Basic Act on Ocean Policy - Background

- Japan is an archipelago country with 6,852 islands, 6th world largest ocean, 6th world longest coastal line,
- Importance of oceans for maritime transport of food, resources, and cargos,
- Importance of ocean in global environmental protection,
- Growing need for policy measures over marine environmental pollution, reduction in fish stocks, coastal erosion, maritime collisions and accidents and piracy,
- Calls for integrated ocean policy in Agenda 21 of 1992 and the Johannesburg Plan of Action of 2002,
- The Basic Act on Ocean Policy was enacted in 2007.
Basic Act on Ocean Policy – Guiding Principles

① Harmonizing the development and use of ocean areas with marine environment protection,
② Enhancing scientific knowledge,
③ Promoting integrated ocean management,
④ Assuring marine safety,
⑤ Developing sound marine industry, and
⑥ Promoting international concertation.

Basic Act on Ocean Policy – 12 Basic Policy Measures

① Promoting the development of marine resources and use,
② Protecting the marine environment,
③ Promoting development of Exclusive Economic Zone,
④ Securing maritime transport,
⑤ Assuring marine safety,
⑥ Promoting scientific research,
⑦ Promoting research and development related to marine science and technology,
⑧ Advancing marine industry and strengthening its international competitiveness,
⑨ Promoting integrated coastal management,
⑩ Conserving remote islands,
⑪ Promoting international partnership and cooperation, and
⑫ Enhancing the public understanding on oceans
Basic Act on Ocean Policy – Institutional Arrangement

① Drafting and promoting the implementation of the Basic Plan,
② Coordinating agencies and organizations,
③ Undertaking other works for planning and coordination.

Secretary

Advisory Council (Experts)

Local governments

People

Private Sector

Headquarters for Ocean Policy
DG: Prime Minister

Basic Plan on Ocean Policy
• The first Basic Plan on Ocean Policy was adopted in 2008,
• The Plan was revised in 2013,
• The third revised Plan will be adopted in 2018.

ICM
① Promoting ICM by considering local characteristics and assisting local governments,
② Promoting integrated coastal management in conjunction with terrestrial management,
③ Promoting ICM in enclosed coastal sea, and
④ Coordinating the use of coastal areas.
Taketomi-cho Basic Plan on Ocean Policy

Taketomi-cho with 9 habituated and 7 unhabituated islands and about 4,200 population adopted Taketomi-cho Basic Plan on Ocean Policy in 2011. Priority action areas are:

1. Marie/onshore debri,
2. Rule making for ecotourism,
3. Mobilizing autonomous funds,
4. Ocean resource and nature/culture study initiative,
5. Safe use of ocean areas,
6. Utilizing sugar cane,
7. Biomass Town Initiative,
8. Control of exotic species and wildlife protection,
9. Integrating the sea area into administrated space,
10. Safe and environmental considerate initiative
Challenges to the Implementation of the Basic Act and Plan

• Plan to revise the Plan and launch the third revised Plan in 2018.

• The Advisory Council submitted the recommendation to highlight in the revision process:
  (i) ocean security, (ii) promoting industrial use of ocean, (iii) marine environment protection, (iv) developing human resources for ocean, and (v) others such as ocean surveillance, marine science, international cooperation, and arctic policy.

• It is proposed to form four groups focusing on marine security, ocean industry, marine environment and human resource development for ocean.

• Partnership and collaboration need to be further strengthened for effective ocean management.