

Recent Developments in Japan-China Relations

- Basic Facts on the Senkaku Islands and the Recent Incident -

Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan
October 2010

Outline

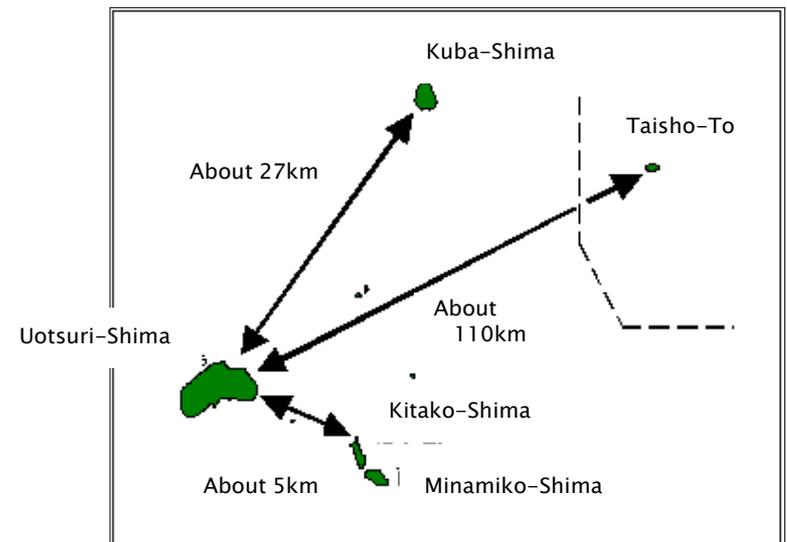
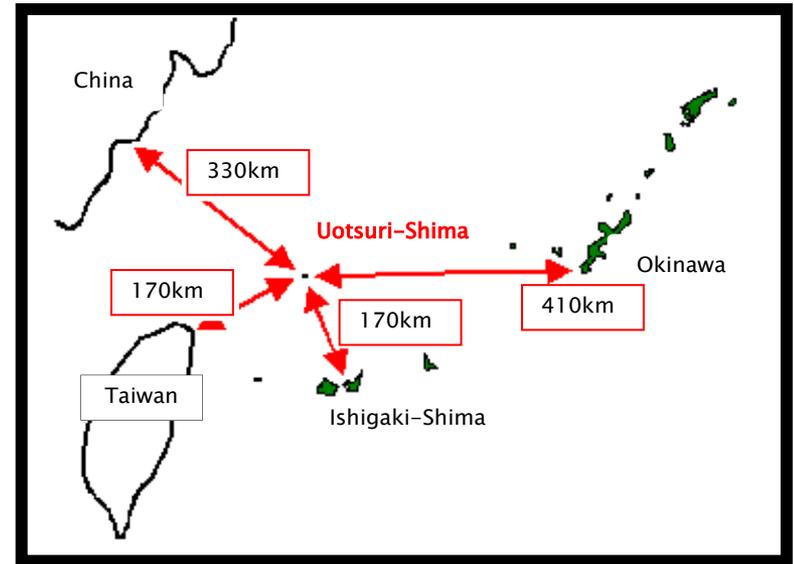
- ▶ Senkaku Islands
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- ▶ Recent Developments in Japan-China Relations

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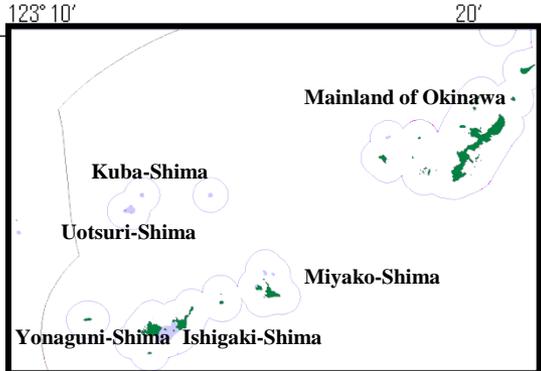
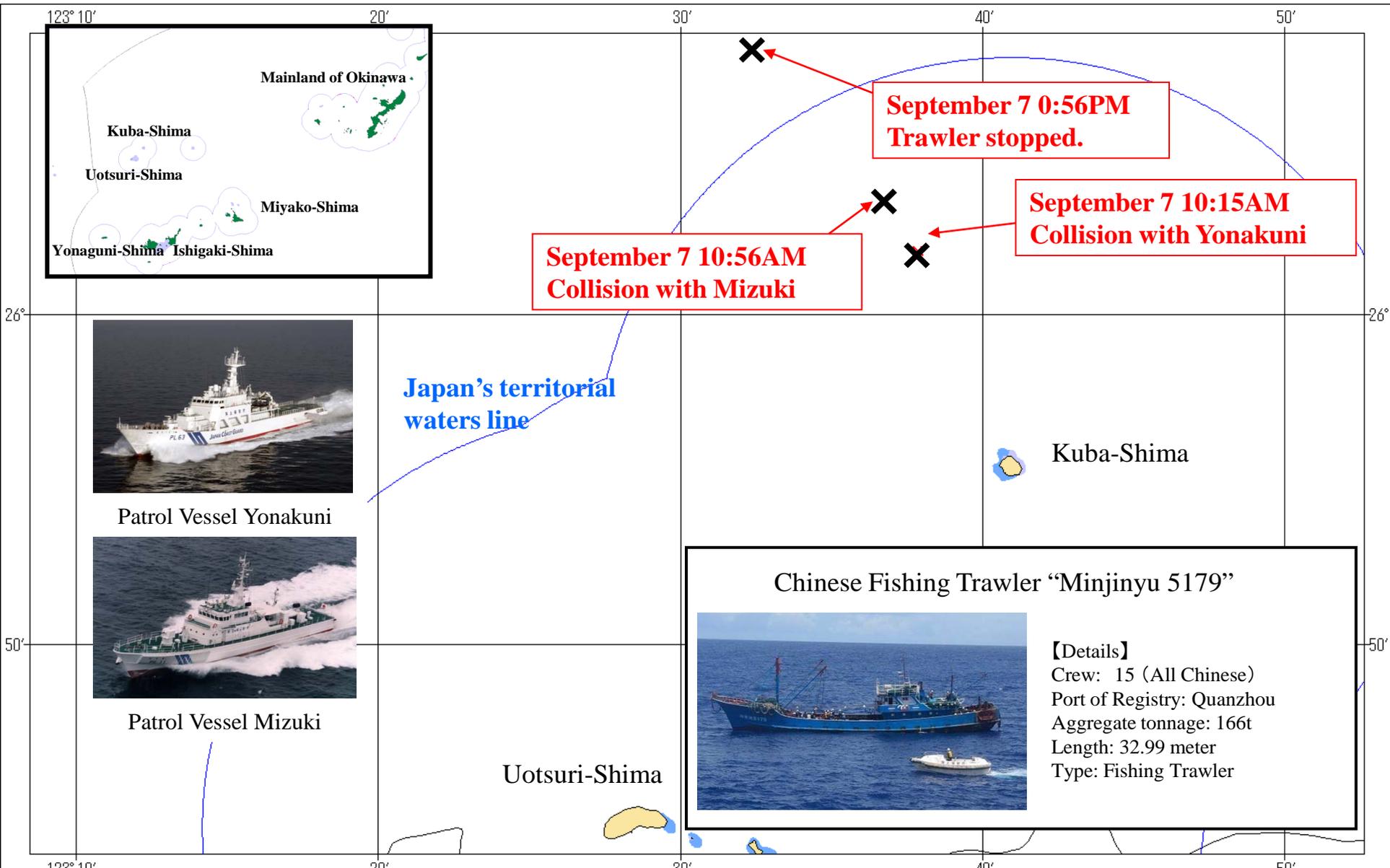
Senkaku Islands: Location



Basic Facts on the Senkaku Islands

- From 1885 on, the Senkaku Islands had been thoroughly surveyed by the Government of Japan through the agencies of Okinawa Prefecture and by way of other methods. Through these surveys, it was confirmed that the Senkaku Islands had been uninhabited and showed no trace of having been under the control of China. Based on this confirmation, the Government of Japan made a Cabinet Decision on 14 January 1895 to erect a marker on the Islands to formally incorporate the Senkaku Islands into the territory of Japan.
- Since then, the Senkaku Islands have continuously remained as an integral part of the Nansei Shoto Islands which are the territory of Japan. These islands were neither part of Taiwan nor part of the Pescadores Islands which were ceded to Japan from the Qing Dynasty of China in accordance with Article II of the Treaty of Shimonoseki which came into effect in May of 1895.
- Accordingly, the Senkaku Islands are not included in the territory which Japan renounced under Article II of the San Francisco Peace Treaty. The Senkaku Islands have been placed under the administration of the United States of America as part of the Nansei Shoto Islands, in accordance with Article III of the said treaty, and are included in the area, the administrative rights over which were reverted to Japan in accordance with the Agreement Between Japan and the United States of America Concerning the Ryukyu Islands and the Daito Islands signed on 17 June 1971. The facts outlined herein clearly indicate the status of the Senkaku Islands being part of the territory of Japan.
- The fact that China expressed no objection to the status of the Islands being under the administration of the United States under Article III of the San Francisco Peace Treaty clearly indicates that China did not consider the Senkaku Islands as part of Taiwan. It was not until the latter half of 1970, when the question of the development of petroleum resources on the continental shelf of the East China Sea came to the surface, that the Government of China and Taiwan authorities began to raise questions regarding the Senkaku Islands.
- Furthermore, none of the points raised by the Government of China as "historic, geographic or geological" evidence provide valid grounds, in light of international law, to support China's arguments regarding the Senkaku Islands.

Obstruction of the execution of official duty by a Chinese fishing trawler (September 7, 2010)



**September 7 0:56PM
Trawler stopped.**

**September 7 10:15AM
Collision with Yonakuni**

**September 7 10:56AM
Collision with Mizuki**



Patrol Vessel Yonakuni



Patrol Vessel Mizuki

Japan's territorial waters line

Kuba-Shima

Chinese Fishing Trawler "Minjinyu 5179"

【Details】
Crew: 15 (All Chinese)
Port of Registry: Quanzhou
Aggregate tonnage: 166t
Length: 32.99 meter
Type: Fishing Trawler

Uotsuri-Shima

Most Recent Developments in Japan-China Relations

- ▶ GOJ conveyed the following to the Chinese side:
 - Japan protests against the incident involving illegal fishing and collision with Japanese Coast Guard patrol vessels by the Chinese ship in Japan's territorial waters, while expressing regret over the incident.
 - Japan intends to deal with the incident duly and strictly under its jurisdiction based on its domestic law.
 - Japan protests against the deployment of Chinese public vessels to the waters surrounding the Senkaku Islands as an act further complicating the situation.
 - Japan protests against the unilateral announcement by the Chinese side on the “postponement” of the second round of negotiations to conclude bilateral international agreements to implement the 2008 Japan-China agreements on natural resource development in the East China Sea.
 - Japan calls for calm and prudent action by China.

- ▶ Chinese side took numerous actions to escalate the situation including the following:
 - Postponement of Japan-China Parliamentary Exchange (September 13, 2010)
 - Announcement on “strong counter measures, for which Japan shall bear all the consequences” (September 19, 2010)
 - Postponement of a visit of 1,000 Japanese youths to the Expo 2010 Shanghai China (September 19, 2010)

Japan's Position (Statement by MOFA Press Secretary on September 25, 2010)

1. There is no doubt that the Senkaku Islands are clearly an inherent territory of Japan, in light of historical facts and based upon international law. Indeed, the Senkaku Islands are now under the valid control of Japan. There exists no issue of territorial sovereignty to be resolved concerning the Senkaku Islands.
2. The Government of Japan handled the most recent incident duly and strictly under its jurisdiction and in accordance with domestic law as a case involving obstruction of the execution of official duty by a Chinese fishing trawler. Thus, the demand by the Chinese side for apology and compensation is completely groundless and is utterly unacceptable for Japan.
3. Steady development of Japan-China relations is extremely important not only for both countries but also for the region as well as the international community. It is important for both Japan and China to continue making efforts to materialize the “Mutually Beneficial Relationship based on Common Strategic Interests” from a broader perspective.