The Ministry of Marine Resources has a long history of cooperation with the Government of Japan.

The history of cooperation dates back to the early days of independence, when the government of Japan through the Japanese International Cooperation Agency financed the “Artisanal Fisheries Development Project in the South East of Eritrea.”
The project cost was in the tune of about 12 million USD. The project established the Assab Fisheries Complex with all the required infrastructure and facilities such as:

- Jetty with a breakwater,
- Fish processing plant
- Block ice producing plant
- Boat maintenance workshop
- Fuel and water supply system
- Fishing gear storage
- Administration office
- Cooperative office
Jetty and Breakwater
Processing Plant
The Artisanal Fisheries Development Project
in the Southeast Region
in the State of Eritrea
Grant aid by
the Government of Japan
as a token of friendship and
cooperation between
the State of Eritrea — Japan 1998
Administration Building
Block Ice Plant
Boat Maintenance Workshop
The project also provided equipment such as:
- refrigerated trucks (2),
- 2 pick-up cars,
- a tractor, and
- complete accessories for the workshop and processing plant.
In addition, the project provided 30 FRP boats with their fishing gears to the Fishermen Cooperatives of the region. The project also constructed jetties and some facilities in Ras Tarma and Barasole. It was completed in 1997.
FRP Boats with Yanmar Inboard Engine
The project has positively contributed to the socio-economic development of the region specifically it has led:

- Increased fishery production
- Improved income of fishermen
- Boosted export from the centre
- Created employment opportunities in processing and service provision
A follow up was supposed to be conducted in the following years. However, the Eritro-Ethiopian border dispute broke out and hindered the follow up in particular and the overall cooperation in general.
Post War Cooperation

- In the aftermath of the war, the GoJ and Eritrea (MMR) resumed their cooperation.
- In 2001, both parties identified some projects to work on for Japanese Grant Aid financing.
- The two parties agreed to work on the development of detailed project proposal for the “Massawa Fishing Port Rehabilitation Project.”
The cost of the project was US$7,883,825 and included:

- Construction of Jetty
- Quay Wall Extension
- Reclamation
- Paving, Fencing, Etc.
- Chill Room (0°C, 20t)
- Fish Auction Hall & Fish Retail Shop
- Machinery and accessories for the landing site
PROPOSED MASSAWA FISH LANDING PORT
In 2008, another project was proposed by the MMR. The project was “Utilization of small pelagic fish in Eritrea” which aimed at the construction of fish canning facilities along the coast for the processing and canning of small pelagic fishes (sardines and anchovies).

This project was also not approved by the GOJ.
In 2009, the MMR submitted three concept papers to the government of Japan.

The project concept notes were on the following:

- Construction of Massawa Fisheries Complex
- Coastal and Marine Biodiversity Conservation Project
- Rehabilitation of the Assab Fisheries Complex (follow-up of the 1995 Project)
The three concept notes submitted to GoJ, the first two did not qualify for financing, however, the third project which was the rehabilitation of the Assab Fishery Complex was accepted as an idea but the GoJ said the project should be financed through the counter-part fund that is managed by the MoF and MoA of the State of Eritrea.
THANK YOU!