Latin America’s Experience with Deepwater Foreign Fishing Fleets

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The Problem in Latin America

- Chinese deepwater fleet (among others): Expansion from Asian fisheries to Africa (64%), most recently Latin America
  - Exhaustion of Bohai, Zhoushan, South China Sea coast, Gulf of Tonkin
  - PRC 35% of global demand
  - PRC DWF: 17,000 vessels (17+ x size of US fleet)
- As elsewhere: Overfishing, catching protected species, use of trawl and sea nets, practices that accelerate collapse of fisheries, pollution, unauthorized entries into national EEZs / protected areas

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The Problem in Latin America (2)

- Impact on most vulnerable: Small/artisanal fishing communities
- Practices complicating control:
  - Turning off transponders/AIS
  - Loitering on the edge of EEZs
  - Transferring catch to factory ships
    - PEW study only 1/12 of catch reported?
- Dangerous maneuvers x Coast Guard to escape (e.g. Argentina 2018)

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The Problem in Latin America (3)

- Challenge of national coordination:
  - Use of ports (e.g. Montevideo, La Paloma, Punta Yeguas? [Shandong BaoMa])
  - Movement of fleet (e.g. Ecuador→Peru→Chile)
- Inadequacy of national assets + expense to monitor / patrol EEZs on sustained basis
- Issue of national responsibility for their fleets / acknowledgement of abuses
- Question of law when outside EEZ
- Emblematic cases: Argentina, Ecuador, Peru, Chile

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Argentina

- Long, difficult to patrol coast – Few naval assets
- Illustrative Cases:
  - 2012: 10 MT of illegal squid and fish found in two Chinese vessels
  - 2015: *Hu Shun Yu 809* boarded after breaking down, found 600T of illegal shrimp
  - 2016 *Hua Li 8* fishing in San Jorge gulf, but escaped
  - 2018: *Jing Yuan 626* seized after a chase involving five other Chinese vessels helping it escape
  - March 2016 sinking of Chinese boat *Lu Yan Yuan Yu*

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Ecuador

• 2017: Ecuadoran Navy sub Huancavelica finds 300 Chinese vessels illegally fishing near Galapagos
  • Seizes Fu Yang Yu Leng 999 with 300 tons of illegally obtained fish (incl. 6,000 frozen sharks)
• 2020: vessels in/near Galapagos Marine Reserve
  • 90% PRC-flagged (Oceana study)
  • DM Oswaldo Jarrin: ½ of Chinese vessels around Galapagos had turned off signal

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Chile

- DWF currently heading from Ecuador → Peru → Chile
- In last 4 years 22 violations (18 Chinese) of Nazca-Desventuradas maritime park
- Challenge of long coastline, but capable Navy
- Pass through Straits of Magellan to Atlantic
- Chinese previously excluded from port access for fishing violations
- July 2015: Chinese boat intercepted in EEZ
  - 170 nautical miles offshore from the Chilean port of Coronel (Bio Bio region).

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