



PRESS RELEASE

September 28, 2026
Maritime Staff Office

(Announcement)

Japan–Royal New Zealand Bilateral Exercise

The JMSDF conducted a bilateral exercise with the Royal New Zealand Navy (RNZN) as described below in order to strengthen cooperation to realize a “Free and Open Indo-Pacific.”

1. Objectives

- (1) To improve the JMSDF’s tactical capabilities
- (2) To strengthen cooperation with the RNZN

2. Date

September 26

3. Exercise Area

South China Sea

4. Participating Units

- (1) JMSDF: JS *ISE*
- (2) RNZN: HMNZS *AOTEAROA*

5. Type of Exercise

Replenishment at Sea and Communication Exercise



From the left, JS *ISE* and HMNZS *AOTEAROA*



JS *ISE*(left) and HMNZS *AOTEAROA*(right) conducting replenishment at sea



HMNZS *AOTEAROA* crew members



JMSDF members seeing off HMNZS *AOTEAROA*