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18th Talking ASEAN

Regional Impact of Indonesia's New Policy Towards Illegal Fishing
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**Regional Impact of Indonesia's New Policy
towards Illegal Fishing by Edy Prasetyono, Ph.D.**

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Why illegal fishing?

- Increasing demand for fish and fishery products leading to the excessive exploitation of aquatic resources
- The reduction in food supply, lost livelihoods and state revenues, diminishing fish stocks, and damaging ecosystems
- Food security, economic/industry, environmental interests
- Security implications: weapon smuggling, human trafficking, etc.
- From conventional crime into transnational organized crime

Jokowi's policy: contexts

- Assertive position to protect maritime national assets vital for national economy
- An emergency case
- A shock therapy
- A deterrence to foreign fishing ships committed to IUU
- Maritime power: policy, legal, institutional constructions, and law enforcement --- > Navy, industry, trade, and fishery

ASEAN neighbors' reaction

- ASEAN spirit and considering ASEAN community project
- Common concern of all ASEAN countries, not Indonesia alone
- The last resort
- Must be dealt on the basis of humanity and friendship

Firing and sinking illegal fishing boat: two scenarios

- In the sea
- Legal punishment (not by the Navy)

The impacts

- Tension in bilateral relationships
- Trust deficit
- Retaliation
- Prospect for ASEAN Maritime Forum: Fishery regime in ASEAN
- Perception of Indonesia as big power

What needs to be done

- National/domestic measures: legal and institutional arrangements, registration and licensing, country capacity building for fishing surveillance, ad hoc fisheries courts, community-based fisheries surveillance system, awareness on fisheries regulations, etc...
- Bilateral/multilateral measures: monitoring IUU fishing activities, efforts to combat illegal fishing in the common or shared or transboundary waters, etc.
- Regional initiatives: ASEAN Wildlife Enforcement Network (ASEAN WEN), Coral Triangle Initiative on Coral Reefs, Fisheries, and Food Security (CTICFF), Mekong River Commission (MRC), Regional Fisheries Management Organizations (RFMOs), etc...
- Good communication to explain RI's policy on law enforcement in the fishery sector