

Status of activities by Chinese government vessels and Chinese fishing vessels in waters surrounding the Senkaku Islands

August 23, 2016

Overview of the situation

- (1) At approximately 1:30 p.m. on August 5, 2016, following the Chinese fishing vessels, a Chinese government vessel (a ship belonging to the Chinese government) intruded into the territorial waters surrounding the Senkaku Islands. Then, between this time and 8:00 a.m. on August 23, a group of as many as 15 Chinese government vessels entered the contiguous zone, and as such, a total of at least 36 Chinese government vessels intruded into Japan's territorial waters.

There are approximately 200 to 300 fishing vessels operating in the contiguous zone of the Senkaku Islands, and a large number of Chinese government vessels, in this case as many as 15, congregated in the same waters and then repeatedly entered Japan's territorial waters following Chinese fishing vessels, which is the first time that such incident has been confirmed.

There are usually around three Chinese government vessels deployed in the contiguous zone of the Senkaku Islands, and four or five Chinese government vessels deployed in the area surrounding the Scarborough Shoal in the South China Sea. The number of Chinese government vessels currently deployed to the area around the Senkaku Islands is far higher than the numbers above.



Swarm of Chinese fishing vessels



Chinese government vessels and fishing vessels

(2) The status of recent territorial water intrusions and related incidents by Chinese government vessels and Chinese fishing vessels is as shown in the chart below.

(As of 8:00 a.m., August 23, 2016)

	Chinese government vessels (number of ships that intruded into Japan's territorial waters)	Chinese fishing vessels (number of ships that were issued a warning instructing them to leave Japan's territorial waters)
August 5	3	7
August 6	0	1
August 7	11	15
August 8	4	24
August 9	10	25
August 10 thru August 16	0	0
August 17	4	0
August 18 thru August 20	0	0
August 21	4	0
After August 22	0	0

*The above numbers indicate the aggregate number of ships.

(3) Overview of Chinese government vessels confirmed to be present in the marine area surrounding the Senkaku Islands



The Chinese government vessels marked with an asterisk are equipped with what appears to be a cannon.

□ indicates the Chinese government vessels that entered Japan's territorial waters

Photos Listed From Left to Right, Top to Bottom

Chinese Coast Guard 2307	Chinese Coast Guard 2166	Chinese Coast Guard 33115*	Chinese Coast Guard 35115*	Chinese Coast Guard 35102
Chinese Coast Guard 35104*	Chinese Coast Guard 31101*	China Marine Surveillance 7008	China Fisheries Law Enforcement Command 33001	Chinese Coast Guard 33102*
Chinese Coast Guard 33103*	China Marine Surveillance 8003	China Marine Surveillance 8027	Chinese Coast Guard 2101	Chinese Coast Guard 2102
Chinese Coast Guard 44103*	China Fisheries Law Enforcement Command 45036	China Fisheries Law Enforcement Command 45005	Chinese Coast Guard 2306	Chinese Coast Guard 31239*

(4) Japan finds these types of escalatory actions by China to be completely unacceptable.

Japan has given China warnings on the ground not to intrude into Japanese territorial waters, and whenever such an intrusion into territorial waters has occurred, Japan has taken actions on the ground such as requesting the relevant vessel to leave, and has dealt with such situations in a calm and resolute manner. Furthermore, Japan has promptly lodged strong protests with the Chinese government through diplomatic channels, and has strongly called for the immediate departure of relevant vessels from Japanese territorial waters as well as measures to prevent the reoccurrence of such situations.

Major protests lodged with the Chinese government

<Key points of assertions by the Japanese side>

◆ An intrusion into Japan's territorial waters surrounding the Senkaku Islands and any activity in these waters by a Chinese government vessel constitutes an infringement of Japan's sovereignty and is completely unacceptable.

◆ Despite Japan repeatedly lodging strong protests with the Chinese side, the Chinese side has continued to take unilateral actions that raise tensions on the ground, and this is absolutely unacceptable.

◆ Japan has issued strong protests calling to have the relevant vessels immediately leave Japan's territorial waters and also depart from the contiguous zone.

<Examples of major protests>

August 5 (Fri.)

[Intrusion into territorial waters by Chinese government vessels]

Approx. 3:05 p.m. / approx. 4:30 p.m. Deputy Director-General of the Asian and Oceanian Affairs Bureau → Minister-Counselor of the Embassy of China in Japan

Approx. 5:10 p.m. Mr. Shinsuke Sugiyama, Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs → Mr. Cheng Yonghua, Ambassador of China to Japan

Approx. 5:30 p.m. Mr. Koichi Ito, Deputy Chief of Mission, Embassy of Japan to China → Mr. Ouyang Yujing, Director General of the Department of Boundary and Ocean Affairs, Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs

August 6 (Sat.)

[New confirmation of multiple Chinese government vessels in surrounding waters]

Approx. 11:45 a.m. Mr. Kenji Kanasugi, Director-General of the Asian and Oceanian Affairs

Bureau → Ms. Guo Yan, Minister, Embassy of China in Japan

Approx. 1:15 p.m. Mr. Yutaka Yokoi, Ambassador of Japan to China → Mr. Kong Xuanyou, Assistant Minister of Foreign Affairs, Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Approx. 6:00 p.m. Mr. Koichi Ito, Deputy Chief of Mission, Embassy of Japan to China → Mr. Ouyang Yujing, Director General of the Department of Boundary and Ocean Affairs, Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Approx. 6:15 p.m. Mr. Kenji Kanasugi, Director-General of the Asian and Oceanian Affairs Bureau → Ms. Guo Yan, Minister, Embassy of China in Japan

August 7 (Sun.)

[New confirmation of multiple Chinese government vessels in surrounding waters]

Approx. 8:29 a.m. Mr. Kenji Kanasugi, Director-General of the Asian and Oceanian Affairs Bureau → Ms. Guo Yan, Minister, Embassy of China in Japan

Approx. 10:15 a.m. Mr. Koichi Ito, Deputy Chief of Mission, Embassy of Japan to China → Mr. Ouyang Yujing, Director General of the Department of Boundary and Ocean Affairs, Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs

[Intrusion into territorial waters by Chinese government vessels]

Approx. 11:25 a.m. Mr. Shinsuke Sugiyama, Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs → Mr. Cheng Yonghua, Ambassador of China to Japan

Approx. 1:25 p.m. Mr. Yutaka Yokoi, Ambassador of Japan to China → Mr. Kong Xuanyou, Assistant Minister of Foreign Affairs, Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Approx. 2:00 p.m. Mr. Shigeki Takizaki, Deputy Director-General of the Asian and Oceanian Affairs Bureau → Ms. Guo Yan, Minister, Embassy of China in Japan

Approx. 5:00 p.m. Mr. Shinsuke Sugiyama, Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs → Mr. Cheng Yonghua, Ambassador of China to Japan

Approx. 8:10 p.m. Mr. Kimihiro Ishikane, Deputy Vice-Minister for Foreign Policy / Director-General of the Foreign Policy Bureau → Ms. Guo Yan, Minister, Embassy of China in Japan

Approx. 9:20 p.m. Mr. Kimihiro Ishikane, Deputy Vice-Minister for Foreign Policy / Director-General of the Foreign Policy Bureau → Ms. Guo Yan, Minister, Embassy of China in Japan

Approx. 10:10 p.m. Mr. Yutaka Yokoi, Ambassador of Japan to China → Mr. Kong Xuanyou, Assistant Minister of Foreign Affairs, Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs

[Actions by the Chinese side further raising tensions on the ground]

Approx. 11:15 p.m. Mr. Kenji Kanasugi, Director-General of the Asian and Oceanian Affairs Bureau → Ms. Guo Yan, Minister, Embassy of China in Japan

August 8 (Mon.)

[Intrusion into territorial waters by Chinese government vessels]

Approx. 12:45 p.m. Mr. Kenji Kanasugi, Director-General of the Asian and Oceanian Affairs Bureau → Ms. Guo Yan, Minister, Embassy of China in Japan

Approx. 4:00 p.m. Mr. Koichi Ito, Deputy Chief of Mission, Embassy of Japan to China → Mr. Ouyang Yujing, Director General of the Department of Boundary and Ocean Affairs, Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Approx. 7:30 p.m. Mr. Kenji Kanasugi, Director-General of the Asian and Oceanian Affairs Bureau → Ms. Guo Yan, Minister, Embassy of China in Japan

Approx. 9:10 p.m. Mr. Koichi Ito, Deputy Chief of Mission, Embassy of Japan to China → Mr. Ouyang Yujing, Director General of the Department of Boundary and Ocean Affairs, Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs

August 9 (Tue.)

Approx. 10:10 a.m. Mr. Fumio Kishida, Minister for Foreign Affairs → Mr. Cheng Yonghua, Ambassador of China to Japan

Approx. 11:10 a.m. Mr. Koichi Ito, Deputy Chief of Mission, Embassy of Japan to China → Mr. Ouyang Yujing, Director General of the Department of Boundary and Ocean Affairs, Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Approx. 1:15 p.m. Mr. Koichi Ito, Deputy Chief of Mission, Embassy of Japan to China → Mr. Ouyang Yujing, Director General of the Department of Boundary and Ocean Affairs, Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Approx. 2:15 p.m. Mr. Noriyuki Shikata, Deputy Director-General of the Asian and Oceanian Affairs Bureau → Ms. Guo Yan, Minister, Embassy of China in Japan

Approx. 4:40 p.m. Mr. Shigeki Takizaki, Deputy Director-General of the Asian and Oceanian Affairs Bureau → Ms. Guo Yan, Minister, Embassy of China in Japan

Approx. 5:37 p.m. Mr. Noriyuki Shikata, Deputy Director-General of the Asian and Oceanian Affairs Bureau → Ms. Guo Yan, Minister, Embassy of China in Japan

Approx. 6:15 p.m. Mr. Koichi Ito, Deputy Chief of Mission, Embassy of Japan to China → Mr. Ouyang Yujing, Director General of the Department of Boundary and Ocean Affairs, Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs

August 10 (Wed.)

Approx. 11:19 a.m. Mr. Kenji Kanasugi, Director-General of the Asian and Oceanian Affairs Bureau → Ms. Guo Yan, Minister, Embassy of China in Japan

Approx. 9:30 p.m. Mr. Koichi Ito, Deputy Chief of Mission, Embassy of Japan to China → Mr. Ouyang Yujing, Director General of the Department of Boundary and Ocean Affairs, Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs

August 17 (Wed)

[Intrusion into territorial waters by Chinese government vessels]

Approx. 11:13 a.m. Mr. Kenji Kanasugi, Director-General of the Asian and Oceanian Affairs Bureau → Ms. Guo Yan, Minister, Embassy of China in Japan

Approx. 11:30 a.m. Mr. Koichi Ito, Deputy Chief of Mission, Embassy of Japan to China → Mr. Ouyang Yujing, Director General of the Department of Boundary and Ocean Affairs, Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs

August 21 (Sun)

[Intrusion into territorial waters by Chinese government vessels]

Approx. 10:09 a.m. Mr. Kenji Kanasugi, Director-General of the Asian and Oceanian Affairs Bureau → Ms. Guo Yan, Minister, Embassy of China in Japan

Approx. 11:22 a.m. Mr. Koichi Ito, Deputy Chief of Mission, Embassy of Japan to China → Mr. Ouyang Yujing, Director General of the Department of Boundary and Ocean Affairs, Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs

(Reference 1) Past background related to activities by Chinese government vessels encroaching upon the waters surrounding the Senkaku Islands, etc.

(1) Trends related to the waters surrounding the Senkaku Islands

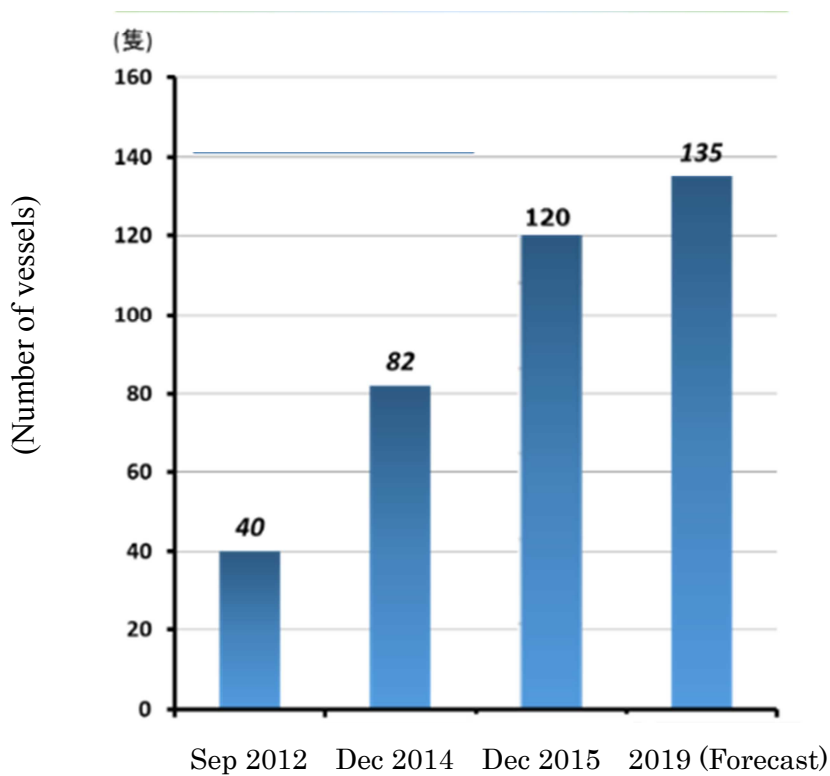
- On December 8, 2008, two Chinese government vessels made a sudden intrusion into Japan's territorial sea surrounding the Senkaku Islands. Despite repeated calls by patrol vessels of the Japan Coast Guard to leave the area and strong protests lodged against China through diplomatic channels, the vessels hovered and drifted inside Japan's territorial sea for some nine hours until the evening of that day.
- After a collision of a Chinese fishing boat into Japan Coast Guard patrol vessels in Japan's territorial sea surrounding the Senkaku Islands on September 7, 2010, Chinese government vessels started to navigate the waters surrounding these islands more frequently than before. In August 2011, two Chinese government vessels intruded into Japan's territorial sea surrounding the Senkaku Islands, preceding one in March 2012 and four in July that year.
- On September 11, 2012, the ownership of three of the Senkaku Islands (Uotsuri, Kitakojima, and Minamikojima) was transferred from private citizens to the Government of Japan in accordance with Japan's Civil Code. From September 14, on the pretext of protesting the transfer, Chinese government vessels started to enter Japan's contiguous zone almost daily, except on stormy days. Furthermore, they continued to repeatedly intrude into Japan's territorial sea, at a frequency of about three intrusions per month.
- On December 22, 2015, it was confirmed for the first time that Chinese government vessels equipped with what clearly appeared to be cannons entered the contiguous zone, and these same ships subsequently intruded into Japan's territorial waters on December 26 and later.

(2) Increase in the number of Chinese government vessels

As can be seen from the chart below, there has been a notable strengthening of China's government vessel fleet. In 2012, China had a force of 40 large government vessels of 1,000 tons or greater, and in 2015, three years later, this number tripled to 120 vessels. According to various information made publicly available by China, it is expected to increase its force to 135 vessels by the end of 2019.

Strengthening of force of government vessels by China

[Trend in growth of force] (vessels of 1,000 tons or greater)



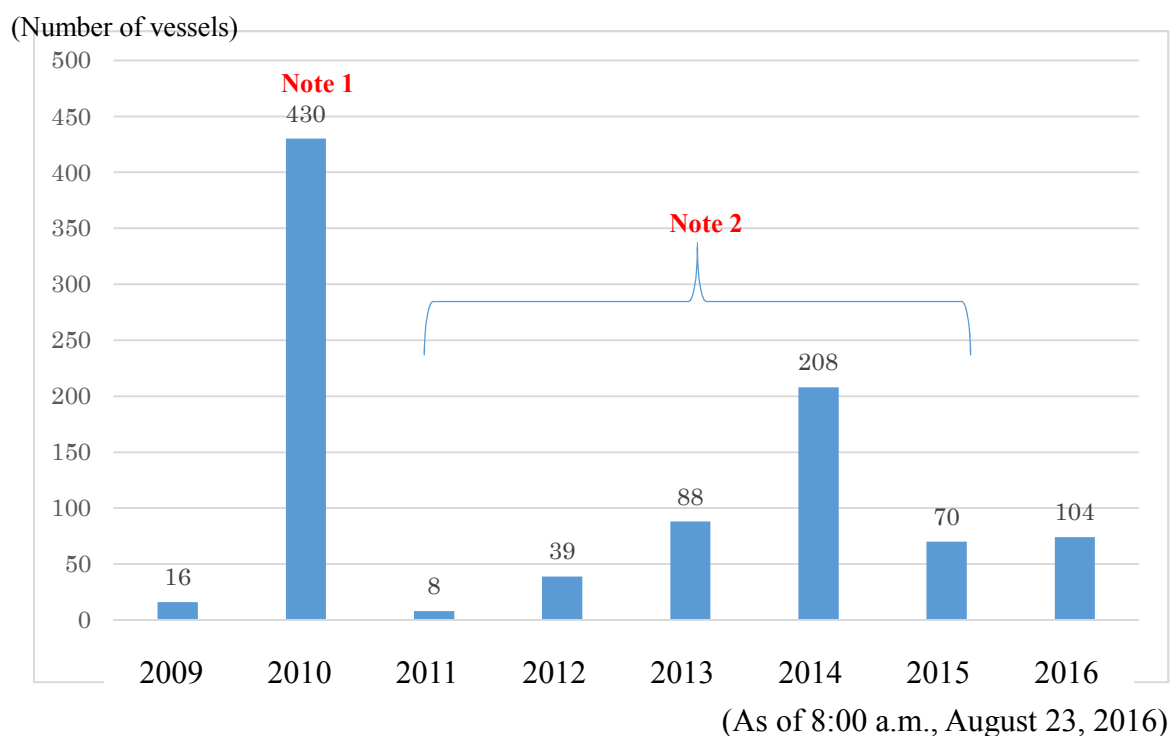
*The decommissioning of old ships is not taken into account in this graph.

*As of the end of December 2015

*Prepared based on publicly available information.

(Reference 2) Chinese fishing vessels operating in the waters surrounding the Senkaku Islands

- (1) It has been confirmed that in recent years, in the month of August and thereafter, when the annual closed season for fishing comes to an end, more than about 1,000 Chinese fishing vessels operate in the East China Sea. Furthermore, it has been confirmed that in the waters surrounding the Senkaku Islands, several hundred vessels catch black scraper, horse mackerel, mackerel, and other fish mainly using the trawling method.
- (2) Trend in the number of Chinese fishing vessels that were issued a warning instructing them to leave Japan's territorial waters in the waters surrounding the Senkaku Islands



Note 1) In September 2010, various incidents allegedly occurred, such as interference with the execution of Japanese government activities by a Chinese fishing vessel. In that same year, the number of Chinese fishing vessels that were issued a warning instructing them to leave Japan's territorial waters was 430.

Note 2) The number of vessels progressively rose from 8 in 2011 to 208 in 2014, marking a 26-fold increase, but the number dropped to 70 in 2015 due to a strengthening of responses by the Japan Coast Guard.