



Closing remarks

As the country with the 6th largest marine area under its jurisdiction, securing the biodiversity (which supports the structure and function of the marine ecosystem in Japan) and the continuous sustainable use of the blessings are essential for the future of Japan. They are also essential for the country's international role to secure the world's marine biodiversity.

This Strategy, formulated through the “Expert Meeting on Marine Biodiversity Conservation Strategy,” has considered the importance of biodiversity and ecosystem services of the ocean. It has clearly depicted the current status and features of the seas surrounding Japan, including richness in biodiversity that cannot be seen in any other part of the world. This Strategy has shown the direction of measures to be implemented, with consideration to the features of the ocean and the effects of impacts from factors like alien species, climate change, and direct impacts from human activity. As for Marine Protected Areas, which are attracting international interest as one conservation measure, a clear definition has not been made nationally. Thus, the definition and idea behind these areas in Japan were made clear in this Strategy. With this basic idea, the Strategy regards the following measures based on scientific knowledge as important to meet international objectives: the expansion of protected areas by utilizing already existing systems such as National Parks; enhancement of management in protected areas; promotion of networking the protected areas; and if necessary, the amendment of already existing systems and consideration of establishing new systems. The strategy also states the essential need to improve scientific knowledge and have cooperation with local societies, and has stated measures to achieve the above.

By actively utilizing this strategy, Japan will promote the conservation and sustainable use of marine biodiversity by cooperating with every relevant level and stakeholder. In this way, Japan will hand down its rich marine ecosystem to the next generation, and contribute to the sustainable development of society.

