

About MPA in Japan

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Landscape of Japan

- Narrow shape, extends from north to south (ca.3000km)
- Four Seasons.
- Long intended coastlines, thousands of islands.
- **High diversity in natural environments**
- **Biodiversity hotspot**
(recognized by Conservation International)

Frigid zone
N45

日本
Japan

North
Korea

South
Korea

台灣
Taiwan

N25
Sub-tropical



From North
Drift Ice



To South
Coral Reef



Mixed forest with coniferous and broadleaf



Subtropical forest

National Biodiversity Strategy of Japan

1993: Convention on Biological Diversity entered into force

Convention on Biological Diversity: Article 6

“Develop national strategies, plans or programs for the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity ...”

1995: 1st National Biodiversity Strategy

2002: 2nd National Biodiversity Strategy

2007: 3rd National Biodiversity Strategy

2008: Basic Act on Biodiversity

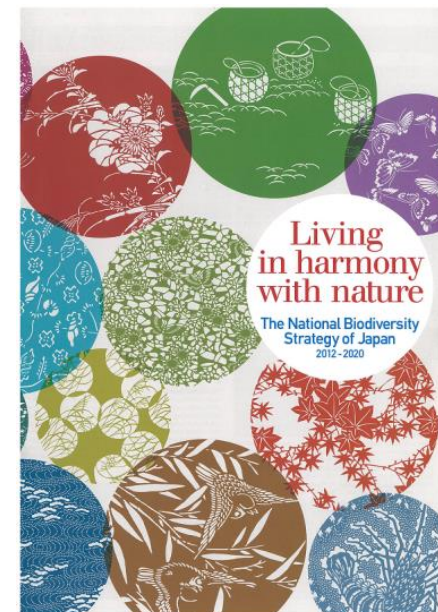
2010: 4th National Biodiversity Strategy
(Statutory strategy)

2010: Adoption of Aichi Biodiversity Targets at COP10

2012: 5th National Biodiversity Strategy

2022: Adoption of Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework at COP15

2023: 6th National Biodiversity Strategy



Efforts to protect marine biodiversity after COP

Period	Contents
Oct. 2010	Aichi Marine Biodiversity goals set at CBD-COP10
Nov. 2011	Strategy finalized for marine biodiversity protection
Apr. 2016	MoE publicly announces its “Ecologically or Biologically Significant Marine Areas Identified by Japan”
Mar. 2017	MoE publishes its “red list” of marine life
Apr. 2019	Nature Conservation Act revised (enacted in April 2020)
Dec. 2020	Offshore Seabed Nature Conservation areas designated
Nov. 2021~	Consideration of OECM in ocean areas

Japan's Marine Protected Areas

Japan's Goal

- **Nation Biodiversity Strategy of Japan 2023-2030**
Designate 30% of Japan's jurisdictional waters as protected areas by 2030
- **4th Basic Act on Ocean Policy**
To adequately protect & manage 30% of Japan's jurisdictional waters 2030



Biodiversity Conservation Strategy (Mar. 2011)

- This strategy outlines the fundamental principles and policy directions aimed at conserving and sustainably utilizing marine biodiversity, including:
 - Japan's definition of maritime protection areas & identifies regions based on existing systems that fall under this definition
 - Use of previously existing systems such as Natural Parks Law etc. to promote marine conservation areas, networking, & better management

Japan's Definition of Marine Protected Areas

- ◆ A clearly defined area that is managed through legal or other effective means, taking into account the form of utilization, with the purpose of conserving biodiversity supporting the healthy structure and functioning of marine ecosystems and the sustainable use of ecosystem services.

Areas that Constitute Japan's Maritime Conservation Areas

- Total area: 594,000 km²(excluding overlapping regions), accounting for apprx. 13.3% of jurisdictional waters (territorial waters & EEZ) (includes 248,000 km² (apprx. 5.5%) under MoE, 364,000 km² (apprx. 8.1%) under Ministry of Fisheries)

Marine Biodiversity Conservation Strategy(March,2011)

Objectives ;

to conserve the biodiversity which supports the sound structure and function of marine ecosystems, and to utilize ecological services of the ocean, or the blessings from the ocean, in a sustainable manner



Basic perspectives;

- (1)Recognition of **the importance of marine biodiversity**
- (2)**Integrated management of the sea**
- (3)Measures **appropriate for the characteristics** of marine areas around Japan
- (4)Effective measures that utilize **local knowledge and technology**
- (5)Summary of the concept of **Marine Protected Areas**

Marine Biodiversity
Conservation Strategy March 2011



Development of Measures

- 1.Improvement of baseline information
- 2.Identification of factors influencing marine biodiversity and implementation of measures to reduce them
- 3.Implementation of measures appropriate for characteristics of individual marine areas
- 4.Improvement of Marine Protected Areas and enhancement of their networking
 - Definition of MPA
- 5.Facilitation of public acceptance and involvement of various actors

MPA in Japan

“Marine areas designated and managed by law or other effective means, in consideration of use modalities, aimed at the conservation of marine biodiversity supporting the sound structure and function of marine ecosystems and ensuring the sustainable use of marine ecosystem services.”

Overview of Japan's Marine Protected Areas

Japan's Marine Conservation Areas

13.3% (594,000 km²)

① Protection of Natural Landscapes etc.

▪ **Natural Parks** (Natural Parks Law) **0.43%** (70 locations: 19,115 km²)

To protect exceptionally beautiful natural landscapes & promote their utilization

② Protection of Natural Environments & Habitats of Wildlife/living Organisms etc.

▪ **Protected Natural Zones** (Nature Conservation Act) **Under 0.01%** (1 location: 1 km²)

To conserve exceptional natural environments that require particular preservation efforts

▪ **Offshore Seabed Natural Conservation Zones** (Nature Conservation Act) **5.07%** (4 locations: 226,834 km²)

To conserve exceptional natural environments that require particular preservation efforts

▪ **Wildlife Protection Zones** (Wildlife Protection & Hunting Law) **Under 0.01%** (21 locations: 661 km²)

To protect wildlife

▪ **Habitat Protection Zone** (Conservation of Endangered Species of Wild Fauna & Flora Act)

No designations in marine areas

To preserve rare domestic wild plant & animal species

③ Conservation, Cultivation, etc. of Aquatic Plants & Animals

▪ **Protected Water Surfaces** (Protection of Fisheries Resources Act) **Under 0.01%** (52 locations: 28km²)

To conserve & cultivate aquatic plants and animals

▪ **Coastal Fishery Resources Development Zones & Designated Marine Zone**

(Promotion of Marine & Fishery Resources Development Act) **7.46%** (31 locations: 333,616 km²)

To promote the rationalization of marine fishery resources development & utilization through measures aimed at planned promotion of the propagation & aquaculture of marine plants & life

▪ **Shared Fishing Rights Zones** (Fisheries Act) **1.95%** (Numerous: 87,200 km²)

Development of fishery productivity (conservation & cultivation of aquatic life, ensuring sustainable use) etc.

Ecologically or Biologically Significant marine Areas identified by Japan

International Background :

- At COP9 (2008), all involved parties & CBD Secretariat, as part of **scientific & technical processes**, position the selection of **Ecologically or Biologically Significant marine Areas (EBSA)**. Provision of **scientific data for basis of EBSA selection**
- EBSA aims to aid prioritization of management. Involved parties are expected to discuss necessary conservation management measures

Japan's Goal :

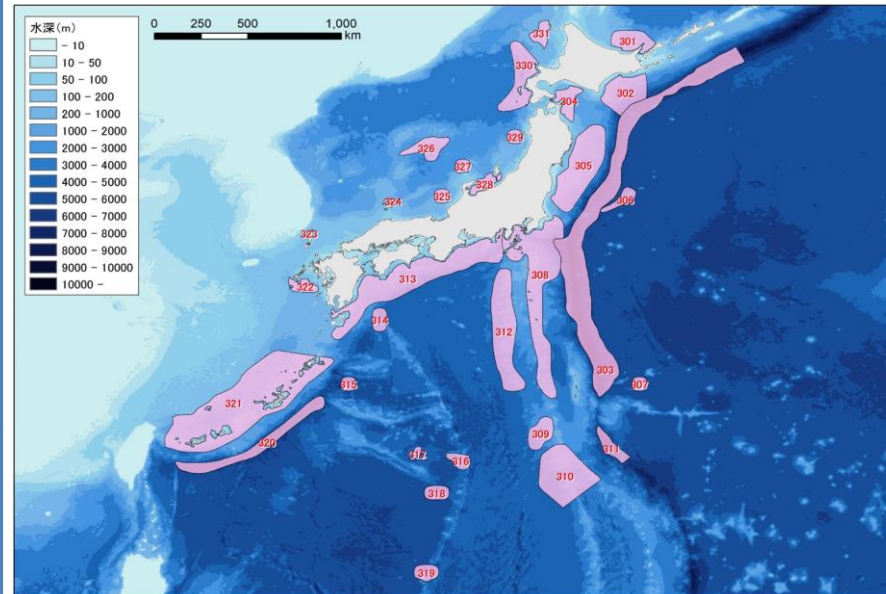
- In order to conserve Japan's marine biodiversity, **scientific & objective identification of regions of high importance from ecological & biological perspectives is necessary.** Such areas will serve as fundamental data to promote various conservation measures

Extraction order :

- Committee of 5 specialists established (2011-2013)
- Extraction will be done by referring to EBSA criteria etc, establishing principles & standards, referring to scientific data analysis & expert opinions

Results :

- There were 321 marine zones including coastal, offshore surface, offshore seabed which were extracted until 2013 as part of Areas Marine areas of high importance. Due to coordination with involved ministries, data was made public in April 2016



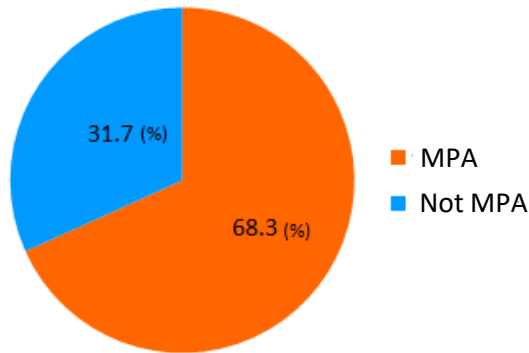
Ecologically or Biologically Significant marine Areas identified by Japan
【Offshore seabed region】

※ Marine areas excluding territorial waters & coastal zones

Gap Analysis of EBSA & MPA

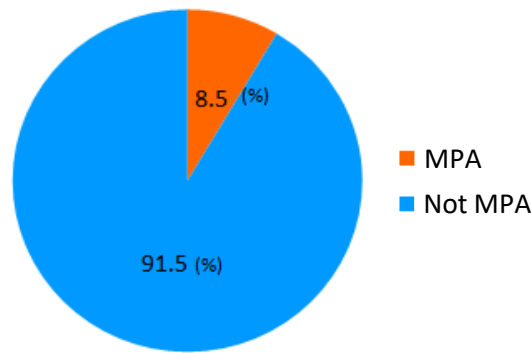
Coastal Regions

Percentage of MPAs in EBSA's coastal zone



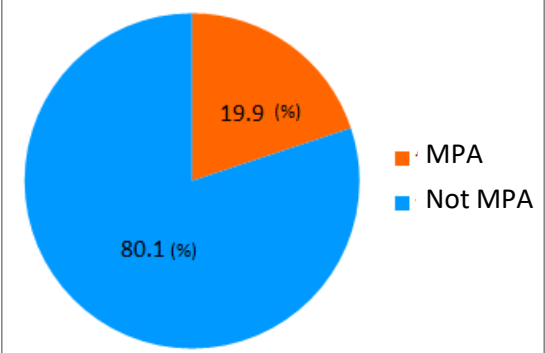
Offshore Bed Regions

Percentage of MPAs in the offshore seabed area of EBSA



Offshore Surface Regions

Percentage of MPAs in the offshore Surface area of EBSA

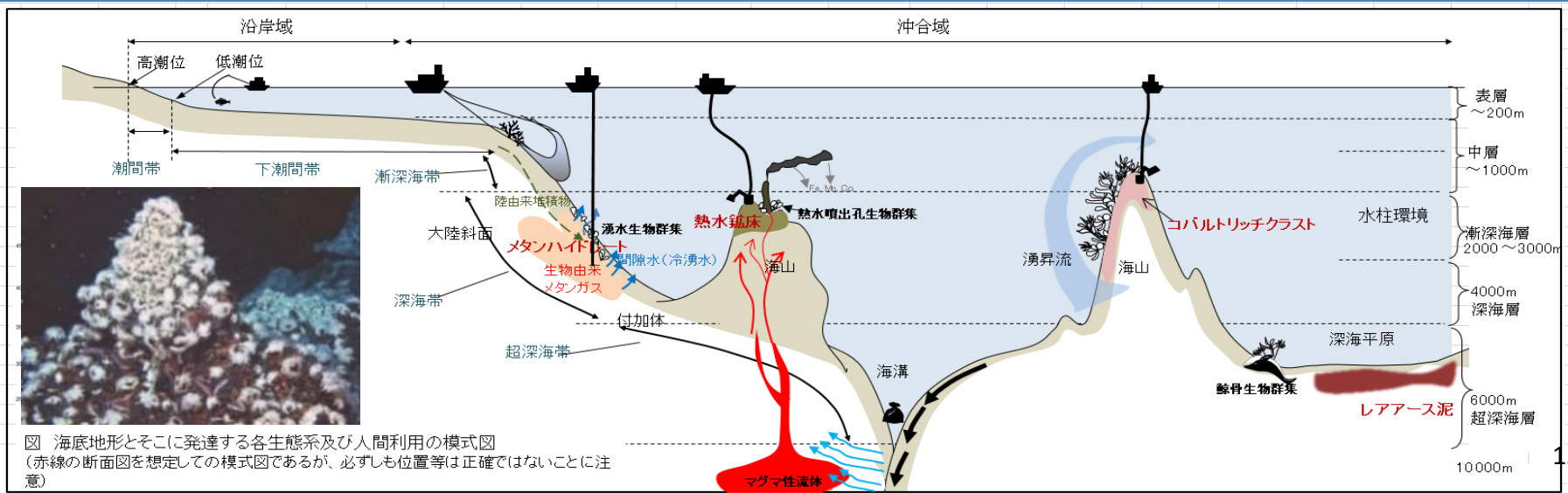


- **Promote appropriate establishment of new Marine Protected Areas, considering necessity & objectives of preservation & management** based on EBSA
- After implementation of 2nd Basic Plan on Ocean Policy (Apr. 2013), MoE designated/increased new national parks & preservation zones in coastal areas; however this **increase is minimal** compared to Japan's maritime territory. Offshore protected area is particularly insufficient
- From FY 2016, MoE has carried out surveys in **offshore areas** in order to establish new **Marine Protected Areas** (present status of biodiversity in offshore areas, organizing importance, looking at other countries' examples, systematic review, etc.)

Establishment of Marine Protected Areas in Offshore Regions for Biodiversity Conservation

Ideas for Marine Protected Areas in Offshore Sea beds

- Various ecosystems formed based on characteristics of offshore seabed topography (including chemosynthetic ecosystems), are considered highly significant for conservation of offshore marine biodiversity, preservation, & management of marine resources, & venues for experimentation & research
- Compared to terrestrial ecosystems, many aspects of offshore marine ecosystems remain scientifically unexplored, with less accumulated highly accurate scientific data available, particularly when compared to coastal areas. Thus **enhancement of scientific information to a critical extent is crucial**
- Disturbances to offshore seabed, which are important from the perspective of biodiversity, have the potential to cause irreversible impacts on ecosystems. Thus it is necessary to apply a **precautionary approach** to the offshore seabed by establishing marine protected areas based on existing knowledge to conserve & protect such ecosystems
- Regarding the scope of marine protected areas, it is essential to consider the ecosystem approach established at CBD-COP5. This involves determining an **appropriate extent for each targeted ecosystem to be conserved. Efforts should be made to achieve a proper balance and integration between conservation and utilization. Adaptive management** is necessary to respond to changing conditions and ensure the effectiveness of conservation measures



Offshore Seabed Natural Environment Conservation Regions Outline (Revised Nature Conservation Act)

- Starting 2017, experts initiated discussions and studies towards the establishment of marine protected areas in offshore regions. Based on consolidated findings, institutional design for marine protected areas was implemented
- April 2019: revision to part of Nature Conservation Act was passed in Diet

Management Plan of Offshore Seabed in Marine Protected Areas

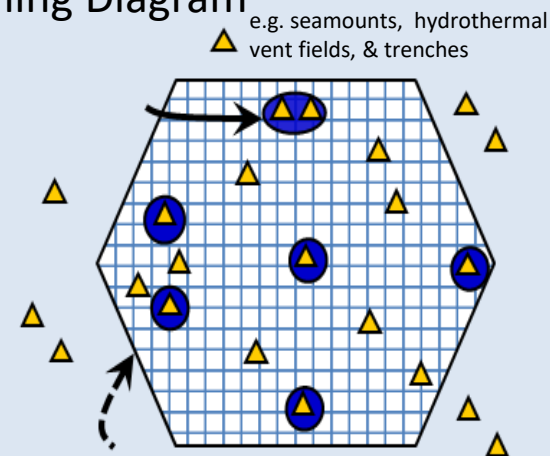
Among EBSA, e.g. seamounts, hydrothermal vent fields, & trenches, it is necessary to designate marine protected areas to include as many types of ecosystems as possible to ensure comprehensive conservation of various types of ecosystems within one or more marine protected area.

A **permit system** will be used in offshore special seabed areas; **notification system** will be implemented in all other areas



Activities that may alter the seabed (**mining, exploration of minerals-intensive sampling exploration method**, which involves intensive collection of seabed sediments using equipment), **capturing of marine flora & fauna**, will be subject to regulation as **specified by MoE (includes use of activities involving the use of motorized vehicles for navigation)**

It is appropriate to **conduct adaptive reviews as necessary** in offshore areas, considering potential changes in marine life & uncertainties regarding marine resource development & use. Level of conservation of natural environment will be maintained allowing for possible revisions of marine protected areas from perspective of resource development, use, & other factors

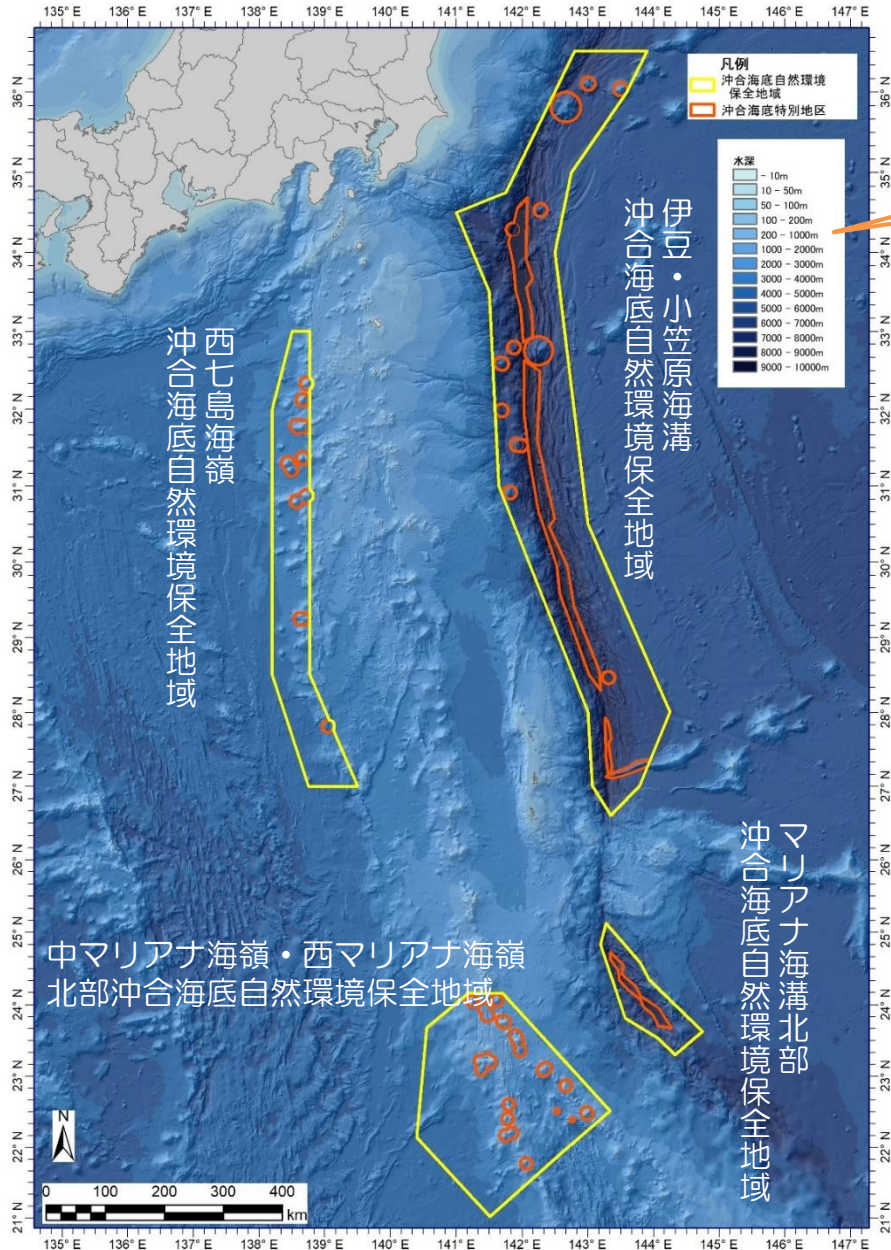
Zoning Diagram



Set up based on EBSA in coordination with resource development and utilization,

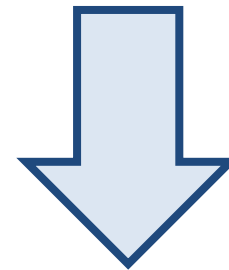
Weak regulation		Areas where the protection of the natural environment and the development and use of natural resources are harmonized
Heavily regulation		Areas where human activities are restricted and the natural environment is protected

Designation of Offshore Seabed Environmental Conservation Regions



Designated on Dec. 3rd 2020

Total of these 4 areas total 226,834 km²
 (same land area as Honshu)



Percentage of Japan's Marine Protected Areas went from 8.3% to 13.3%, achieving **10% of Aichi Goal 11**

We plan to use OECM to promote 30% protection and conservation in the future.