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The Japan Coast Guard on 7 September announced plans to acquire four 1,000 tonne, 100 m-long patrol vessels and three 100 tonne, 30 m patrol craft for operations off the nation's remote islands.

The coastguard's Fiscal Year 2013 (FY13) request included JPY3.3 billion (USD42 million) for the four larger vessels and JPY2 billion for the three smaller ones.

The larger ships are required to counter incursions by Chinese naval assets, which frequently enter Japan's territorial waters; the smaller and more manoeuvrable craft will conduct seaborne policing actions against fishing vessels.

The coastguard also requested an additional 400 personnel in order to enhance maritime security and enable a prompt response to disasters.

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