



The Impact Indonesia's Sinking of Illegal Fishing Ships on Major Southeast Asia Countries

Mansur Juned¹; Galby Rifqi Samhudi²; Rahmat Aming Lasim³

¹Department of International Relation, Universitas Pembangunan Nasional 'Veteran' Jakarta, Indonesia

²Department of International Relation, Universitas Indonesia, Indonesia

³Department of International Relation, Universitas Padjadjaran, Indonesia

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Abstract

This study examines Indonesia's sinking of illegal fishing ships influencing its relationship with countries in Southeast Asia region. Considering that the loss of and damages to national resources due to illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) fishing in Indonesia are so huge, President Joko Widodo has a commitment to no longer tolerate such a crime. The approach of his Minister of Maritime and Fishing Affairs has been to sink IUU Fishing ships which mostly flagged foreign flags. As a result, Indonesia's relation with neighboring countries is affected. However, the assertive policy of Indonesia did not lead to a commotion among the states in the region. Hence, this study attempts to discover why Indonesia does not find significant obstacles to continuously carry out sinking foreign IUU fishing ships from its counterparts in Southeast Asia region namely Malaysia, Thailand, Vietnam, and the Philippines. Statements of the statesmen around the countries and other related documents on the matter are used to examine their response to the Indonesia's policy. In line with the method, this study capitalizes neoclassical realism by Gideon Rose in which foreign policies are considered a reflection of systemic pressure, domestic political demands (innenpolitik), and state power.

Keywords: Indonesia; IUU Fishing; Maritime Security; Southeast Asia

Introduction

Having considered Nusantara's long history in the glorious maritime realm, President Joko Widodo has the vision to lead Indonesia to be a sovereign state in the maritime sector. His ambition was stated in his speech during the presidential inauguration on October 2014 in MPR building, "*It has been too long for us turning our back to our oceans, straits, and bays. Now is the time we restore everything until we become 'jalesveva jayamahe', we are glorious in our ocean. That was an old proverb that we can bring it back*" (2014). According to the Head of Bappenas¹ (National Development Planning Agency), Andrinof Chaniago, what has been meant by the world maritime pivot that Indonesia is trying to

¹ Badan Perencanaan Pembangunan Nasional

achieve is that Indonesia should have a large maritime territory in which maritime activities are conducted safely (Rohingati, 2014).

The concern of maritime security is highlighted in Joko Widodo regime seeing that Indonesia has suffered so badly by illegal, unregulated, and unreported (IUU) fishing. According to FAO (Food and Agriculture Organization), Indonesia's loss from the maritime sector was around IDR 30 billion (Detik Finance, 2014). Nonetheless, the number was supposed to be higher as what the Minister of Maritime and Fishing Affairs, Susi Pudjiastuti, said, "If you do not believe me, Mrs. Sri Mulyani (Minister of Finance) said it (the loss) was up to USD 20 million. (But according to me) I said IDR 3000 trillion (USD 220 million)" (Suryowati, 2015).

In this study, IUU fishing stands for illegal, unregulated, and unreported fishing conducted by fishing ships within high seas, Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ), continental shelf boundary, and territorial sea. The activity of IUU fishing is categorized as a crime since it breaks the law of the coastal state, international law, or bilateral/multilateral agreement (Greenpeace, 2010). The steps taken by the Minister of Maritime and Fishing Affairs, who were mandated to eradicate the problem of IUU fishing, have been to sink IUU fishing ships. For the record, the first sunk ships were three Vietnamese fishing ships executed on 5 December 2014 after they were captured a month before by KRI Imam Bonjol – 383 around Anambas Islands, Riau Islands Province (Rohingati, 2014). Up to April 2017, there were 317 ships² sunk around Indonesia in a few ways such as blown off and perforated (Kuwado, 2017).

As a result, Vietnamese Ministry of Foreign Affairs had an intensive discussion with the Indonesian government on sunk ships flagging Vietnamese flag as Vietnamese Ministry of Foreign Affairs' spokesman demanded Indonesia to treat IUU fishing perpetrators in accordance with international law and human rights principles (Kompas, 2014). On a different occasion, Malaysian Ministry of Foreign Affairs urged Indonesia to encounter such a crime in a good manner with respect to fishermen well-being (Muhaimin, 2015). Identically, Thailand through *Bangkok Post* accused Indonesia's approach unlawful and threatening the security of Southeast Asia (Maulana, 2015). In a nutshell, Indonesia was gaining several objections and warnings to not treat IUU perpetrators harshly. Major objections from countries like Malaysia, Vietnam, Thailand, and the Philippines are considered reasonable since they are listed in the biggest 15 producing countries of fisheries products in the world (FAO, 2016). Thus, in this research, those four countries will receive the biggest part of the discussion regardless of other Southeast Asian countries.

Instead of those objections, Minister Susi still has been applying assertive policy constantly against IUU fishing perpetrators as the annual trend of sunk ships by Indonesian government increases since 2014 with 8 units, 113 units in 2015, 115 units in 2016, and 81 units until the medieval of 2017 (Afriyadi, 2017). In brief, Minister Susi insists that this kind of policy will not last if IUU fishing still reigns around Indonesian waters (Detik Finance, 2014). Since the beginning of sinking illegal fishing ships policy by the Indonesian government in 2014, countries around the region especially Malaysia, Vietnam, Thailand, and the Philippines were pushing Indonesia not to deal with the threat of IUU fishing in a rough manner. Approaches that are in line with typical Southeast Asia cultures and international laws are more preferred by the countries affected by Indonesia's policy. In contrast, the intensity of protests and drawbacks shown by Southeast Asian countries on the firm of Indonesia's approach against IUU fishing threats currently get lower. Nevertheless, Indonesia seems not to stop the policy soon provided IUU fishing cases still exist in Indonesian waters.

² 142 Vietnamese ships, 76 Philippines ships, 49 Malaysian ships, 21 Thai ships, 21 Indonesian ships, 2 Papua New Guinean ships, 1 Chinese ship, and 1 Belizean ship

Therefore, this study attempts to discover why Malaysia, Thailand, Vietnam, and the Philippines are unable to stop Indonesia sinking foreign IUU fishing ships.

COUNTRY OR TERRITORY	AVERAGE 2003–2012	2013	2014	AVERAGE (2003–2012) – 2014	2013– 2014	2013–2014
		(Tonnes)		(Percentage)		(Tonnes)
China	12 759 922	13 967 764	14 811 390	16.1	6.0	843 626
Indonesia	4 745 727	5 624 594	6 016 525	26.8	7.0	391 931
United States of America	4 734 500	5 115 493	4 954 467	4.6	-3.1	-161 026
Russian Federation	3 376 162	4 086 332	4 000 702	18.5	-2.1	-85 630
Japan	4 146 622	3 621 899	3 630 364	-12.5	0.2	8 465
Peru	7 063 261	5 827 046	3 548 689	-49.8	-39.1	-2 278 357
	918 049 ¹	956 416 ¹	1 226 560 ¹	33.6	28.2	270 144
India	3 085 311	3 418 821	3 418 821 ²	10.8	0.0	0
Viet Nam	1 994 927	2 607 000	2 711 100	35.9	4.0	104 100
Myanmar	1 643 642	2 483 870	2 702 240	64.4	8.8	218 370
Norway	2 417 348	2 079 004	2 301 288	-4.8	10.7	222 284
Chile	3 617 190	1 770 945	2 175 486	-39.9	22.8	404 541
	2 462 885 ¹	967 541 ¹	1 357 586 ¹	-44.9	40.3	390 045
Philippines	2 224 720	2 130 747	2 137 350	-3.9	0.3	6 603
Republic of Korea	1 736 680	1 586 059	1 718 626	-1.0	8.4	132 567
Thailand	2 048 753	1 614 536	1 559 746	-23.9	-3.4	-54 790
Malaysia	1 354 965	1 482 899	1 458 126	7.6	-1.7	-24 773

Table 1 Major Producers of Fisheries Products in 2016 from FAO

Methods

To guide this study in explaining the issue of Southeast Asian countries in dealing with assertive Indonesia's policy against IUU fishing, neoclassical realism is used because of its emphasis on the systemic pressure of international politics, domestic politics, and state power that become key factors in the foreign policy-making process. This theory seems relevant to the situation around Southeast Asia in which countries are directed by their domestic political pressure, not by exchanging power and influence like what the big countries do. Fluctuated economic growth in the region has contributed to the struggle of economic betterment taking place in form of political movement. This maneuver comes all together with social appeals urging government's role in protecting its people and their rights at the same time. Practically, the governments do their best to ensure those demands collaborated with their maximum capability and resources. In brief, neoclassical realism accommodates the explanation of current Southeast Asian affairs taking place in grassroots as well as regional level in a very factual way.

Description and Operationalization

Neoclassical realism is one of the realism kinds that emerged in 1998 through the work of Gideon Rose entitled "*Neoclassical Realism and Theories of Foreign Policy*". In his article, that was established

in *World Politics Vol.51 No. 1*, Rose argued that the complex nowadays the world is best explained by a new form of realism introducing the importance of domestic politics (*innenpolitik*) that had been neglected considerably by Kenneth Waltz. In fact, the countries around the world nowadays are depending so much on their local political constellation before deciding a certain foreign policy (Rose, 1998).

The international system refers to “the set of interactions among states operate from a positivist behavioral methodology”. In other definition, it means “mental images that may help to describe international phenomena” (Viotti & Kauppi, 2012). Due to the invisible interconnectedness in the international system, changes in the system tend to take place in a repetitive pattern whose significant impact to the states within the system. On the other hand, states’ behavior is led by human nature of every leader or by ‘invisible hand’ caused by the anarchic international system. The tendency for power by whether defensive or offensive realist approaches will always be accumulated in every decision made in any situation for the sake of some interests (Williams & Elman, 2008). Moreover, *innenpolitik* becomes an important factor for foreign policy decision makers in formulating the proper policies for their nation. On the contrary, Kenneth Waltz’s simplification in international relations theory excluded domestic politics in his neo/structuralist realism in which systemic pressure won a bigger portion of discussion (Waltz, 1979). In Rose’s point of view, *innenpolitik* means a domestic political situation in which the government constructs the foreign policy for that state in that particular time. It involves factors like political ideology, economics, national character, partisan politics, or socioeconomic factor structure determines state’s behavior towards international realm (Rose, 1998). To combine the importance of systemic pressure and *innenpolitik*, Rose argued that international system comes first as an independent variable to further shape domestic politics. Afterward, *innenpolitik* will complete the consideration of foreign policy as an intervening variable. Thus, in this sequence, foreign policy itself becomes the dependent variable of the whole process, or the final result of the combination of systemic pressure and *innenpolitik* (Rose, 1998).

In *Neoclassical Realism and Theories of Foreign Policy*, Rose quoted Fareed Zakaria who highlighted the factor of state power as the framer of foreign policies. In other words, Zakaria differentiates between state power and national power while the latter refers to a whole power possessed by a state which is limited to maximum use capacity that can be extracted by the government. Meanwhile, state power refers to “that portion of national power the government can extract for its purposes and reflects the ease with which central decision makers can achieve their ends”. In another term, Rose cited Thomas J. Christensen’s *Useful Adversaries* to adopt his national political power³ to describe the concept of state power (Rose, 1998).

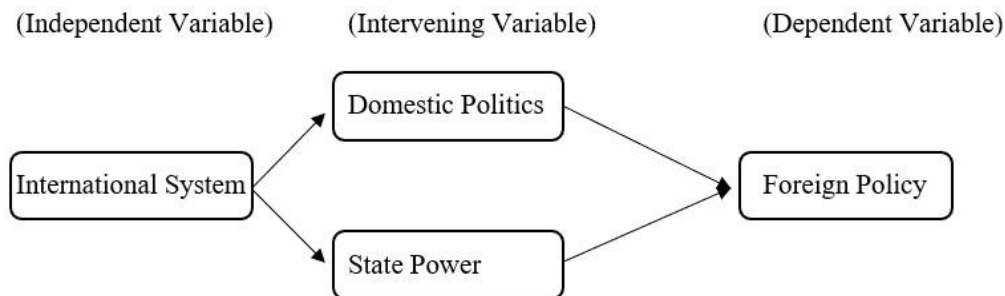


Figure 1 Neoclassical Realism Operationalization

³ In his *Useful Adversaries*, Christensen defined national political power as the ability of state leaders to mobilize their nation’s human and material resources behind security policy initiatives

Model of Analysis

In this study, the systemic pressure will come from regional coverage in which one state, in this case, Indonesia, would give impact to another through its policy. As a matter of fact, what Indonesia has been wishing by sinking illegal fishing ships is not to expand its influence but to protect its national resources from fishing industry instead. On the other hand, assorted kinds of perpetrators involved in the activities of illegal fishing and other crimes in the ocean take place in almost all parts of the oceans in the region. In Indonesia itself, Indonesian fishing ships were also accused to break the law and then treated equally in comparison with other ships from different countries. Meanwhile, countries along the region somehow have been affected by Indonesia's policy since the ships flagged their flags have been sunk. The aggressive behavior of Indonesia is caused by the tense demand of its people to bring the glorious ocean victor back. This purpose is considered as an alternative to bolster Indonesians' welfare. The same goes to the countries in the region in which people are demanding for a better national resources management since they are not notably well established economically. Nevertheless, the Indonesian government seems to win the public support to deal with the offenders the way it has been. In a nutshell, even though there have been objections from other parties over the policy, Indonesia under Joko Widodo administration has been continuously maintaining sinking illegal fishing ships in its waters since the domestic environment is in a favor of sort of strategy.

There are numerous ways to protect Indonesia's oceans and their resources. For instance, Indonesia could set up a satellite to monitor its oceans from offenders conducting illegal activities such as illegal fishing, human trafficking, illegal logging, and drugs trafficking. However, that way is not possibly done now due to limited maritime security capability owned by the Indonesian government. In the same time, Indonesia's counterparts in the region of Southeast Asia have not developed such a sophisticated technology to deal with the same problem that might occur in their territory. Thus, sinking ships carried out by Indonesian government nowadays is the most possible and effective means to overcome the problem of illegal fishing in Indonesia, or even in the region.

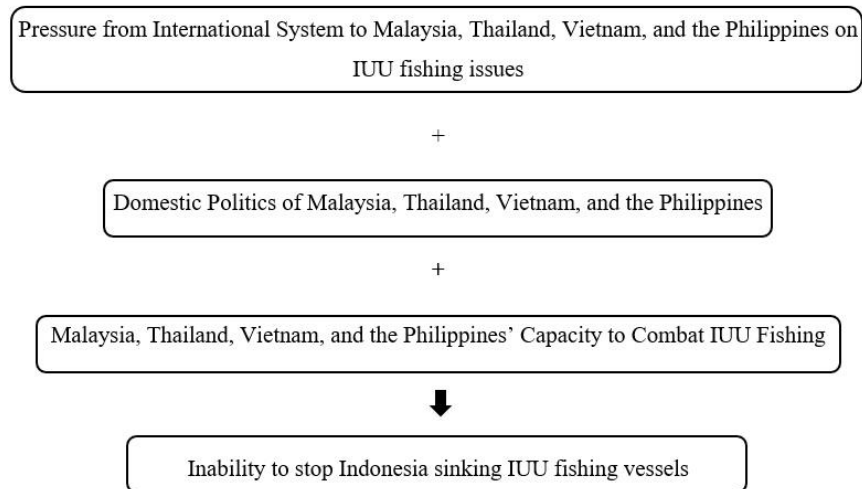
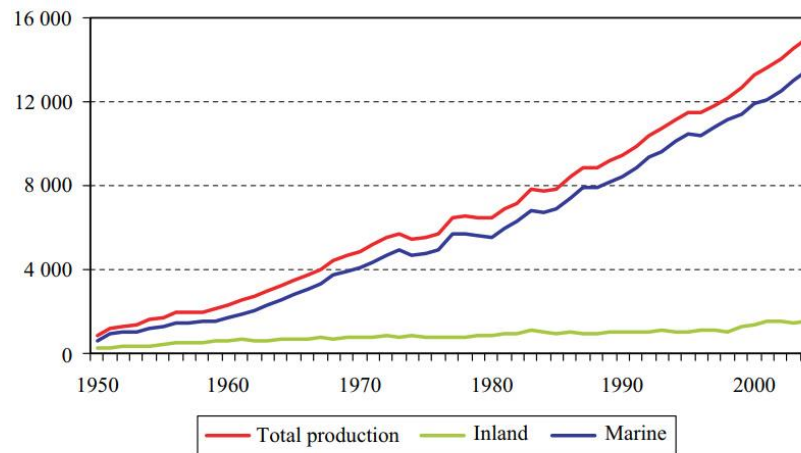


Figure 2 Neoclassical Realism Model of Analysis

Systemic Pressure to Southeast Asia

In this study, Southeast Asia refers to a region located between Indian and Pacific Ocean that includes around a dozen of countries named Indonesia, Malaysia, Brunei, Thailand, The Philippines, Cambodia, Vietnam, Laos, Myanmar, and Singapore. The width of the region is around 4.493.944 km² with 641.775.797 inhabitants in 2016. The GDP per capita in 2016 is USD 4,018 since the countries around the region are considered in developing phase except for industrialized Singapore (with a gross national income of USD 52,090 per capita as of 2015).

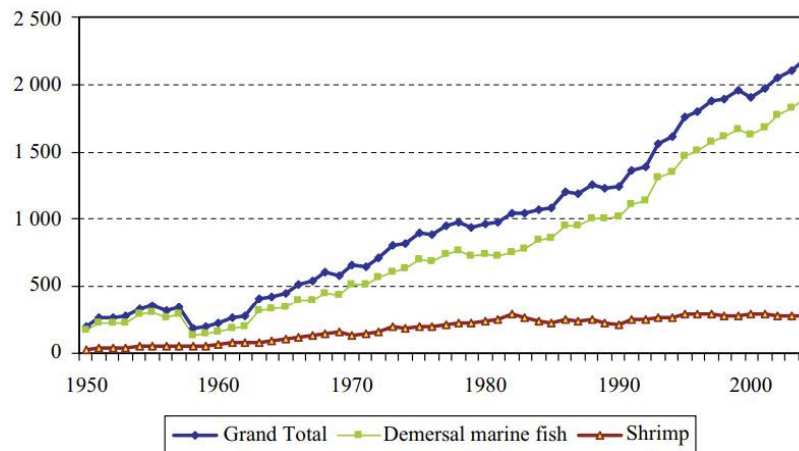
Commonly, people's incomes come from agriculture, marine, natural resources, and industry. Collaboratively, ten major countries contributed one-fifth of global marine fish production. Six of them are in the world's top 15 fish producers. The area supports over 100 million jobs including 10 million fishermen. In 2015, ten ASEAN countries' exports were worth USD 11 billion (Martin, 2016). In marine sector, the trend of production of fisheries products in Southeast Asia indicates significant escalation compared to inland crops. In fact, more than 90% of total production in Southeast Asia in 2004 was contributed by marine industry. That season marked the primacy of oceanic products in the region over the inland products from which states in the region fund their development and welfare since 1950. For the clear picture, Figure 3 illustrates the domination of fisheries commodity in Southeast Asia industry from 1950 to 2004.



* Excluding aquatic plants Unit: 1 000 tonnes

Figure 3 The Increase in Production from Marine Areas of Southeast Asia from 1950-2004 (Morgan & Staples, 2006)

Furthermore, the development of the fishery industry that contributed to the flourished marine production in Southeast Asia was bolstered by more effective means of production and fish catching. It can be seen through Figure 4 that shows the growing number of demersal marine fish Southeast Asian countries from 1950 to 2002. Due to challenging waves in the ocean and requisite of high technology, landing demersal fish would be a tough job for fishermen in developing nations. Nevertheless, the effort has been made to jack up the production of demersal fish while that of shrimp plateaued throughout the years.



Unit: 1 000 tonnes

Figure 4 Landings of Demersal Marine Fish and Shrimp Species in Southeast Asian Countries from 1950-2002(Morgan & Staples, 2006)

Apparently, even though the effort to improve utilization of marine resources can be observed, irresponsible activities such as IUU fishing have been creating disadvantages to the countries in the region. According to the European Union (EU), the problem of illegal fishing in the region of Southeast Asia has been disturbing them for a very long time without any clear settlement. It is confirmed by a study conducted by the European Union in 2016 which states;

“In 2015, ASEAN fish exports were worth USD 11 billion. ... For obvious reason, IUU fishing is hard to quantify and estimates vary widely. According to one 2009 study, the western central Pacific and eastern Indian Oceans, including south-east Asia, are among the worst affected regions in the world, with IUU catches representing over one-third of reported catches and little sign of improvement over the past 20 years” (Martin, 2016)

To suppress Southeast Asian countries are combating IUU fishing problem in a more serious manner, the EU shown ‘yellow card’ to Thai and Vietnamese fisheries products out of IUU fishing activities. For instance, Vietnamese government was warned by the EU to fix its fishery industry from any IUU fishing practice within a reasonable timeframe. A European Commissioner, Karmenu Vella, said, “We cannot ignore the impact that illegal activities conducted by Vietnamese vessels are having on marine ecosystems in the Pacific. We invite Vietnamese authorities to step up their fight, so we can reserve this decision quickly” (France 24, 2017). Big producers of fisheries product in Southeast Asia such as Malaysia, Thailand, Vietnam, the Philippines, and Indonesia must take very carefully the assessment made by the EU countries. This is because they are the biggest importer of fisheries products as depicted in Figure 5 (Statista, 2017). In other words, if fisheries industrial countries in Southeast Asia want to maintain its good business relations with its colleges in Europe, any regulations set by the Union should be obeyed accordingly.

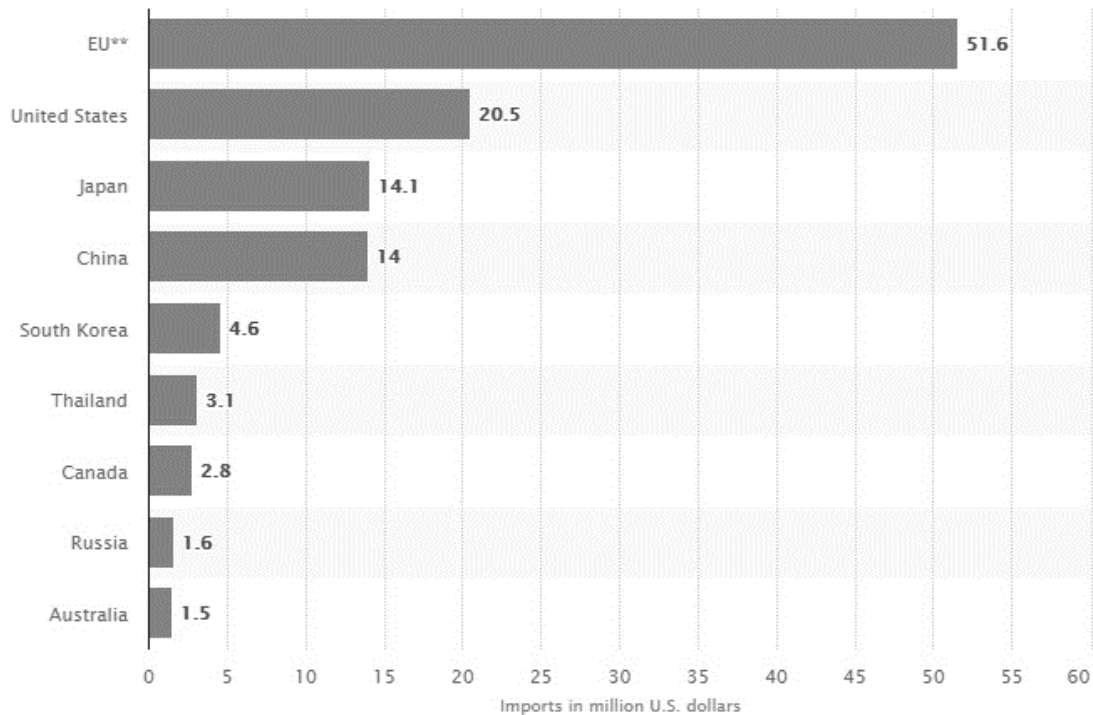


Figure 5 Major Importers of Fisheries Product in The World (2016)

President Joko Widodo has been campaigning anti-IUU fishing movement in a conspicuous style with promoting an assertive style to the neighboring countries. IUU fishing vessels were sunk right after court decision had been made with a catchy way of blasting and reporting all over the country. As a result, several countries show their interest in Indonesia's way of eradicating IUU fishing practices. For example, Norway and Thailand were reported following Indonesia's step to be more serious in eradicating IUU fishing problem (Ardiyanti & Nareswari, 2017). Recently, Malaysia burned illegal fishing ships around eight nautical miles off the coast of Tok Bali, Kelantan. Even though there were no specific details about the ships, Taha Ibrahim, MMEA (Malaysian Maritime Enforcement Agency) Deputy Director General for Operations, said that it was meant to turn them into artificial reefs and to send a clear message that Malaysia is very serious in combating the issue of IUU fishing (Parameswaran, 2017). On the other hand, the Philippines and the United States committed to enhancing the sustainability of Asia-Pacific fisheries in the framework of a bilateral partnership signed on 2nd September 2016 (US Embassy Manila, 2016).

All in all, systemic pressure as a reflection of Indonesia's policy on IUU fishing has been moving towards Indonesia's favor. The countries that were disturbed initially by Indonesia's action seem following the trend to step up against the threat of IUU fishing in so many ways.

Innenpolitik

In the current political practice, while democracy is so much popular, people's voice becomes the key factor for government in public policymaking. In Southeast Asia itself, democracy gradually dominates regional political system although several countries were notably led by authoritarian leaders. As a result, the emancipation of people in every state in the region generates the direction as well as the priority of national policy.

One of the most important concerns around Southeast Asian countries is jacking up their national wealth through available natural resources scattered in their surroundings. Besides providing foods for the society, maritime resources are subjected to be a significant export commodity to the region outside Southeast Asia. However, the fortune of having resourceful oceans has had countries in Southeast Asia facing a common threat of IUU fishing. In fact, the practice of illegal fishing has cost the countries millions of dollars. In some extent, the wave of change is raised by people in the grassroots gathered in several forms of interest groups pushing the government to bolster their fortune with any other means of policy. In the Philippines, FAO estimated over 50 million Filipinos are dependent on fish for food (Simeon, 2017). Furthermore, 1.770.111 million Filipino are fisher folk of which 39,2% are below the poverty threshold. Unfortunately, their fate seems will not get any better soon since municipal capture fisheries in the Philippines declined from 1,37 million metric tons in 2010 to 1,21 million metric tons in 2015. The causes of the declining number were allegedly due to overfishing, IUU fishing, climate change, and fishery disasters (Simeon, 2017). Vice President of Oceana Philippines, Gloria Ramos, said, “Irresponsible fishing has reduced many wild fish populations to historically low levels right at the moment when the world needs its oceans more than ever”. Thus, the Pangingsda Natin Gawing Tama (PaNaGaT) network, an interest group in the Philippines, urged President Duterte to address persistent poverty in Philippines fishing community (Green Peace Philippines, 2017) beside their demand to reform law enforcement in the country (Simeon, 2017).

On the other hand, Malaysia suffered a loss in fishery sector which is worth RM 1,1 billion in 2015 said Minister of Agriculture and Agro-based Industry Datuk Seri Ahmad Shabery Cheek (Bernama, 2016). The perpetrators were commonly from Vietnam and Thailand making Kemaman (Terengganu), Kuala Sedili as well as Mersing (both are in Johor) their hot spots for fishing (Majid, 2017). These shortcomings have led Malay fishermen community into a hard life in which their basic needs such as health, education, income, sanitation, clean water, electricity, and insurance are below poverty line (Solaymani & Kari, 2014). On the ground of the hardships, fishermen in Kuantan demanded Malay government to follow its fellow country of Indonesia to take an affirmative action against IUU fishing. Tuan Sulong Tuan Jusoh, Kuantan Fishermen Association Chairman, said, “Indonesia’s move has left many (illegal fishermen) in fear and boat owners do not abuse their license” (Alagesh, 2017). All in all, Malay fishermen want the government to solve the problem of illegal fishing around Malay waters to ease their activities of fishing, so their life would be much better.

In the case of IUU fishing, Malaysia and Indonesia are considered country victims whose maritime boundary offended by illegal fishing culprits from several countries such as Thailand and Vietnam. According to Minister Susi Pudjiastuti, fisheries treasurer in Malaysia and Indonesia are much richer compared to other waters in the region. She said, “Because compared to countries in Southeast Asia, it is only us (Indonesia and Malaysia) that has rich fisheries resources. Thailand has no fishes while the Philippines only have few. So, we are being the favorite looting spot” (Detik Finance, 2015). The different story takes place in Thailand while IUU fishing troubled Thai fishermen in exporting their catches to the foreign countries especially members of the EU when the EU gave them a yellow card. In 2015, the EU had given Thai a warning over their marine products which are indicated as outcomes of illegal activities. Up to 2017, the EU seems unlikely to lift the ban by which Thai is suffering from an inability to export their fisheries product to Europe (Wipatayotin, 2017). Hence, the Thai government should take this into account to relieve the pain of Thai fisheries industry that is already agonized by several hitches like slavery on fishing vessels, human trafficking, and corruption (Hodal, 2016).

In a nutshell, Indonesians are not the only ones who want their government to combat the problem of IUU fishing that disturbs their oceans’ well-being. Since the prosperity of those who engage with fisheries is still low, the governments of Malaysia, Thailand, Vietnam, and the Philippines are demanded to protect their people with every means they own. The nature of marine resources that is not

exclusively possessed by certain states has led the world today to wide movement of eradicating any form of IUU fishing. In fact, the movement is not initiated merely by the government but also by the people whose interests are disturbed by the crime. Hence, *innenpolitik* that frames public interests has become an important factor leading people in the region to push their government to realize an objective, battling IUU fishing until its end so the people can benefit more.

State Power

Generally, countries around Southeast Asia need advanced equipment to eradicate IUU fishing from their waters. The wide and challenging oceans have put them in a situation in which perpetrators are a step ahead of them. In other words, the governments are facing three problems now, slick law offenders, wild nature in the oceans, and lack of technological equipment. Therefore, once a certain policy by a government is assessed as a successful one, other governments would keep pace with that policy, so the similar outcomes would follow in return. The same goes with the case of Indonesia's sinking illegal fishing ships from which countries in the region have a picture of relevant steps towards secured oceans since it seems a fruitful policy.

Despite limited resources to secure its waters, the Indonesian government has been trying to enlarge deterrence effect to IUU fishing perpetrators from all countries regularly subscribing to illegal fishing in Indonesia. Lieutenant Colonel Ardian from Indonesian Navy Head Quarter and Head of Marine and Fisheries Resources Supervisor in Jakarta Quarter⁴ Pung Nugroho Saksono said in a personal interview with the researcher that Indonesia is still lack of marine security resources. The fact that Indonesia now has Satgas⁵ 115 cannot be a perfection of Indonesian maritime security forces (Ardiyanti & Nareswari, 2017). The width of Indonesian waters cannot be a hundred percent covered by the Indonesian government in the near future. Consequently, the proper strategy should be imposed to maximize Indonesian ocean security capacity towards the vastness of Indonesian oceans. Therefore, sinking illegal fishing vessels is applied to drive away the culprits whilst the development of security forces is still underway.

The limited assets of maritime security are also grieved by the Malaysian government. Datuk Ismail Abu Hassan, the Director General of Department of Fisheries, said, "My department desperately needs new ships in order to protect our waters from these illegal foreign fishermen. In our current situation, we have to risk our lives in catching any illegal fishermen because our old ships can only travel up to 12 nautical miles per hour" (Abd Majid, 2017). In another opportunity, Director of Sabah's Fisheries Department Datuk Rayner Stuel Galid stated that in Malaysia, law enforcement patrols in the sea are expensive (Daily Express, 2015). Those two statements from Malay authority indicate that Malay government is still struggling to build a necessary fleet to ensure Malay waters security. Thailand, on the other hand, has inadequate naval components as well. However, currently, it has been developing its navy as well as coast guard to demonstrate government's commitment to tightening marine sanctuary. Practically, it had faced uncertainty in its new vessels shipment from Marcum Company Limited as a local shipyard for Royal Thai Navy over M21-Class patrol boats (Parameswaran, 2015). Besides having a business with a local company in developing its capacity, Thailand also acquired three Chinese submarines of S26T diesel-electric submarine for USD 1 billion paid in a ten-year period starting with fiscal 2017 (Naval Today, 2016). After all hard efforts demonstrated by the Thai government, Thai

⁴ Pengawas Sumber Daya Kelautan dan Perikanan (PSDKP) Jakarta

⁵ Satuan Tugas (a special task force created by President Joko Widodo to eradicate IUU fishing problem in Indonesia in accordance with Presidential Regulation Number 115 Year 2015. This force is contained of Indonesian Navy, Coast Guard, Police, Attorney, and Ministry of Fisheries and Maritime Affairs)

military, especially naval, the hardware is still way behind Singapore, Indonesia, Malaysia and even Vietnam in submarine capacity (Global Security, Royal Thai Navy, 2015).

Substantial law enforcement development also takes place in Vietnam. With the rise of South China Sea crisis and the threat of IUU Fishing, Vietnam increases its naval cooperation with Japan (Collin, 2015) and the United States on the basis of sovereignty protection from any offensive behavior of China (Parameswaran, 2015). Naturally, its capacity to secure its waters from illegal activities is also amplified as well. Nevertheless, Vietnamese patrols in the sea cannot maintain a regular presence in all waters, especially at international sea. In addition, the available equipment possessed by Vietnamese government cannot operate in bad weather even at wind level of 9 or 10 and stay long at sea (Global Security, 2015). Those marine capacity weaknesses by Southeast Asia countries push them into an approach in which their current limited ability could echo as huge as possible positive outcomes. Commonly, IUU fishing offenders are punished by the different range of fines and jails. Nonetheless, these regular punishments have failed to combat illegal fishing in Southeast Asia. Besides Indonesia, Malaysia currently applies vessels sinking done publicly to show its seriousness in eradicating IUU fishing in its waters. In contrast with Indonesia, Malay authority feels that sinking IUU fishing vessels is fruitless provided several illegal fishing culprits are still operating around Malay waters (Parameswaran, 2017). Obviously, Malaysia just did not find effective means to solve the problem of IUU fishing but sinking the ships used by IUU offenders instead.

In sum, sinking illegal fishing ships in public with an assertive mechanism, such as setting into the fire and detonating, is an effective means to create deterrence effect to the offenders. As a testimony, Minister Susi Pudjiastuti said that over 10.000 illegal fishing ships are running away from Indonesian waters since the first time this policy applied (Pudjiastuti, 2015). In fact, this machinery is considered much cheaper compared to others. Moreover, this initiation is still doable despite limited capacity of security assets owned by Malaysia, Thailand, Vietnam, and the Philippines.

Conclusion

In the case of IUU fishing in Southeast Asia, Malaysia and Indonesia are being the victims of sort of case. The culprits of illegal fishing are regularly from Thailand and Vietnam. On the other hand, European countries to which fisheries products from Vietnam, Malaysia, Indonesia, Thailand, and the Philippines are exported set a strict regulation on marine commodities. Hence, Thailand and Vietnam take the issue of IUU fishing very seriously to ensure their fisheries exports are not disturbed in any way. Indonesia and Malaysia, in the same time, whose waters are offended by foreign IUU fishing doers are in a prudent consideration to combat this kind of criminal to warrant their local fishermen in a comfortable situation and well-being welfare. In a nutshell, major producing countries of fisheries product in Southeast Asia have no other choice than accepting Indonesia's sinking illegal fishing vessels for sustainable maritime resources in the region.

To conclude, according to neoclassical realism, there are three key factors that can give answers to why Indonesia does not find significant obstacles to continuously carry out sinking foreign IUU fishing ships from its counterparts in Southeast Asia region. The factors are framed in systemic pressure, *innenpolitik*, and state power. The systemic pressure around global as well as the regional scale has been in favor of Indonesia over its approach to IUU fishing threat. In addition, people living in the region have been sick of loss of billions of their income due to IUU fishing. Hence, people around the region voice out their concern over the issue to the government so the problem of illegal fishing is handled in a proper way. Lastly, sinking illegal fishing ships is considered so much doable amid limited national capability of Southeast Asia countries, so they implicitly admit it that Indonesia has a proper treatment of IUU fishing problem.

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