

Indonesia sinks 27 foreign boats to stop illegal fishing

February 22 2016



Indonesian navy crew (right) check one of seven fishing boats destroyed in Batam, Kepulauan Riau province on February 22, 2016

Indonesia sank 27 impounded foreign boats on Monday, a minister said, as the world's largest archipelago nation stepped up a campaign against illegal fishing in its waters.

The empty vessels from the Philippines, Vietnam, Malaysia and

Myanmar were blown up or scuttled at five separate locations across the country, said Fisheries Minister Susi Pudjiastuti.

The boats had been all caught fishing illegally in the archipelago of more than 17,000 islands. Four Indonesian boats were also sunk after they were caught fishing without proper documentation.

"The government is taking stronger and firmer action to enforce regulations to keep our waters safe," Pudjiastuti, a key figure in the campaign against [illegal fishing](#), told journalists.



An impounded fishing boat is blown up in Batam, Kepulauan Riau province on February 22, 2016

Indonesia has sunk foreign boats on several occasions since the

government launched the drive to combat illegal fishing, with President Joko Widodo claiming the practice costs the country's economy billions of dollars annually.

However, the [campaign](#) has caused tensions with other countries in the region. China last year expressed concern after a Chinese boat was blown up.

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