Combatting IUU fishing and Japan’s contributions

IUU fishing as a common global challenge

- **Illegal, Unreported, Unregulated (IUU) fishing** refers to fishing activities that violate national and international laws and regulations, such as unauthorized, unreported or misreported fishing, and illegal fishing by vessels without nationality or vessels of non-members of Regional Fisheries management Organizations (RFMOs).
- IUU fishing is a serious threat to the sustainable use of marine living resources and also a global common challenge referred to in SDG Target 14.4. The international community has been addressing IUU fishing through bilateral or multilateral frameworks such as the PSMA and RFMOs.

Japan’s position

- Japan, as a responsible fishing country, has been playing a leading role in the fight against IUU fishing, including through contributions to RFMOs by designing and implementing **Conservation and Management Measures** as well as listing IUU vessels, assistance to developing countries, and support for stipulating the importance of combatting IUU fishing in outcome documents of leaders’ meetings of international fora.

**Agreement on Port State Measures to prevent, Deter and Eliminate IUU Fishing (PSMA)**

- **The First multilateral treaty focusing on measures by port states, as part of combatting IUU fishing**. Approved in 2009, the PSMA entered into force in 2016. **Contracting Parties to the Agreement consist of 73 countries and 1 regional economic integration organization, including Japan, as of November 2022.**
- Japan concluded the Agreement in 2017. In order to maintain Japan's fishery order and promote cooperation towards combatting IUU fishing, Japan has been **encouraging Non-Contracting Parties to join the Agreement.**
- **Parties shall take measures against the vessel that have engaged in IUU fishing or fishing related activities in support of such fishing**, including **denial of port entry** (Article 9), **denial of use of ports** (Article 11) and **inspection of vessels** (Article 12).