

Inauguration of the Japan Fisheries Research and Education Agency (FRA)

- The Japan Fisheries Research and Education Agency will be established on April 1, 2016 through the merging of the Fisheries Research Agency and the National Fisheries University.
- On the same date, the agency will begin its operations based on its Fourth Medium- to Long-term Plan. Addressing four key issues, the agency will endeavor to maximize research and development outcomes and train human resources in the fisheries industry to contribute to the revitalization of the fishery industry in Japan.

Based on the Basic Policy on Reform of Incorporated Administrative Agencies (Cabinet decision on December 24, 2013), the Japan Fisheries Research and Education Agency (FRA) will be established on April 1, 2016 through the merging of the Fisheries Research Agency and the National Fisheries University.

On March 1, 2016, the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries presented the new Medium- to Long-term Objectives for the five-year period from FY2016 to FY2020. The Medium- to Long-term Plan, which was formulated based on the Medium- to Long-term Objectives issued by the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, focuses on four key issues; (1) research and development on the sustainable use of fishery resources, (2) sound development of the fishery industry and supply of safe marine products, (3) monitoring and basic research on marine ecosystems, and (4) development of core human resources in the fishery industry. The FRA will begin its operations based on the Medium- to Long-term Plan starting April 1, 2016.

Going forward, FRA will continue to carry out the ongoing research and development activities of the Fisheries Research Agency aimed at “ensuring stable supply of marine products” and “sound development of the fishery industry,” as well as the ongoing educational activities of the National Fisheries University aimed at developing human resources in the fishery industry. The FRA will also endeavor to exhibit the synergistic effects of these combined activities by leveraging advance research outcomes and research-institute facilities in student education. The FRA will strive to contribute to the revitalization of the fishery industry of Japan by serving as the core agency for leading comprehensive research and human-resource development in the fishery industry.