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## **Indonesian Foreign Policy in the Case of Illegal Fishing of Vietnamese Fishermen in the Natuna Islands on the Border of Indonesia and Vietnam in 2014-2021**

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### **Abstract**

Illegal fishing is part of a transnational crime that has an impact on Indonesia's losses because it can cause a reduction in the scale of production and damage to natural ecosystems. Currently, Indonesia is one of the potential zones in the 14 fishing ground zones in the world. Issues related to illegal fishing are not new cases on Indonesia's borders. One of them is that the border waters between Indonesia and Vietnam often involve transnational illegal fishing crimes. In explaining this case, the author uses the concept of Transnational Organized Crime (TOC) and Foreign Policy theory which aims to explain and describe Indonesia's foreign policy. This research uses a qualitative method with a qualitative descriptive approach, where the author will provide a general description of the problem and then draw specific conclusions. UNCLOS 1982 is Indonesia's long-term goal to address illegal fishing cases. Law no. 5 of 1983 concerning the Indonesian Exclusive Economic Zone (ZEEI) also regulates UNCLOS violations regarding illegal hunting. This law regulates fish resource utilization activities in the Exclusive Economic Zone. In Foreign Policy, Indonesia also identifies the cooperative relations agreement between Indonesia and Vietnam, as well as Presidential Decree number 16 of 2017 concerning Indonesian maritime policy. However, Indonesian policies have not had a significant impact in reducing the number of illegal fishing cases in Indonesia.

**Keywords:** Foreign Policy, Illegal Fishing, UNCLOS

### **Introduction**

Indonesia has natural resource potential on its maritime borders, this creates several problems. In 2014, Indonesia faced an increase in illegal fishing cases involving Vietnamese fishermen around the Natuna Islands. Illegal fishing not only harms Indonesia's fisheries

sector but also poses a threat to the sustainability of marine ecosystems and food security in the region (Fauzan et al, 2019). Since then, the Indonesian government has responded firmly to these violations through a foreign policy that focuses on maritime law enforcement, diplomacy, and regional cooperation. One of the main aspects of the background to this policy is the inequality in the distribution of fisheries resources in the region.

The Natuna Islands have a strategic geographical position and are a habitat for various types of fish which are the main target of foreign fishermen (Asrori et al, 2021). The increase in illegal fishing activities by Vietnamese fishermen is a serious challenge for Indonesia, reinforcing the urgency of the need for effective prevention and enforcement measures. At the national level, the Indonesian government is committed to protecting its rich marine resources. The President of Indonesia, Joko Widodo, actively highlights the importance of maritime sovereignty and law enforcement in the fisheries sector. This is reflected in the "Global Maritime Fulcrum" initiative which aims to build maritime security and protect the sustainability of marine ecosystems. At the regional level, Indonesia is also trying to build cooperation with neighboring countries, including Vietnam, through various regional forums such as ASEAN.

Multilateral diplomacy can be used by Indonesia to handle illegal fishing cases, with efforts to build mutual awareness about the importance of maintaining the sovereignty and sustainability of marine resources (Salsabila, 2021). In addition, increasing maritime law enforcement capacity and expanding patrols in the region is the focus of the Indonesian government to take action directly against violations. These steps include increasing the presence of patrol boats, using advanced technology, and increasing cooperation between relevant institutions in the country (Elyta et al, 2021). Although challenges still exist, the Indonesian government's steps in dealing with illegal fishing in the Natuna Islands from 2014 to 2021 reflect a holistic approach involving various policy instruments, from law enforcement to regional diplomacy (Darmawijaya et al, 2022).

This effort reflects Indonesia's determination to protect its maritime sovereignty, maintain the sustainability of marine resources, and ensure the welfare of the people who depend on the fisheries sector in the region (Datu et al, 2020). International conflicts are formed based on interaction opportunities between one country and another. Neighboring or nearby countries are often involved in conflicts due to mutual claims on territory between parties. In this case, geographical factors are one of the variables in conflicts in border areas. 3 aspects cause conflict at the border: (1) Interaction, (2) Opportunity, (3) Fighting over territory (Vasquez et al, 2023).

The Indonesian archipelago has important consequences for the country, its identity as a nation, and its character as a state. Because Indonesia's outer islands are potentially vulnerable to disintegration and bilateral conflict, the Indonesian government has successively monitored conflict-prone islands both on land and at sea borders (Muhamad, 2016). Apart from that, Indonesia is also tightening security in border areas that are prone to conflict and border disputes to defend the territory of the Republic of Indonesia. Regarding the process of establishing a country's borders, there are differences between sea borders and land borders. Land borders use a single line as a marker, while sea borders use normative references in UNCLOS 1982. Border areas are very vulnerable to transnational crime. Various kinds of transnational crimes can pose a threat to a country, such as illegal fishing,

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drug trafficking, and human trafficking.

Table 1.1 Number of Ships Sinking Illegal Fishing Actors and Data on Destruction of Evidence/Confiscated State Items in 2014-2019

No	Negara	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	Jumlah
1	Malaysia	-	12	27	12	22	16	89
2	Filipina	1	35	22	17	15	1	91
3	Vietnam	3	36	50	91	83	49	321
4	Indonesia	-	10	5	6	4	1	26
5	Thailand	2	19	-	1	1	1	24
6	Papua Nugini	2	-	-	-	-	-	2
7	Tiongkok	-	1	-	-	-	-	1
8	Nigeria	-	-	1	-	-	-	1
9	Belize	-	-	1	-	-	-	1
	Total	8	113	115	127	125	68	556

*Source: Ministry of Maritime Affairs and Fisheries of the Republic of Indonesia, 2019.*

Based on data from the Performance Report of the Ministry of Maritime Affairs and Fisheries in 2019, 321 of the 530 foreign vessels caught and prosecuted were Vietnamese-flagged vessels (Ministry of Maritime Affairs and Fisheries of the Republic of Indonesia, 2019). Vietnam is in first place with the largest number of foreign ships prosecuted by the Indonesian government. Currently, there are very widespread cases of illegal fishing in Indonesian waters, especially in the Natuna Islands, the border between Indonesia and Vietnam. The Natuna Islands are very susceptible to cases of illegal fishing because the Natuna Islands share direct sea borders with other countries such as Vietnam, Cambodia, Malaysia (Djumadin, 2020).

Therefore, the Natuna Islands region is often the target of transnational crimes, one of which is illegal fishing. One of Indonesia's jurisdictions is to defend the Indonesian archipelago by preventing and thwarting subversive attempts, smuggling, and other laws (Setyadi et al, 2014). This cannot be separated from Indonesian Foreign Policy Indonesian foreign policy is closely related to strengthening defense on the borders of the Republic of Indonesia which directly borders other countries (Adhywidya et al, 2023).

### **Literature Review**

#### **Transnational Organized Crime**

Transnational crime, or crime across national borders, has become an increasingly complex and challenging phenomenon in the era of globalization. According to a number of experts, transnational crime involves illegal activities that cross national borders and often involve international networks. Security experts such as Phil Williams and David M. Siegel note that transnational crime is not limited to a particular type, but rather includes various forms such as trafficking narcotics, human trafficking, money laundering, and terrorism (Roth, 2017). The concept of transnational crime also involves significant impacts at the global level.

Ralf Dahrendorf emphasize that this phenomenon breaks down traditional

boundaries between local and global crime, requiring cross-national cooperation to effectively combat it (Kühne et al, 2020). Meanwhile, Louise Shelley highlights the role of modern technology, especially the internet, in facilitating activities and transnational crimes, such as cybercrime and illegal trade in cyberspace (Shelley, 1995).

Criminologists often emphasize that transnational crime not only creates threats to national security, but also harms social and economic stability at the international level. Narcotics, for example, has become one of the main aspects of transnational crime that has a major impact on society and the global economy. Therefore, efforts to understand and combat transnational crime must involve coordination between states, international institutions and the private sector.

The concept of "nontraditional security" emerged as a response to threats emanating from transnational crime. Mary Kaldor and other experts highlight the need for a holistic approach, involving aspects such as economic development, protecting human rights, and overcoming conflict, to address the root causes of transnational crime (Kaldor, 2013). The importance of international cooperation in dealing with transnational crime was also emphasized by Oleh Friedrich Kratochwil, who emphasized that effective solutions require the establishment of norms and principles and an international organization that can coordinate a global response to the threat of crime (Kratochwil, 2007).

This approach includes the active role of international organizations such as Interpol, Europol, and the UN, which work to increase cooperation between countries in terms of intelligence information, law enforcement, and policy development. Although the challenges in addressing transnational crime are complex, some experts believe that a prevention approach based on capacity building and international cooperation can provide more effective solutions. Therefore, efforts to combat transnational crime require not only reactive responses to specific incidents, but also addressing the problem in the long term through joint efforts to create a safer and more stable international environment.

### **Foreign Policy Theory**

Foreign policy theories are analytical concepts developed by experts to analyze state policies in the international arena. One of the significant theories in foreign policy studies is Realism. Realists like Hans Morgenthau and Kenneth Waltz opine that states act in accordance with their national interests, driven by the drive to maintain security and continuity of power (Mouritzen, 1997). According to Morgenthau, foreign affairs are a reflection of political power, and countries always try to increase their relative power in the international world (Myers, 1997). Besides that, Waltz emphasizes the importance of the structure of the international system in shaping state behavior, with a focus on the distribution of power among key actors. On the other hand, Liberalism theory emphasizes the importance of non-militaristic factors such as free trade, international cooperation, and global institutions in shaping foreign policy (Telbami, 2002).

Liberal experts like Immanuel Kant and John Ikenberry argued that international cooperation can create conditions that are beneficial for peace and mutual progress (Smith et al, 2008). Apart from that, the concept of dependency theory developed by experts such as Raul Prebisch and Andre Gunder Frank highlight the inequality in international relations between developed countries and developing countries (Frank, 2004). They argue that

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developing countries are often dependent on developed countries economically, creating structural inequalities that are difficult to overcome. Foreign policy theory also involves the concept of diplomacy, in which states seek to achieve their goals through negotiation and dialogue. Diplomacy can include bilateral or multilateral negotiations, as well as involvement in international organizations such as the UN. The importance of internal factors such as economic and political policies in shaping foreign policy is also recognized in foreign policy theory.

For example, bureaucratic theory highlights the role of bureaucracy in foreign decision making, while democratic theory emphasizes the influence of public opinion and democratic mechanisms in shaping the direction of foreign policy (Simanjuntak, 2020).

Overall, foreign policy theory shows that it is influenced by a number of factors, including national interests, the structure of the international system, liberal values, economic dependence, diplomacy, and internal factors. This approach provides a basis for understanding complex dynamics in international relations and helps formulate effective strategies in facing global challenges. Foreign Policy According to KJ Holsti Holsti outlines that foreign policy objectives can be classified based on a country's national intentions. National intent reflects the aspirations, interests and fundamental values that the country wishes to achieve.

For example, these goals may include maintaining sovereignty, protecting national security, or improving the well-being of its people. Next, Holsti highlights specific goals that are more focused and practical. This includes concrete goals to be achieved within a certain time period, such as signing a trade agreement or resolving a regional conflict. These specific goals often become concrete steps in a series of larger strategies to achieve national goals. Finally, Holsti includes strategic goals that are closely related to a country's position and interests at the global level. This involves an in-depth analysis of international relations, countries' strengths and weaknesses, and how best to achieve certain goals. Examples of strategic goals involve strengthening alliances, managing the balance of power, or building a positive image in the international arena.

Holsti's approach provides a holistic and in-depth analytical framework for understanding the motivations behind a country's foreign policy. By identifying goals based on national intent, specific goals, and strategic goals, Holsti provides a conceptual foundation for a deeper analysis of the complexity and dynamics in the foreign policy arena. KJ Holsti divides a country's foreign policy objectives into three categories: the values desired by decision makers; the time required to achieve a goal; in other words, there are short-term, medium-term, and long-term goals. types of international demands. Behavior or actions that are contrary to Mes policy Although the general orientation held determines the actions taken, more specific commitments and goals determine their formation (Holsti, 1970).

Meanwhile, a democratic country does not depend on other countries in the democratic system. In the paradigmatic case, the systemic approach is a theory that describes countries as rational unitary actors in pursuing the goals of each country. Rationality now requires that, in seeking goals, states consider what other states are doing by examining the international environment. In this theory, it can also be said about the

decision-making capacity of authorized actors to carry out regulatory decisions that have been passed (Mouritzen, 1997).

### **Research Method**

This research method uses qualitative data collection through literature study by collecting various journals, books, and online news media as primary data for research on Indonesian foreign policy in the illegal fishing case of Vietnamese fishermen in the Natuna Islands on the border of Indonesia and Vietnam in 2014-2021. This research will focus on Indonesian foreign policy in the case of illegal fishing, policy implementation, and legal regulations. The results of this research will provide in-depth insight into how Indonesia's foreign policy handled the illegal fishing case of Vietnamese fishermen in the Natuna Islands on the border between Indonesia and Vietnam in 2014-2021.

### **Results and Discussion**

#### **Values That Serve As a Reference For Decision-Making**

Indonesia's steps to ensure that natural resources, especially maritime areas, can be managed and all income obtained from these areas becomes Indonesia's income. Therefore, by securing its territorial waters and fighting IUUF, as well as promoting IUUF as a TOC. The Indonesian government has shown that Indonesia places the IUUF case as one of the nation's biggest challenges. Therefore, the government must ensure that Indonesia can manage all natural resources for Indonesian citizens without internal and external threats. President Widodo's vision which is called "Nawa Cita" in Indonesia's territorial waters, is that Indonesia must become the world's maritime axis. In general, IUUF practices in Indonesia consist of illegal fishing without a permit, falsifying fishing permits, and the use of prohibited fishing gear. In addition, according to several studies, international border areas are the areas most favored by IUUF perpetrators.

According to Bueger, maritime security means that there is political power in the country's maritime sector that must be secured. This is part of the growing body of human security studies in the last decade (Bueger, 2015). The international level of maritime security does not have a dangerous definition, there is still an agreement that includes threats from several components related to "maritime security". Three problems related to maritime security threats are as follows: (1) Piracy of ships in offshore areas with theoretical actions; (2) The occurrence of crimes such as piracy and armed robbery; and (3) The entry of prohibited illegal goods, such as psychotropics, illegal drugs and other illegal drugs (Keliat, 2009).

Strengthening the need for cooperation in conditions that are still needed with an integrated coordination system at every level. Apart from that, cooperation in handling international cooperation is also needed to face the scope of global maritime security threats, especially from coastal states. With this scope, it can be understood that non-traditional security concepts are more likely to be related to maritime security.

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### **Implementation of UNCLOS 1982 into National Legislation as a Long Term Goal**

Implementation of UNCLOS 1982 into National Legislation as a Long Term Goal. UNCLOS 1982 is Indonesia's long-term goal to address illegal fishing cases. Exclusive Economic Zone, Territorial Sea, and other parts. The Exclusive Economic Zone is a new order established by UNCLOS 1982 (Masdin, 2016). In its provisions, UNCLOS 1982 is a determinant in the practice of international maritime law. In this case, Indonesia implemented and ratified UNCLOS and made it national legislation. Based on this, UNCLOS 1982 can be used as a reference for international maritime law which regulates all maritime issues (Kurnia, 2008). After understanding maritime law above, there are several focal points for maritime law for the state.

Thus, maritime law focuses on issues surrounding problems in maritime areas. The implementation of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) in Indonesia's foreign policy, especially regarding the sinking of illegal fishing vessels, reflects this country's commitment to protecting maritime sovereignty, sustainability of marine resources, and maintaining peace and security in its territorial waters (Jamilah et al, 2020).

UNCLOS, adopted in 1982 and ratified by Indonesia in 1985, provides a legal basis for countries to determine their maritime boundaries and manage marine resources within them. The Indonesian government uses UNCLOS as the legal basis for establishing national sea boundaries, including in the Natuna region which is often the center of attention regarding illegal fishing cases. UNCLOS grants full sovereignty rights to coastal states over their territorial waters, exclusive economic zones (EEZ), and continental shelves (Agusman, 2007).

In the case of sinking illegal fishing vessels, UNCLOS emphasizes that coastal states have the right to protect marine resources within their EEZ, including by taking action to enforce illegal fishing laws. The sinking of illegal fishing vessels by the Indonesian government can be considered an act of execution of UNCLOS provisions.

UNCLOS recognizes the right of coastal states to guard, conserve, and manage fish resources within their EEZ (Hetharia, 2017). Therefore, the act of sinking can be interpreted as part of the Indonesian government's efforts to maintain the sustainability of marine resources and protect its maritime ecosystem. It is important to note that, while carrying out these law enforcement actions, the Indonesian government is also trying to communicate and coordinate with neighboring countries, including Vietnam, to prevent an escalation of tensions and promote regional cooperation in dealing with illegal fishing (Salsabila, 2023). This collaboration is in line with UNCLOS principles which emphasize the importance of international cooperation to conserve and manage marine resources effectively.

By referring to UNCLOS, the Indonesian government carries out its foreign policy to protect national interests and ensure that its marine resources are managed sustainably (Nugroho, 2019). Meanwhile, there remain challenges and debates at the international level regarding how to enforce such laws, and over time, there may be changes in the global approach to tackling illegal fishing that could impact implementation. Indonesia's foreign policy in this regard (Simanjuntak, 2020).

### **Declaration of Indonesia – Vietnam as a Medium-Term Goal**

Since 60 years ago, Vietnam and Indonesia have maintained good relations. Relations between the two countries became even closer when a comprehensive partnership was formed in 2003. However, the good relations that have existed so far have not always run smoothly. One of the long-standing problems between Indonesia and Vietnam is illegal fishing (Amaranggana et al, 2020). Fishing vessels from Vietnam have long carried out illegal fishing in border areas and entered Indonesian waters. Indonesian waters are waters that are known to be quite extensive and have a variety of resources in them. On the other hand, it cannot be denied that Vietnam is a capture fisheries trading country, so due to the high demand, its fishermen carry out fishing exploration in other countries' territories, including in Indonesian waters, to meet their needs.

The problem of illegal fishing between Indonesia and Vietnam has become increasingly heated since Indonesia's policy of arresting and sinking foreign fishing vessels, one of which is a fishing vessel from Vietnam, has intensified. The existence of this policy caused protests from the Vietnamese government, Vietnam felt that the Indonesian government's actions were not based on a humanitarian attitude. Apart from that, Vietnam also admitted that Indonesia's actions did not respect the strategic partnership that the two countries had undertaken (Parasian et al, 2017). However, the Indonesian side in this case continues to implement this policy as a form of providing a deterrent effect against fish thieves. On September 11, 2018, Vietnam and Indonesia signed the second phase of their strategic partnership. The interesting thing about this second phase of the strategic partnership is that there are points of cooperation to combat illegal fishing between Indonesia and Vietnam.

Vietnam is the dominant country that commits fish theft in Indonesian waters. There are two types of factors behind Vietnam's policy in collaborating to combat illegal fishing with Indonesia. The first is internal factors. In terms of internal factors, the variables that influence Vietnam's policies are; (1) there is international economic integration in the Doi Moi policy, this collaboration was formed as an effort to fulfill the characteristics of Vietnam's economic system which is always developing; (2) there is a need for prestige, namely improving the image of Vietnam's fisheries sector in the eyes of the international world.

In terms of external factors, two variables influence Vietnam's policy in collaborating to combat illegal fishing with Indonesia; (1) granting a yellow card or warning to Vietnam's fisheries trade by the European Union 85 which is considered a threat to trade in its fisheries sector; (2) the existence of UNCLOS 1982 and IPOA-IUU Fishing as international law and international agreements that regulate and bind countries that ratify them to combat illegal fishing activities.

These factors give rise to an interest in Vietnam in collaborating to combat illegal fishing with Indonesia, namely; (1) the interest in protecting Vietnam's marine environment (Akbar, 2019). One of the points in this collaboration discusses cooperation in improving the management of capture fisheries in each country so that this collaboration can help



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Vietnam exchange ideas with Indonesia to overcome the problem of overfishing in its seas which has caused fish stocks to decrease drastically; (2) the interest in safeguarding Vietnamese fishermen who were arrested by the Indonesian government, one of the points in this cooperation discusses cooperation in accelerating coordination of the repatriation of ship crew who are innocent or have been declared free; (3) Vietnam's interests in maintaining good economic relations with Indonesia, profitable investment and trade are better maintained by establishing good relations with other countries. In the end, this cooperation to combat illegal fishing has important meaning for Vietnam.

This collaboration can help Vietnam in its efforts to improve the management of its domestic capture fisheries as well as improve the bad image of its capture fisheries sector in the eyes of the international community. The Indonesian and Vietnamese declarations can be used as medium-term goals based on the validity period of the foreign minister (Elyta & Deni, 2021).

### **Presidential Regulation of the Republic of Indonesia Number 16 of 2017 concerning Indonesian Maritime Policy as a Short-Term Goal**

Presidential Regulation of the Republic of Indonesia Number 16 of 2017, which addresses Indonesian Maritime Policy, is a comprehensive and pivotal document that outlines the nation's strategic approach to its maritime domain. Enacted to strengthen Indonesia's maritime capabilities and harness the vast potential of its maritime resources, the regulation encompasses a wide array of policies aimed at fostering sustainable development, ensuring security, and promoting international cooperation. The regulation begins by emphasizing the strategic importance of the maritime sector to Indonesia's national development.

It recognizes the vast archipelagic nature of the country, with its numerous islands and extensive coastline, as a unique asset that can be leveraged for economic growth (Sari, 2019). By prioritizing the maritime sector, the government aims to unlock the potential of marine resources, boost trade, and stimulate economic activities in coastal areas. A key focus of the regulation is the promotion of maritime connectivity and infrastructure development.

It underscores the need for efficient and modern ports, shipping lanes, and logistics systems to facilitate seamless movement of goods and people across the archipelago. By investing in maritime infrastructure, the government aims to enhance connectivity between islands, reduce transportation costs, and promote balanced regional development. In addressing the complex issue of maritime security, the regulation outlines measures to safeguard Indonesia's waters from various threats, including piracy, illegal fishing, and transnational crimes.

Collaboration with neighboring countries and international partners is emphasized to create a united front against maritime security challenges. The document highlights the role of the Indonesian Navy and other relevant authorities in safeguarding the nation's maritime

interests. Furthermore, the regulation recognizes the importance of sustainable marine resource management. It calls for the implementation of responsible fishing practices, marine conservation efforts, and the protection of biodiversity. By adopting a holistic approach to maritime resource management, the government aims to ensure the long-term viability of marine ecosystems and the livelihoods of communities dependent on them. The regulation also addresses the development of the maritime industry, encouraging investments in shipbuilding, maritime technology, and related sectors.

By fostering a robust maritime industry, Indonesia aims to enhance its competitiveness on the global stage and contribute to the growth of the blue economy. In conclusion, Presidential Regulation Number 16 of 2017 signifies Indonesia's commitment to maximizing the potential of its maritime sector for sustainable development (Kurniawan et al, 2018). By addressing issues such as infrastructure, security, resource management, and industry development, the regulation provides a comprehensive framework to guide the nation's maritime policies. As Indonesia continues to assert itself as a maritime nation, this regulation serves as a crucial roadmap for navigating the challenges and opportunities presented by its vast and diverse maritime landscape.

### **Types of Charges Used by Indonesia in Illegal Fishing Cases 2014-2021**

Indonesia must be wary of IUUF because it damages and destroys the marine environment due to destructive fishing practices, one of which is explosive bombs made from potassium fertilizer. Because IUUF involves foreign companies and countries, Indonesian law needs to be revised to follow the modus operandi of IUUF perpetrators. Cooperation is considered a possible solution in dealing with IUUF problems. The practice of fishing is also part of IUUF and is also considered an economic crime because it causes economic losses for the country.

In December 2014, Susi Pudjiastuti stated that the decision to sink foreign and local ships proven to have committed IUUF in Indonesian waters was the best formula to eradicate IUUF in Indonesia and save the Indonesian economy. Therefore, this decision has become one of President Widodo's most popular policies. In several cases of illegal fishing in Natuna waters, Indonesia has taken firm action by sinking ships involved in illegal fishing activities. This action was taken as part of efforts to enforce maritime law, protect marine resources, and warn potential illegal actors that violations of Indonesia's maritime sovereignty will face serious consequences (Elyta & Martoyo, 2021).

This step to sink illegal fishing vessels reflects the Indonesian government's commitment to protecting the sustainability of marine resources and reducing illegal fishing activities which can harm marine ecosystems and the economy of local communities. The Indonesian government believes that sinking is an effective step to provide a deterrent effect against perpetrators of illegal fishing and as part of a maritime law enforcement strategy (Razak et al, 2023). The choice of Natuna as the location for this law enforcement action is not only related to the rich potential of marine resources in the region but also in response to the increase in illegal fishing cases involving foreign fishermen, including from neighboring countries such as Vietnam.

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This action is part of the Indonesian government's efforts to maintain maritime sovereignty and provide optimal protection for the abundant marine resources in the Natuna region. It is important to note that the act of sinking illegal fishing vessels can also become a focal point of tension in bilateral relations between Indonesia and the countries whose fishermen are involved.

Despite this, the Indonesian government remains of the view that such action is necessary to protect national interests and the sustainability of marine resources. This reflects the complexity of the challenges faced by countries in protecting their marine resources while maintaining good relations with neighboring countries. A long-term solution to the problem of illegal fishing requires regional cooperation, effective exchange of information, and coordinated policy implementation at the international level.

### **Conclusion**

The Indonesian government has been paying attention to the IUU fishing problem for a long time. Indonesia has participated in the IPOAIUU Fishing agreement and demonstrated its commitment to fighting illegal fishing, which is very detrimental to this country. The country will do this by implementing the 1982 UNCLOS policy and international policies relating to illegal fishing. In the sovereign territory which is Indonesia's sovereign right in ZEEI, the act of sinking the ship was carried out.

Presidential Regulation of the Republic of Indonesia number 16 of 2017 concerning Indonesian Maritime Policy stipulates that the sinking process must go through a court decision that has permanent legal force. This proposal was also accompanied by a request for support from the UN to produce several resolutions on IUUF at the UN General Assembly regarding the fisheries sector. In terms of the settlement aspect, it can be used in 2 ways, namely: Diplomacy of the treaty agreement between Indonesia and Vietnam and using the 1982 UNCLOS stages.

Diplomacy between the two countries cannot be separated from the bilateral relations between Indonesia and Vietnam. In this case, as countries that suffer losses in illegal fishing cases, the Ambassadors of Indonesia and Vietnam often hold meetings to discuss cooperation in resolving illegal fishing cases that occur in the Natuna Islands.

However, until now the diplomatic route is still considered to have failed in resolving the illegal fishing conflict that occurred as evidenced by the fact that every year illegal fishing cases continue to occur.

### **Suggestion**

The low after reviewing Indonesia's policy of sinking ships in Vietnam's illegal fishing cases, illegal fishing cases are still rampant in the field. Suggestions for Indonesia to

eradicate or reduce illegal fishing in Indonesian waters:

1. Take firm action against all perpetrators of illegal fishing violations in Indonesian waters without looking at certain factors such as good relations between countries.
2. Increasing human resources as well as facilities and infrastructure in the Indonesian territorial waters monitoring sector to prevent foreign ships entering carelessly.
3. Prioritizing issues related to illegal fishing.
4. Increasing international cooperation in the field of maritime sector security.
5. Indonesia should register a deposit with the UN Secretary General via the UNDUALOS (Ocean and Law of the Sea- the United Nations) website in the form of regulations so that the legal status of changing the name of the North Natuna Sea region has binding force and is recognized by other countries, as a step concretely secure the country, and Indonesia should register with the IHO which will later be brought up at the UNCISG session, adding special TNI Navy security forces in the EEZ and the borders of the North Natuna Sea, modernizing the procurement of defense equipment, and increasing military operations around the North Natuna Sea in order to achieve defense and security goals, country can be maximized.

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