

IUU fishing and efforts to combat IUU fishing

1 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 (see below), WTO Agreement on Fishery Subsidies, and RFMOs.**

2 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.

【Reference I: Major objectives and policies adopted at international conferences】

■ **Multilateral:** FAO International Action Plan to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate IUU Fishing (2001), UN Sustainable Fishery Resolution, PSMA (2016), G20 Leaders' Declaration (2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023), G7 Leaders' meeting outcome documents (2018, 2021, 2022, 2023), East Asia Summit (EAS) Chairman's Statement (2021, 2022), EAS Leader's Statement(2023), APEC Leaders' Declaration and Joint Ministerial Statement (2021, 2022, 2023), TICAD (Yokohama Declaration (2019), Tunis Declaration (2022))

■ **Bilateral:** Declarations to enhance cooperation towards combatting IUU fishing: Japan-EU (2012,2021,2022,2023), Japan-US (2015), Japan-Thailand (2017)

【Reference II: Japan's major ODA support to developing countries】

■ Capacity-building: worldwide (Pacific Island countries, Southeast Asia, Africa, etc.)

■ Provision of monitoring vessels and relevant equipment:

Southeast Asia (Vietnam, Indonesia, Philippines), Pacific Island countries(Papua New Guinea, Palau, Marshall Islands, Micronesia), Africa (Kenya, Comoros, Madagascar, Tunisia, Nigeria)



SDG14



Training course proved by Japan Coast Guard, (Photo:JICA)

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 75 countries including Japan and 1 regional economic integration organization as of December 2023.**
- 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).



IUU fishing vessel