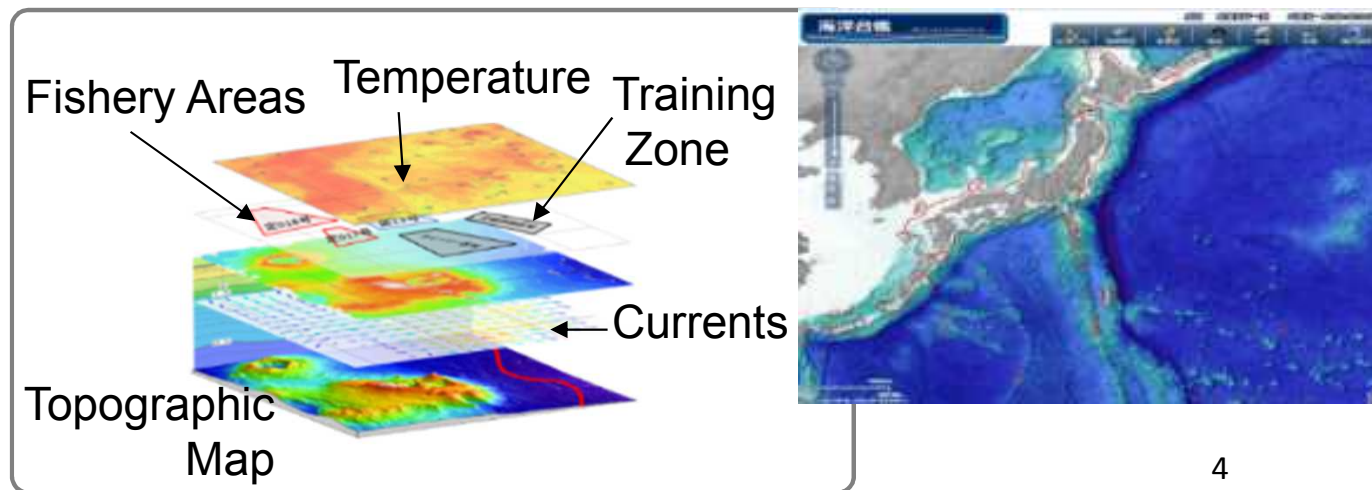
- Mar. 2010 Launching “Marine Information Clearing House (MICH)” which is an internet database service to provide a summary of the marine information and how to get it.
- May. 2011 Launching “Marine Cadaster”, the web GIS service for displaying and overlaying various marine-related information.
- Apr. 2015 Launching “Marine Cadaster for Tablet device”

2010      2010      2011      2012      2013      2014      2015      2016      2017

● Marine Information Clearing House

● Marine Cadaster

● Marine Cadaster for Tablet device



# Basic Policies for MDA Capability Building

## Basic Plan on Ocean Policy

“investigate a way of maritime surveillance using satellites”

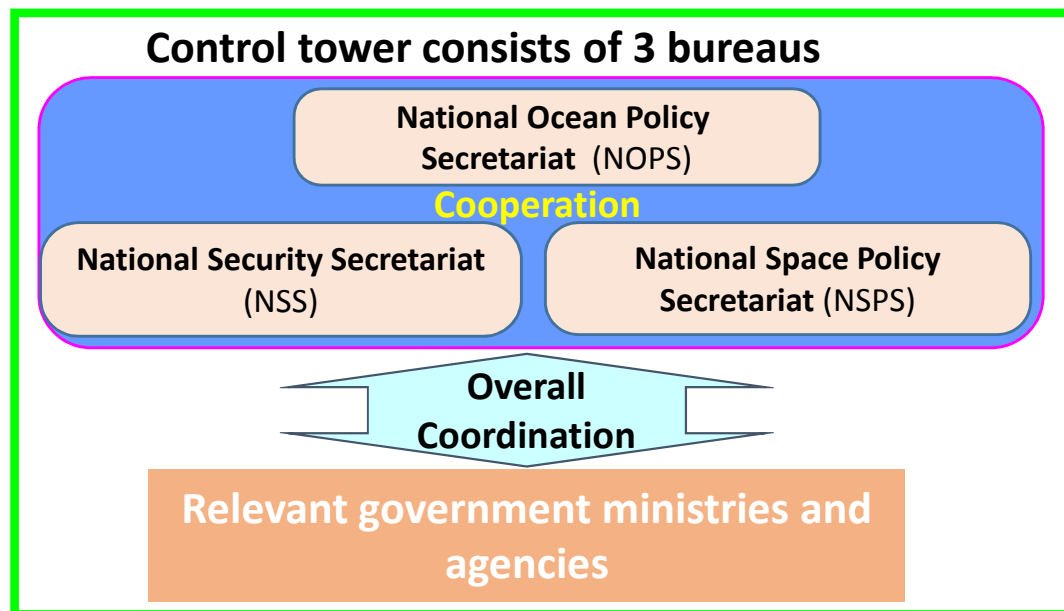
## National Security Strategy

“strengthening Japan’s maritime surveillance capabilities including the use of space, while paying attention to the establishment of international networks”

## Basic Plan on Space Policy

“Reviews shall be conducted on the use of space technology to MDA through comprehensive perspectives including the combinations with aviation, shipping, and terrestrial infrastructure as well as the partnership with the US; and findings shall be summarized”

Framework for information gathering and sharing



The Coordination Meeting of Relevant Government Ministries Regarding MDA

**To make efforts for the establishment of the MDA more comprehensive and strategic through deepening information sharing and cooperation among relevant ministries and agencies.**

# MDA Concepts to be materialized in Japan

“MDA Concept Paper”, Oct. 2015

## ■ Definition

“An effective understanding of marine-related situations and circumstances through the efficient collection and sharing of a variety of marine-related information conducive to Japan's maritime security, marine safety, natural disaster countermeasures, the marine environment conservation, the promotion of marine industries, and the development of science and technology, while paying attention to the handling thereof.”

## ■ Objectives

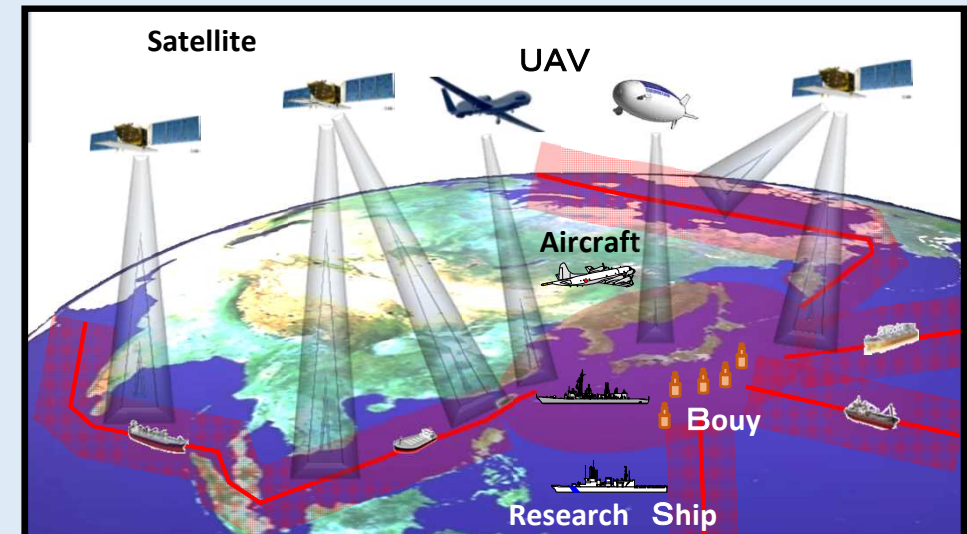
- Rapid and appropriate responses to the threats to maritime security and safety, and the counter-measures to natural disasters etc.
- Promotion of effective ocean policies through the efficient use of maritime information
- Contributions to international cooperation and collaboration

## ■ Fields of Application

- Maritime security
- Marine safety
- Natural disaster countermeasures
- Marine environment conservation
- Promotion of marine industries, development of science and technology

## ■ Coverage Area

- Vital sea areas for maritime security and marine safety
- Sea areas necessary for natural disaster countermeasures, conserving the marine environment etc.



## Points of the Decision

1. **Establishment of the Framework for Information Sharing and Provision**  
→Development of “Maritime Situation Indication System”
2. **Enhancement of Gathering Marine-related Information**  
→Promoting the Ocean observation and Monitoring, R&D
3. **Promoting International Corporation and Collaboration**  
→Data and Information exchange by the international framework, Bilateral corporation and collaboration with other country

### Image: MDA system in JAPAN

Information/systems available to the private sectors

Information/systems shared  
by government ministries and agencies

“Maritime Situation Indication System”

Information/systems only shared by government ministries and  
agencies related to maritime security

- Maritime Safety
- Natural Disaster countermeasures
- Promotion of maritime industry
- Maritime environment conservation
- R&D
- Maritime Security

- **3 Layered system** for proper information classification management
- Development the wide-covered, semi-realtime and user-friendly “**Maritime Situation Indication System**”

# Efforts to consolidate the Capability of MDA in Japan

## Way forward

### # Development of “Maritime Situation Indication System”

⇒ Designing and developing the system as a real-time Web-GIS

⇒ Considering the efficient and effective data sharing flow among the data-providers

