

Vietnamese Illegal Fishing and Maritime Conflicts Continue in 2021

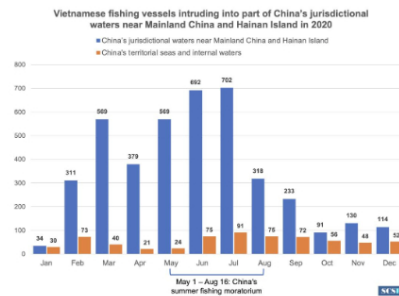
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Since 2021, the COVID-19 pandemic has swept across Vietnam, but a large-scale of Vietnamese fishing vessels continue to maintain their illegal presence in the South China Sea, and even with restrictions, many Vietnamese fishermen are still engaging in illegal fishing in other countries' waters, leading to constant maritime friction with neighboring countries. The interests and rights of China and other southeast Asian neighbors have been harmed to varying degrees by Vietnamese illegal fishing, which has seriously undermined regional mutual trust building and posed a huge threat and challenge to maritime cooperation, conservation of fishery resources and security of neighboring countries in the South China Sea.

Although the Chinese and Vietnamese authorities do not disclose the activities of Vietnamese fishing boats in the waters off China's Hainan Island, Guangxi and Guangdong, AIS data and field research reveal a large number, exceeding 3,000 each year. While, clashes between Vietnamese fishing boats and relevant parties in Indonesia and Malaysia have been covered by the media.

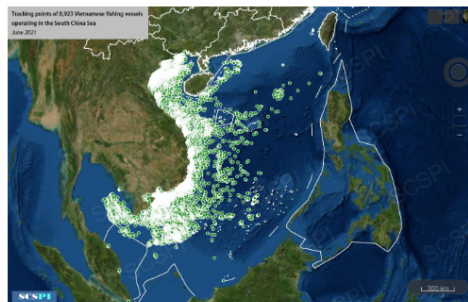


Vietnamese fishing vessels intruding into part of China's jurisdictional waters in 2020, Source: SCSPI

Vietnamese fishing vessels operating in the South China Sea (2020)											
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
4872	9152	9208	9579	9646	9766	6450	6598	6142	6191	6760	

Vietnamese fishing vessels operating in the South China Sea (2021)											
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
7726	7767	8771	8590	8590	8923	5972	5300	4999	5126	5446	5559

Source: SCSPI



8,923 Vietnamese fishing vessels operating in the South China Sea, June 2021

I. Vietnam's fishing conflicts with Indonesia

According to incomplete statistics, there were 15 fishing disputes between Indonesia and Vietnam in 2021, and Indonesia seized 42 illegal Vietnamese fishing boats and more than 270 Vietnamese fishermen (see the table below).

According to the Indonesian Ocean Justice Initiative (IOJI) monitoring data, on average, dozens of illegal Vietnamese boats fish in Indonesia-claimed "exclusive economic zone" (EEZ) every month. For example, Indonesia's Maritime Justice Initiative reported, based on satellite monitoring, at least 100 Vietnamese fishing boats had been spotted on April 2, with 90 percent of them operating in Indonesia's "EEZ", 10% were in



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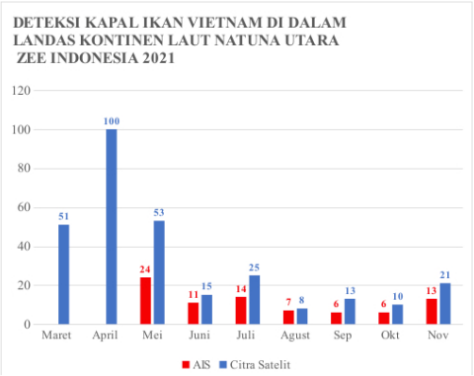
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Malaysia-claimed”[\[1\]](#)For example, at least 53 were detected in May, 25 were detected in July. According to IOJI, most of the area where Vietnamese vessels were suspected of illegal fishing are under Indonesian’s claim of jurisdictional waters, which are not overlapped with Vietnam’s claims.[\[2\]](#)



Graph of Illegal Fishing Trends by Vietnamese fishing boat in the North Natuna Sea, March-November 2021[\[3\]](#)

To counter such illegal fishing activities, Indonesia has adopted a tough policy to show its will and determination to resolutely defend its sovereignty.

On 25 March 2021, Indonesia sank four Vietnamese-flagged illegal fishing vessels on Datok Island waters, West Borneo (West Kalimantan province), which had been arrested for illegal fishing in Indonesian waters.[\[4\]](#)On 31 March, the Indonesian Ministry of Maritime Affairs and Fisheries (KKP) and the Indonesian Attorney General’s Office sank 10 illegal Vietnamese fishing boats that had been seized in the North Natuna Sea.[\[5\]](#)

The large number of detained Vietnamese fishermen brings a tricky challenge to Indonesian government. It is reported that a total of about 500 Vietnamese fishermen have been detained in Indonesia since March 2020 on suspicion of illegal fishing in Indonesian waters.[\[6\]](#) On 29 September 2021, Indonesia repatriated 200 Vietnamese fishermen.[\[7\]](#) Another 166 Vietnamese fishermen were repatriated on 15 November. There are Indonesian officials who also complained that “...it seems like Vietnam (government) neglected them (the detained fishermen), and this has created a burden for Indonesia.”[\[8\]](#)

Major fisheries conflict between Vietnam and Indonesia in 2021			
No.	Time	Location	Events
1	18 March	the North Natuna Sea	The Air and Water Police Corps (Korpolarad) Baharkam Polri arrested 2 Vietnamese -flagged vessels that stole fish. Polairad found evidence in the form of 500 kilograms of fish, 2 sets of nets, and 40 sets of fishing rods.
2	29 March	771 Indonesian fisheries management area (WPP/WPPNRI)	The Ministry of Maritime Affairs and Fisheries (KKP) fishery monitoring ship Orea 03 arrested 2 illegal foreign fishing boats flying the Vietnamese flag (KG 9397 TS and KCF 7727) on suspicion of stealing fish, and obtained information including vessels, fishing gear, navigation equipment, and communications Multiple evidence including equipment and fish caught. 21 Vietnamese crew members were also arrested.
3	8 April	the North Natuna Sea	Indonesia’s General Administration of Marine and Fishery Resources (PSDKP) and the Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries (KKP) successfully captured 5 Vietnamese fishing boats that illegally caught squid in the North Natuna Sea, including 28 Vietnamese crew members.
4	21 April	the North Natuna Sea	The Ministry of Maritime Affairs and Fisheries intercepted and detained 3 Vietnam-flagged fishing boats and 20 fishermen on the grounds of poaching in the Natuna waters of Riau Islands Province.
5	27 April	the Natuna Sea	The Ministry of Maritime Affairs and Fisheries captured an illegal foreign fishing boat flying the Vietnamese flag (KG 5090 TS), including 3 Vietnamese crew members. It is reported that the ship violated the regulations of the fishing zone and holds an expired fishing permit.
6	6 May	the North Natuna Sea	The Ministry of Maritime Affairs and Fisheries arrested 2 Vietnam-flagged illegal fishing boats on suspicion of poaching, and 10 Vietnamese crew members were detained pending further legal proceedings.
7	16 May	the North Natuna Sea	The Ministry of Maritime Affairs and Fisheries captured 6 Vietnamese fishing boats, and detained 36 crew members, awaiting further legal proceedings. They are BD 30487 TS, BD 30317 TS, BD 30335 TS, BD 30590 TS, BD 31184 TS and BD 93742 TS.
8	1 June	the North Natuna Sea	The Indonesian National Police Security Bureau seized and detained 2 vessels flying the Vietnamese flag and 17 crew members. The registered ship numbers are KG 90720 TS and KG 93039 TS.
9	5 June	the North Natuna Sea	The Directorate of Water Pol of the Polairad Baharkam Police arrested 2 Vietnamese-flagged vessels and 17 crew members for illegally fishing with trawl nets in Indonesian waters. Evidence such as 500 kilograms of fish and trawling gear were found on board. Indonesia said the suspect will face up to 8 years in prison and a fine of up to 1.5 billion Indonesian rupiah. The registered ship numbers are: KG 90720 TS, KG 93039 TS.
10	3-8 June	the North Natuna Sea	To commemorate the International Day against IUU Fishing, the Indonesian Ministry of Maritime Affairs and Fisheries (KKP) launched a week-long operation and successfully arrested 19 illegal fishing boats. 7 of them are Vietnamese ships. The ship numbers are: KG 93094 TS, CM 91161 TS, CM 91884 TS, SBF 2105 KG TS, KG 93055 TS and NQ 94274 TS.
11	4 August	the North Natuna Sea	The Indonesian Navy arrested a Vietnam-flagged fishing boat (TG 911157S) and detained its captain and 7 crew members on suspicion of illegal theft or fishing in waters of Indonesia’s Exclusive Economic Zone (North Natuna Sea).
12	11 August	the North Natuna Sea	A Vietnam-flagged fishing boat (TG 911157S) was arrested by the Indonesian Navy on suspicion of fish theft (illegal fishing) after it entered Indonesian territory for up to 3 nautical miles. The ship was carrying a captain, 7 crew members and 2 tons of miscellaneous fish. The boat and its crew were then escorted to the naval base (Lamar Lantau) for further processing and investigation.
13	17 August	the North Natuna Sea	The Ministry of Maritime Affairs and Fisheries (KKP) arrested 2 Vietnamese fishing vessels (KG 1845 TS and KG 9138 TS) for illegal fishing in the North Natuna Sea. One of the vessels caught fire and sank. A total of 22 Vietnamese crew members were arrested.
14	27 August	the North Natuna Sea	The Security Maintenance Agency (Baharkam) of the Indonesian Police seized 4 Vietnamese fishing boats for illegal fishing. The 34 crew members and 4 captains were also arrested by the police. The registered ship numbers are: KG 1448 TS, KG 90721 TS, KG 92596 TS, KG 92549 TS.
15	24 December	the North Natuna Sea	Indonesian authorities have captured a Vietnamese vessel that they say was fishing illegally in Indonesian waters and had caught two tons of fish, an official said has announced. 20 fishermen on board were also arrested.

Major fisheries conflict between Vietnam and Indonesia in 2021[\[9\]](#)

II. Vietnam’s fishing conflicts with Malaysia

The fishery dispute between Malaysia and Vietnam is also continuing. 32 events of such disputes were reported between Malaysia and Vietnam. Malaysia have detained over 64 Vietnamese illegal fishing boats and over 400 Vietnamese fishermen in 2021. (see the table below)

Since 2006, Malaysia Maritime Enforcement Agency (MMEA) has detained nearly 2,000 Vietnamese fishing boats. From April 2019 to April 2021, a total of 1,609 Vietnamese fishermen and 159 fishing vessels were arrested, involving a total seizure of RM493.4 million[\[10\]](#). Malaysia lost up to RM6 billion to illegal fishing every year.[\[11\]](#)

Major fisheries conflict between Vietnam and Malaysia in 2021			
No.	Time	Location	Events
1	22 January	Terengganu waters, 93 and 118 nautical miles offshore	Terengganu MMEA detained 2 Vietnamese fishing vessels and 16 Vietnamese fishermen. 2 boats, fishing gear, the catch and the diesel supply worth RM10 million were also seized.
2	11 February	Terengganu waters, 65 nautical miles offshore	Terengganu MMEA detained a Vietnamese fishing vessel and 7 Vietnamese fishermen. The boat, catch, fishing equipment and diesel, all totaling RM11 million, were seized.
3	3 March	Pahang waters, 80 nautical miles offshore	Pahang MMEA detained 2 Vietnamese fishing vessels and 19 Vietnamese fishermen. As the MMEA enforcement team approached and tried to board one of the vessels, the Vietnamese fishermen attacked the MMEA personnel with machetes before the MMEA personnel opened fire, injuring three people on board.
4	6 March	Pahang waters, 40 nautical miles offshore	Pahang MMEA detained 2 Vietnamese fishing vessels and 25 Vietnamese fishermen. Fishing equipment and seafood worth about RM1.5 million were seized.
5	23 March	Kelantan waters, about 58 and 78 nautical miles offshore	Kelantan MMEA detained 2 Vietnamese fishing vessels and 19 crew members. The MMEA also seized 1.5 tonnes of fish of various species, 21000 litres of diesel and fishing gear, all estimated to be worth RM12.5 million.
6	31 March	Johor waters, 3.2 nautical miles offshore	Johor MMEA detained 8 Vietnamese fishing vessels and 52 Vietnamese citizens. These 8 fishing trawlers illegally anchored near the Sungai Endau.
7	14 April	Sabah waters near Mantanani Island	Sabah MMEA detained a Vietnamese fishing vessel and 5 Vietnamese fishermen for illegal intrusion into the waters of Mantanani Island.
8	15 April	Sabah waters, about 34 nautical miles offshore	Kudat MMEA detained a Vietnamese fishing vessel and 20 crew members.
9	25 April	Johor waters, about 10 nautical miles offshore	Johor MMEA detained 3 Vietnamese fishing vessels and 23 crew members for illegally encroaching into Malaysian waters off Mersing.
10	29 April	Terengganu waters, about 119 to 120 nautical miles offshore	Terengganu MMEA detained 3 Vietnamese fishing vessels and 19 Vietnamese fishermen. 3 Vietnamese enforcement vessels had tried to prevent the MMEA from detaining three fishing boats that had encroached into Malaysian waters.
11	6 May	Saravak waters, 16 nautical miles offshore	Mal MMEA detained a Vietnamese fishing vessel and 3 crew members. The vessel with 6000 litres of diesel was seized.
12	6 May	Terengganu waters, 58 nautical miles offshore	Kemaman MMEA detained a Vietnamese fishing vessel and 4 crew members. About 1000 litres of diesel and fishing equipment worth RM11.5 million were seized.
13	24 May	Strapped Island in Sabah waters, 4.6 and 6.3 nautical miles offshore	Kudat MMEA detained 2 Vietnamese fishing vessels and 13 Vietnamese fishermen. All kinds of fishing gear and catches were seized, including the ship and diesel supply, valued at RM12 million.
14	27 May	Saravak waters, 100 nautical miles offshore	Saravak MMEA detained a Vietnamese fishing vessel and 6 Vietnamese fishermen. Fishing equipment, about 7000 litres of diesel supply and 1 metric ton of mixed fish caught were seized, valued at RM15 million.
15	28 May	Saravak waters, 87 nautical miles offshore	Bumutu MMEA detained 2 Vietnamese fishing vessels and 25 Vietnamese fishermen. Fishing equipment, about 10000 litres of fuel and 16 tons of mixed fish caught were seized, valued at about RM12 million.
16	29 May	Terengganu waters, 21 to 35 nautical miles offshore	Terengganu MMEA detained 3 Vietnamese fishing vessels and 24 crew members. Squid fishing equipment and about 1500 litres of diesel were seized, valued at about RM14.5 million.
17	21 June	Terengganu waters, 77 to 78 nautical miles offshore	Terengganu MMEA detained 4 Vietnamese fishing vessels and 46 Vietnamese fishermen, seizing 7 tonnes of mixed catches, 7 tonnes of fish for producing fertilizer, fishing equipment and 4,000 litres of diesel, all worth RM16 million.
18	28 June	Saravak waters, 39 nautical miles offshore	Saravak MMEA detained 2 out of 6 illegal foreign fishing boats and 13 Vietnamese fishermen, suspected of overcatchment and illegal fishing in Malaysian waters.
19	4 July	Terengganu waters, about 74 nautical miles from Kuala Kemaman	Kemaman MMEA detained 1 Vietnamese "mother ship" and 12 Vietnamese crew, collecting seafood from other foreign fishermen. All worth RM12 million were seized.
20	5 July	Kelantan waters, 42.7 nautical miles offshore	Kelantan MMEA detained a Vietnamese fishing vessel and 5 Vietnamese fishermen, 200 kilograms (kg) of sea cucumbers, 2,000 litres of diesel and boats, with total seizure amounting to RM10.3 million were seized.
21	12 July	Pahang waters, 20 nautical miles offshore	Pahang MMEA detained 3 local C-class fishing boats and 21 Vietnamese fishermen, suspected breach of the legal conditions of the permit, hiring foreign crew members without permission. The 300 kilograms of fishing equipment and seafood were confiscated.
22	15 July	Saravak waters, 2.4 nautical miles offshore	Saravak MMEA detained a Vietnamese fishing vessel with 14 crew members. Fishing equipment, 3,000 litres of diesel and 800kg catch worth RM11 million were seized.
23	15 July	Pahang waters, 13.8 nautical miles offshore	Pahang MMEA detained a local fishing vessel and 7 Vietnamese fishermen. The vessel was suspected of breaching legal conditions of licence. The fishing equipment and the catch were seized.
24	7 August	Pahang waters, 24.2 nautical miles offshore	Pahang MMEA detained a fishing vessel suspected of breaching the law and 6 Vietnamese fishermen. The fishing equipment and the catch were seized.
25	8 September	Kelantan waters, 93 and 95 nautical miles offshore	Kelantan MMEA detained 2 Vietnamese vessels, including 2 captains and 17 crew members, 50kg of squid and other equipment, worth about RM2.5 million.
26	11 September	Kelantan waters, 45 nautical miles offshore	Kelantan MMEA detained 2 Vietnamese vessels and 8 Vietnamese fishermen, seizing 500kg of various types of fish and 400 litres of diesel. The boat and its equipment were worth nearly RM11.5 million.
27	26 September	Kelantan waters, 54 and 56 nautical miles offshore	Kelantan MMEA detained 2 Vietnamese boats and 9 Vietnamese fishermen illegally fishing for sea cucumbers, the ship and approximately 10,000 litres of diesel.
28	28 September	Kelantan waters, 114 and 115 nautical miles offshore	Kelantan MMEA detained 2 foreign boats and 19 crew members. Boats, fish, diesel and fishing equipment worth RM3 million were seized.
29	12 October	Kelantan waters, 39.5 nautical miles offshore	Kelantan MMEA detained a Vietnamese boat and 6 Vietnamese fishermen fishing for sea cucumbers. The value of the seizure included boats, sea cucumbers about 40 kilograms, diesel fuel about 1200 litres and sea cucumbers picking equipment was estimated at RM1550,000.
30	18 October	Saravak waters, 132 nautical miles offshore	Bumutu MMEA detained 2 Vietnamese fishing vessels and 16 Vietnamese fishermen. Fishing equipment, 2,000 litres of diesel and 15 metric tonnes of various fish species were seized.
31	23 October	Sabah waters, 7 nautical miles offshore	Kudat MMEA detained a Vietnamese fishing vessel and 7 Vietnamese fishermen, 3,000 litres of diesel, sea cucumbers and equipment used for the illegal activity worth RM10.5 million were seized.
32	6 December	Kelantan waters, 41.2 nautical miles offshore	Kelantan MMEA detained a Vietnamese fishing vessel and 5 Vietnamese fishermen, robbing 50 kilograms of sea cucumbers. The chase lasted nearly three hours before boarded.

Major fisheries conflict between Vietnam and Malaysia in 2021^[12]

According to incomplete statistics, in 2021, there were 32 reported cases that Vietnamese fishermen engaged in illegal fishing activities in Malaysia nearshore waters. Five cases were within 12 nautical miles of Malaysian coast, and most of the rest were within 100 nautical miles. Two-thirds of the cases gathered to the east of the West Coast Malaysia, and the rest were to the north of the East Coast Malaysia. Malaysia and Vietnam still have border dispute to the east of the West Coast Malaysia and in the gulf of Thailand. Although they have set up a joint development zone there in 1992, no proper arrangements were put up in place to resolve their fishing disputes.

In recent years, illegal fishing by Vietnamese fishermen in Malaysia's adjacent waters have demonstrated certain distinct characteristics, such as "mother ships" purchasing seafood off the coast of Malaysia,^[13] targeting certain seafood (sea cucumbers or squids),^[14] attaching to local Malaysian fishing boats without permission,^[15] and operating with fake registration numbers^[16]. It is inevitable that the social contents and complex interest chains in Vietnam and Malaysia are involved behind such phenomena. Besides, the maritime delimitation between coastal states has not been completed, leaving the maritime rights ambiguous, and law enforcement areas widely overlapped. Although the Vietnamese government issued regulations to prohibit fishermen from conducting illegal fishing, the long past that the government encouraged fishermen to maneuver in disputed waters as an approach to defend the sovereignty, and Vietnamese fishermen who ventured to for economic interest, led to lack of effectiveness in executing these rules. As a result, the Vietnamese fishermen's illegal fishing behaviour exists objectively. The fishery management in the South China Sea has no agreed rules to follow.

Vietnamese fishermen engaged in illegal fishing in Malaysian adjacent waters is a prominent phenomenon, which has led Malaysia-Vietnam fishing disputes occurred occasionally. These disputes can be divided into three categories according to the subject: The first type of disputes mainly occurred between MMEA and Vietnamese fishermen. In 32 pieces of news, the majority of Vietnamese fishermen deliberately laid barriers to resist arrest by Malaysian law enforcement destroyed evidence in an attempt to escape. The MMEA often needed to take several hours to catch up before boarding the ship. The second category refers to the maritime law enforcement forces between the two countries. On April 29, 2021, three Vietnamese law enforcement vessels trespassed "Malaysian waters" to prevent the MMEA from detaining three Vietnamese fishing boats. The case was ended with the withdraw of Vietnamese coast guard, and Malaysia MMEA brought back Vietnamese fishermen and

three fishing boats (two damaged) to investigate.^[17] The third type is the diplomatic engagement between Malaysia and Vietnam. Both countries tend to take cooling measures, with Vietnam asking Malaysia to protect the rights of detained fishermen and provide evidence of encroachment.^[18]

In 2021, the fishery dispute between Malaysia and Vietnam did not escalate to as violent as the event resulting in the death of a Vietnamese fisherman in the process of law enforcement by MMEA in August 2020, however, risky incidents existed. For instance, in March 2021, Vietnamese fishermen attacked MMEA personnel with machetes at about 80 nautical miles southeast of Tanjung Gelang, Pahang, forcing the personnel to fire on their boat and causing three Vietnamese fishermen on board injured.^[19] As conflicts over fishery and jurisdiction persist, the similar incidents are likely to recur, especially in the front-line where fishermen and law enforcement authorities meet in face.

Currently, the Malaysian government and the Vietnamese government have intentionally begun cooperation to take actions on the frequent illegal fishing activities conducted by Vietnamese fishermen. In April 2021, the MMEA and the Vietnam Coast Guard agreed to sign a memorandum of understanding (MoU), aiming to “address the encroachment issue by Vietnamese fishermen, especially in the East Coast waters through information sharing such as using the Automatic Identification System (AIS).”^[20] There is little information revealed about the contents of the MoU so far, so, its role and effectiveness remain to be observed.

III. Vietnam says more than it does to fight illegal fishing

The European Union (EU), as a major market for Vietnam's seafood exports, has long noticed the seriousness of Vietnam's illegal fishing activities. In October 2017, the EU issued a “yellow card” warning against Vietnam's persistent fishing violations, ordering it to rectify the situation within a deadline^[21] or face trade sanctions.^[22] Among them, terminating illegal fishing by Vietnamese fishing vessels in the waters of other countries is the first condition for the EU to lift the “yellow card”. Since then, Vietnam has introduced a series of rectification measures, including amending the Fisheries Law, formulating the White Paper on Combating IUU Fishing, joining the Agreement on Port State Measures, and establishing the National Steering Committee for Prevention and Control of IUU Fishing, etc. However, as suggested by the active illegal fishing, it is clear that the implementation is far from enough, and the government's promise is far from fulfilled.

From May 15 to 24, 2018, the European Commission inspection team conducted an on-site inspection of Vietnam's crackdown on illegal fishing, and no substantial improvement was seen. In November 2019, the European Commission inspection team conducted a second assessment of its dissatisfaction, and decided to extend the “yellow card” for 6 months until June 2020, and recommended that the Vietnamese government take further measures to prevent its fishing boats from illegally fishing in other countries' waters.^[23] At the end of October 2021, the EU and Vietnam held an online meeting to discuss the combat of illegal fishing activities, and once again EU pointed out the limitations and slow progress in some parts that Vietnam have achieved, such as the poor performance of the Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) on many ships over 24 meters. More importantly, the Vietnam government has limited penalties for illegal Vietnamese fishing boats infringing on the waters of other countries. The EU requested intensifying the investigation of such violations for due punishment.^[24] The EU said it would conduct further on-site inspections at Vietnamese ports and local areas in the first quarter of 2022, when COVID-19 Pandemic relieved. In October 2021, Prime Minister Pham Minh Thanh pledged again to stop these violations by the end of this year, setting local deadlines, and leaders of Vietnam's 28 coastal provinces have committed to stop fishing boats from encroaching on foreign waters.^[25]

Vietnam has always claimed that it will severely crack down on IUU fishing, and devotes to addressing the “yellow card” warning issued by the European Commission to Vietnam. However, more than four years have passed. The EU's “yellow card” warning has not been cancelled. Vietnam's fishery management and monitoring capabilities remain insufficient. Due to the lack of law-abiding awareness, illegal fishing activities have become more rampant, and fishing conflicts with neighboring countries have intensified. This situation is not unrelated to the Vietnamese government's inaction (especially at the local and grass-roots level) and many policies that assist, mobilize, encourage, and protect fishermen to go fishing.^[26] For example, Vietnamese government focuses on the development of offshore fisheries, supports fishermen to build large fishing boats, and continuously provides fishermen with fuel subsidies, soft loans and other financial support to help Vietnamese fishing boats upgrade and transform.^[27] It also regards fishermen as the “living boundary marker” and the most powerful force for safeguarding the sovereignty of oceans and islands, and often encourages fishermen to make so-called “sovereignty declarations” through infringement of fishing.^[28]

In short, the Vietnamese government has repeatedly reneged on promises to manage its fishermen and combat illegal fishing, which obviously affected Vietnam's national reputation to a great extent, damaged the trust and interests of coastal countries, and seriously threatened the ecological environment and sustainable development of fisheries in the South China Sea. Such activities also posed new security risks to the current situation in the South China Sea. In the future, Vietnam needs to recognize the seriousness of the issue, and actively assume the responsibility to crack down on illegal fishing activities, instead of conniving at it for other purposes

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