



ERADICATION OF ILLEGAL FISHING IN INDONESIAN WATERS FROM THE PERSPECTIVE OF INTERNATIONAL LAW

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Abstract:

Illegal fishing, or unlawful and unregulated fishing activities, has become a major issue faced by Indonesia as a maritime nation due to its geographical location between the Indian and Pacific Oceans. This activity has negative impacts on the economy, the sustainability of fishery resources, and Indonesia's marine environment. Numerous arrests of unauthorized foreign vessels that deliberately intrude into Indonesian waters to exploit marine resources highlight the severity of the problem. As Indonesia holds a highly strategic position, it is increasingly vulnerable to various forms of illegal fishing crimes. This study employs a normative juridical method with a legislative and documentary approach. The data sources include primary data in the form of international legal provisions related to illegal fishing, as well as secondary data obtained from the Ministry of Maritime Affairs and Fisheries. The findings indicate that the eradication of illegal fishing in Indonesian waters, from the perspective of international law, is strictly regulated, particularly under the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), which governs state rights within the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) and territorial waters. Indonesia actively participates in various treaties and conventions to combat illegal fishing and collaborates with other nations in these efforts. Indonesia has encountered fluctuating challenges in its efforts to combat illegal fishing. The relevant authorities enforce strict measures by cooperating with law enforcement agencies and local communities, while the government continuously monitors its waters both independently and in collaboration with other countries. Additionally, the presence of numerous unauthorized activities in Indonesian waters necessitates the involvement of all stakeholders to safeguard the country's marine and fishery resources from various maritime crimes, particularly illegal fishing.

Keywords: *Eradication of Illegal Fishing; Indonesian Waters; International Law*

Abstrak:

Illegal fishing atau istilah lainnya penangkapan ikan dengan illegal atau liar menjadi sebuah masalah besar yang dihadapi Indonesia sebagai negara maritim hal ini dikarenakan Indonesia terletak diantara Samudra Hindia dan Pasifik. Aktivitas ini menimbulkan dampak negatif bagi ekonomi, kelestarian sumber daya perikanan, dan lingkungan laut Indonesia. Dengan banyaknya penangkapan terhadap kapal asing tidak resmi yang dengan sengaja menyerbu perairan Indonesia untuk menangkap ikan dan sumber daya laut lainnya. Dikarenakan Indonesia menjadi negara yang paling strategis dan kemungkinan besar lokasi strategis tersebut rentan terhadap berbagai kejahatan illegal fishing. Penelitian ini menggunakan metode yuridis normatif dengan pendekatan peraturan perundang-undangan dan dokumen-dokumen yang relevan. Sumber data meliputi data primer berupa peraturan dalam Hukum Internasional terkait illegal fishing, serta data sekunder dari Kementerian Kelautan dan Perikanan. Hasil penelitian ini yaitu pemberantasan illegal fishing pada sudut pandang hukum internasional di wilayah perairan Indonesia diatur dengan ketat terutama yaitu adanya peraturan UNCLOS

1982 membahas hak negara di Zona Ekonomi Eksklusif (ZEE) serta perairan teritorialnya dan Indonesia menjadi negara yang aktif berpartisipasi dalam berbagai perjanjian dan konvensi untuk memerangi illegal serta bekerja sama dengan negara lain. Untuk tantangan serta hambatan Indonesia dalam pemberantasan illegal fishing telah mengalami naik turun dalam kinerja, pihak terkait juga melakukan secara ketat dengan bekerja sama dengan penegak hukum serta masyarakat, terutama pihak pemerintah melakukan pengawasan mandiri dan dengan negara lain. Selain itu tantangan yang dihadapi yaitu banyaknya aktivitas tidak resmi di wilayah perairan maka perlu mengajak keterlibatan semua pihak untuk pertahankan kekuatan sumber daya kelautan Indonesia serta perikanan Indonesia dari berbagai kejahatan salah satunya Illegal fishing.

Kata Kunci: *Pemberantasan Illegal Fishing; Perairan Indonesia; Hukum Internasional*

A. Introduction

Indonesia, as the world's largest archipelagic state, has a maritime territory that exceeds its land area. The Indonesian seas serve as both a livelihood and a vital source of sustenance for the Indonesian people. These fishery resources are highly sought after by humans. With the advancement of technology and access to information, methods of exploiting marine resources have become increasingly sophisticated and irresponsible. Destructive fishing practices, such as the use of prohibited equipment, have caused severe damage to Indonesia's marine ecosystem (Maasah, 2023). This activity is commonly referred to as illegal fishing or unlawful fishing practices (Kuemlangan et al., 2023).

Indonesia frequently faces threats from illegal fishing activities carried out by foreign vessels. According to data from the Ministry of Maritime Affairs and Fisheries (KKP), in 2024 alone, the government successfully seized 240 fishing vessels involved in illegal fishing activities within the Fisheries Management Areas of the Republic of Indonesia (WPPNRI) (Takariantia et al., 2025). Additionally, the KKP continues to detect illegal fishing vessels in the Arafura Sea, often violating regulations on fishing gear. One particular vessel gained widespread attention on social media due to conflicts with local fishers. The vessel in question was licensed to use "Jaring Hela Udang Berkantong" (JHUB) or shrimp trawl nets, but it had been modified by reducing the mesh size of the net's cod end to 1.5 inches instead of the required size of more than 2 inches (Siahaya et al., 2021).

Illegal fishing not only disrupts the national economy but also threatens the sustainability of marine ecosystems and Indonesia's natural aquatic resources. Unregulated fishing has become a critical issue requiring significant attention from both the Indonesian government and the international community. This practice results in substantial economic losses for the fisheries sector and causes extensive environmental damage (Banafanu et al., 2023).

The enforcement of laws against illegal fishing in Indonesia continues to face several challenges (Roisah et al., 2023). Limited surveillance across the country's vast maritime territory, technological constraints, and the presence of corruption in certain law enforcement sectors serve as significant obstacles to effectively combating illegal fishing (Razak et al., 2024).

Based on this background, this study is titled "Eradication of Illegal Fishing in Indonesian Waters from the Perspective of International Law" and seeks to address the following research questions: How is illegal fishing eradicated in Indonesian waters from the perspective of international law? What are the obstacles and challenges faced by Indonesia in combating illegal fishing?

B. Research Method

The author of this study employs a normative juridical approach, which relies on literature-based research as the foundation of the study. This research focuses on the examination of written legal regulations, both at the national and international levels (Tan, 2021). The study adopts a descriptive research type, which involves an approach to phenomena, behaviors, events, or issues occurring in the present. Data collection is conducted using secondary legal sources, referring to materials that explain or analyze legal norms (Sumarna & Kadriah, 2023). The collected data is then processed systematically, focusing on legal materials related to illegal fishing. The data analysis in this study employs a qualitative approach, producing findings in the form of descriptive analysis, which is presented in a narrative format.

C. Discussion

1. Eradication of Illegal Fishing in Indonesian Waters from the Perspective of International Law

According to the 1982 UNCLOS regulations, Indonesian marine waters are divided into three types: territorial sea zones, continental shelves, and Exclusive Economic Zones (EEZ). The EEZ is measured from the baseline up to 200 nautical miles towards the open sea (Wiraputra et al., 2022). In the law of the sea convention, a state can claim its territorial sea up to 12 nautical miles as part of its sovereign territory (Lampo, 2022). Another regulation that serves as the basis for managing fishing activities in the Exclusive Economic Zone includes the Minister of Marine Affairs and Fisheries Decree No. Kep.60/Men/2001 on the Arrangement for the Use of Foreign Fishing Vessels and Marine Resources, as well as Law No. 32 of 2014 on Marine Affairs.

The 1982 UNCLOS also discusses the rights of coastal states in the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) and their territorial waters, although it does not explicitly address illegal fishing. These rights include:

- a) The exploration and exploitation of marine resources;
- b) The establishment and enforcement of regulations related to the exploration and exploitation of marine resources;
- c) The construction of artificial islands and other permanent installations;
- d) The conduct of marine scientific research.

Article 2 of the 1982 UNCLOS grants full authority to maritime states to enforce criminal law against vessels that violate laws impacting security and sovereignty within their waters or EEZ. However, Article 7, paragraph 1 of the 1982 UNCLOS states that if the aforementioned elements are not met, the state concerned cannot exercise its authority (Elisabeth et al., 2023).

Given Indonesia's vast marine territory, it is imperative to optimize the utilization and management of its marine resources. The extensive waters of Indonesia contribute significantly to the maritime sector, fostering economic growth through its vast fishery zones. In the context of the ASEAN Economic Community, Indonesia has strong export potential within the ASEAN region. Regarding fish stocks and fishery products, Indonesia's primary business partners in ASEAN include Singapore, Thailand, Malaysia, and Vietnam. These four countries serve as key export markets for Indonesian fishery products, alongside developed countries such as the United States, China, and Japan, as well as newly industrialized countries like Hong Kong, Taiwan, and South Korea (Rasyid, 2025). The ASEAN Economic Community was established

to achieve ASEAN economic integration, ensuring a secure region with dynamic and integrated development, poverty alleviation, and sustainable economic prosperity. Therefore, the ASEAN Economic Community embodies four main characteristics: a highly competitive economic region, an area with equitable economic development, a single market and production base, and a region fully integrated with the global economy (Arief, 2020).

The fishery sector holds immense potential in global trade markets. However, behind this potential, Indonesia faces a serious threat from illegal fishing, specifically Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated (IUU) Fishing. Foreign vessels often exploit weaknesses in Indonesia's maritime surveillance to illegally harvest fishery resources without considering sustainability. The current fishing methods involve the use of equipment that enables mass fishing in a short period, known as "Overfishing," which continues to expand, with some modifications to enhance efficiency.

Illegal fishing occurs when fish are caught in the waters of another country without official permission, violating national laws by foreign individuals or vessels in jurisdictions under the state's control. This also includes fishing activities conducted by vessels flying the flag of a country that is a member of a regional fisheries management organization but violating conservation and management regulations established by that organization or other relevant international laws. Illegal fishing activities also involve violations of national laws or international obligations of a state, including violations committed by member states of regional fisheries management organizations. In Indonesia, several types of illegal fishing are classified as follows:

- a) Fishing without a valid permit.
- b) Fishing using counterfeit permits.
- c) Conducting fishing activities with prohibited equipment.
- d) Catching fish in quantities and types that do not comply with issued permits (Robin, 2023).

From the perspective of international law, Indonesia has been an active participant in various treaties and conventions to combat illegal fishing, such as the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) 1982 and the Agreement on Port State Measures. International cooperation among states aligns with the liberalism theory. Among the ten ASEAN countries, Indonesia and Malaysia are key nations advocating for maritime security due to their strategic positions along major maritime routes, particularly the Strait of Malacca (Sandrak and Burhanuddin, 2023).

One of the most pressing issues for Indonesia is "Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated Fishing" (IUU Fishing). The 1982 UNCLOS mandates all nations to participate in preventing and controlling marine pollution, including taking responsibility for environmental damages caused by violations of the convention. The Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries (KKP) has discontinued the practice of sinking and demolishing vessels involved in IUUF, as it posed environmental risks to marine ecosystems. Instead, based on Article 69, paragraph (4) of Law No. 45 of 2009, which amends Law No. 31 of 2004 on Fisheries, the government no longer implements such actions. Instead, confiscated vessels are secured by the KKP and renovated for use by traditional fishermen.

Additionally, the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries (CCRF) mandates countries to manage fishery resources sustainably and responsibly. Consequently, the KKP employs Monitoring, Control, and Surveillance (MCS) mechanisms, particularly the Vessel Monitoring System (VMS). The VMS ensures that vessels do not engage in

Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated Fishing (IUUF). This system, also known as the Fisheries Vessel Monitoring System (SPKP), provides early warnings and solutions in cases of maritime accidents, loss of contact, or piracy incidents (KKP, 2024).

To address illegal fishing, various international legal instruments have been established by the global community through international organizations and multilateral agreements to eliminate illegal fishing practices. The following are some key international legal instruments regulating illegal fishing (Shafira, 2020):

- 1) “United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea” (UNCLOS) 1982
UNCLOS is the primary international legal instrument governing various aspects of maritime law, including fisheries. Although UNCLOS does not explicitly mention the term "IUU fishing," the convention provides a legal framework for states to regulate their maritime zones, including the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ), where coastal states have exclusive rights to manage natural resources, including fisheries. It emphasizes the importance of international cooperation in managing transboundary fishery resources and highly migratory fish stocks.
- 2) “Food and Agriculture Organization-FAO Compliance Agreement 1993”
This agreement aims to enhance the compliance of fishing vessels with conservation measures for fishery resources in the high seas and serves as an implementation of fishery management concepts outlined in the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries. Under this agreement, two key authorities are granted to participating states: a. The authority to issue licenses for fishing vessels operating in the high seas; b. The authority to exempt fishing vessels less than 24 meters in length from the provisions of this agreement, provided that such exemptions do not contradict the objectives of the agreement.
- 3) “Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries 1995”
On October 31, 1995, the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations issued the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries (CCRF), which, while not legally binding, provides essential guidelines for states to manage fisheries in a sustainable and responsible manner. The CCRF contains principles, guidelines, and international standards applicable to responsible fishing activities. The primary objective of the CCRF is to ensure effective conservation and fisheries management measures by taking into account environmental, biological, technical, economic, social, and commercial aspects.
- 4) “Agreement for the Implementation of the Provisions of The UNCLOS of 10 December 1982 relating to the Conservation and Management of Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks (United Nations Implementing Agreement/UNIA) 1995”
This regulation, known as the 1995 United Nations Agreement for the Implementation of the Provisions of the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, pertains to the conservation and management of straddling fish stocks and highly migratory fish stocks. The general regulations regarding these two types of fish stocks were already established in the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), particularly in Articles 63 and 64. However, the 1995 UN Fish Stocks Agreement successfully addressed the weaknesses of Article 63(2), Article 64(1), and Article 118 of UNCLOS 1982. This agreement is a significant international legal instrument

in fisheries law, as it explicitly outlines the obligations of coastal states and distant-water fishing nations to cooperate in the conservation and management of these fish stocks in accordance with UNCLOS 1982.

- 5) "International Plan of Action to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate IUU Fishing (IPOA-IUU) 2001"

The IPOA-IUU is an international legal instrument that, while not legally binding, serves as a comprehensive framework to combat Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated (IUU) Fishing. The IPOA-IUU urges states to take effective measures in formulating and enacting national regulations to prevent, reduce, and eliminate IUU fishing activities. Similar to its parent document, the CCRF, the IPOA-IUU is voluntary; however, FAO member states are encouraged to adopt the IPOA and implement its provisions through a National Plan of Action (NPOA). The primary objective of the IPOA-IUU is to prevent, deter, and eliminate IUU fishing by providing guidelines for all states to develop comprehensive, effective, and transparent measures while cooperating with competent regional fisheries management organizations (RFMOs).

In examining international law on illegal fishing, in 2012, Indonesia and Malaysia signed the MoU on Common Guidelines Concerning the Treatment of Fishermen by Maritime Law Enforcement Agencies of Malaysia and the Republic of Indonesia. This agreement aims to safeguard the legal rights of fishermen. The MoU outlines various activities, including information dissemination and coordination in handling specific cases, such as inspections, notifications, and other enforcement actions. Consequently, compared to countries like Vietnam and China, Indonesia and Malaysia experience fewer significant bilateral disputes regarding illegal fishing (Elisabeth et al., 2023).

Through the ASEAN platform, countries in the region share information on suspected vessels, conduct joint maritime patrols, and raise awareness about the importance of sustainable marine resource management. International cooperation in intelligence and information exchange is crucial for tracking illegal fishing activities, particularly those conducted by foreign vessels operating across multiple national jurisdictions. For example, through the Regional Plan of Action to Combat Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated Fishing (RPOA-IUU), Indonesia collaborates with neighboring countries to share data on vessels suspected of engaging in IUU fishing, including their sailing routes, fishing locations, and identified violations.

2. Barriers and Challenges Faced by Indonesia in Combating Illegal Fishing

Indonesia encounters various barriers and challenges in its efforts to combat illegal fishing. The term "barriers" refers to anything that obstructs or slows down the achievement of objectives, while "challenges" refer to conditions that require extra effort or additional endeavors to accomplish goals. Challenges are generally more abstract, involving processes, and often arise as part of work dynamics or environmental changes.

One of the disruptions to the sustainability of fishery resources is illegal fishing, which includes the use of prohibited fishing gear and the capture of species without proper permits. Furthermore, unauthorized fishing is often conducted through the practice of reflagging, as Indonesia has not yet participated in specific agreements such as the 1993 FAO Compliance Agreement and the 1995 UNIA. Reflagging is the practice where a vessel changes its flag to another country's flag, often to evade stricter

legal regulations or oversight. In the context of fishing, this practice is frequently employed by foreign vessels to circumvent international or national fisheries regulations, including fishing quotas, environmental regulations, and illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) fishing rules (Syamsuddin, 2014).

The primary motives for reflagging include: A. Avoiding fishing quotas: Many countries enforce quotas to limit fish catches and ensure sustainability. Vessels engaged in reflagging often attempt to bypass these quotas by claiming affiliation with countries that have higher or no catch limits. B. Evading strict law enforcement: Some countries actively monitor and enforce regulations against IUU fishing. Reflagging allows vessels to evade prosecution by shifting to a country that does not actively participate in fisheries enforcement. C. Exploiting Flags of Convenience: In some cases, reflagging is conducted to use a Flag of Convenience (FoC), where vessels register under countries with lax maritime oversight, allowing them to operate with minimal regulation.

Due to its strategic location, Indonesia is vulnerable to various forms of transnational crimes. The Djuanda Declaration of December 13, 1957, officially recognized Indonesia's territorial integrity, encompassing thousands of islands as a single political, economic, cultural, and defense entity. Law No. 3 of 2002 on National Defense also asserts that "the national defense system is a universal defense system involving all citizens, territories, and national resources, prepared early by the government and implemented comprehensively, integratedly, and continuously to uphold national sovereignty, territorial integrity, and the safety of the entire nation against all threats."

As a response, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs continues to strengthen international cooperation to address transnational crimes and protect Indonesia's interests and sovereignty. However, transnational crimes leveraging communication and information technology, such as illegal fishing, have evolved. Perpetrators now utilize technological innovations to expand and conceal their activities, enabling them to evade detection, manipulate data, and enhance efficiency in illegal fishing practices. In December 2024, the Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries (KKP) successfully detained a foreign fishing vessel in the Malacca Strait, WPP-NRI 571, captured by the surveillance vessel Hiu-16. The vessel used prohibited trawl gear and lacked valid documentation. In January 2025, KKP apprehended another fishing vessel in the Aru Sea for modifying fishing gear to evade regulations (KKP, 2025). Additionally, the Directorate General of Marine and Fisheries Resources Surveillance (PSDKP) collaborated with the Australian Fisheries Management Authority (AFMA) to educate fishermen in Kupang and Rote Ndao, East Nusa Tenggara (NTT), through the Public Information Campaign (PIC) on the risks and legal consequences of illegal fishing in Australian waters (KKP, 2024).

These events highlight Indonesia's challenges in ensuring that local fishermen comply with foreign regulations. Therefore, multi-stakeholder coordination is crucial to sustaining Indonesia's vast marine and fisheries potential. Issues such as overfishing, IUU fishing, habitat destruction, marine pollution, and climate change threaten biodiversity and the economic livelihoods of coastal communities.

In terms of legal enforcement and maritime sovereignty, Indonesia faces additional challenges. The Director of Violation Handling at the Directorate General of PSDKP emphasized the need for law enforcement agencies to adapt to legal dynamics, including Law No. 6 of 2023 on Job Creation. Regulatory changes must be properly implemented, particularly in the maritime and fisheries sector, which prioritizes

administrative sanctions. This aligns with the Job Creation Law's framework, where criminal sanctions are imposed under specific conditions, such as foreign vessel poaching, destructive fishing, smuggling of protected fish species, and permit document forgery.

To address these issues, Indonesia requires strong collaboration between government agencies, law enforcement, fishing communities, and international actors. The Director-General of PSDKP emphasized the dynamic nature of maritime crimes, necessitating enhanced multi-stakeholder coordination. In 2024, the Provincial Coordination Forum for Handling Marine and Fisheries Crimes in Central Sulawesi played a key role in ensuring the responsible utilization of marine space amid ongoing violations that threaten Indonesia's maritime resources.

Barriers to Combating Illegal Fishing in Indonesia. Indonesia faces several barriers in combating illegal fishing, including:

- a) Limited facilities and insufficient strict surveillance.
- b) Lack of adequate monitoring and restricted operational budgets.
- c) Limited capability of Indonesian fishermen to fully utilize fisheries potential within Indonesia's Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ).
- d) Advanced communication technology enables foreign fishing vessels to monitor and evade patrol movements, reducing the effectiveness of surveillance operations (Banafanu et al., 2023).
- e) Challenges in utilizing electronic monitoring applications, such as the e-PIT (Electronic Measured Fishing System). Community participation in fisheries management, which has improved, may deteriorate if local governments fail to ensure proper oversight.

Moreover, in practice, besides safeguarding Indonesia's territorial waters, the Indonesian authorities must also ensure that local fishermen comply with fishing regulations. In this regard, the Investment and One-Stop Integrated Licensing Service Agency (DMPPTSP) plays a crucial role in facilitating the licensing process. Licensing procedures are generally conducted through third parties, such as fishing community associations, representatives of the Indonesian Fishermen's Association (HNSI), or individuals. These permits are designated for vessels with a capacity of 5 GT to 30 GT, as mandated by the Regional Government Law and Ministerial Regulations on Fisheries. However, several obstacles may arise in the licensing process, including:

- a) Human resources, particularly the limited capability of personnel from the relevant agencies in operating the computerized system;
- b) Infrastructure, including the lack of facilities to reach certain areas (in this case, provinces) and restricted access to the internet;
- c) Community culture, where some fishing communities remain indifferent (non-compliant/lacking discipline) towards regulations, ultimately causing disadvantages for themselves.

The DMPPTSP has been handling the licensing process since early 2016. Consequently, from 2016 to the present, all licensing procedures, including those related to capture fisheries businesses, have been managed through the DMPPTSP (Shafira, 2020).

D. Conclusion

Illegal fishing activities in Indonesian waters must be eradicated, as they pose a significant threat to the sustainability of fisheries management and the balance of

marine resources. Indonesia's efforts to combat illegal fishing are guided by international legal frameworks, particularly the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), ensuring their proper implementation. The Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries (KKP) has ceased the practice of detonating and sinking vessels involved in Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated Fishing (IUUF) due to the environmental risks posed by such measures. Instead, the ministry aligns its policies with international legal standards, particularly the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries (CCRF), which mandates that every country must manage its fisheries resources sustainably and responsibly. To support this, the KKP has implemented Monitoring, Control, and Surveillance (MCS) systems, including the Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) to track fishing activities. From an international legal perspective, Indonesia must also consider the interests of the global community in its fisheries policies. The fluctuating nature of illegal fishing activities presents a continuous challenge for Indonesia in its eradication efforts. To effectively address this issue, strict cooperation between the government, law enforcement agencies, and the local fishing communities is essential. Moreover, Indonesia must enhance independent and cross-border surveillance in collaboration with other nations. However, several challenges remain, including weak enforcement mechanisms and limited operational funding to support effective monitoring. Additionally, with the advancement of technology, illegal fishing perpetrators continue to modify their equipment, further complicating enforcement efforts. Addressing these evolving challenges remains a critical task for Indonesia in securing its maritime resources.

E. Recommendations

To effectively combat illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing (IUUF) in Indonesian waters, the government should strengthen law enforcement and surveillance by increasing funding and human resources for Monitoring, Control, and Surveillance (MCS) systems while expanding the use of the Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) and other real-time tracking technologies. Collaboration with regional and international maritime security forces should also be enhanced to address cross-border IUUF activities. Additionally, stricter enforcement of UNCLOS 1982 and the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries (CCRF) is necessary, alongside policy improvements to support sustainable fisheries management. Public awareness and engagement with local fishing communities must be prioritized to ensure compliance with regulations, while investments in research and technological advancements should be made to counter the evolving tactics of illegal fishers.

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