



China's Fishing Pirates Loot the Americas

OE Watch Commentary: At least a slice of Latin American geopolitical observers are on board with the idea that the Communist Chinese government uses the vast Chinese fishing fleet as a geostrategic weapon and that this is a danger not just to local fishing industries around the world, but to sovereignty and the environment. The accompanying references from Latin America were chosen because they appear to represent converging opinion from several countries of the region. The first, most recent reference, from the *PanamPost*, citing US government sources, *Oceana*, the *Guardian*, *Epoch Times*, *NBC* and others, makes a sweeping accusation of Chinese international trespassing, piracy and environmental criminality. The second reference is from an online journalists' co-op, *Cuatro Pelagatos*, centered in Ecuador. It was published in late July and takes an alarmed tone. Ecuadorans take great pride in their stewardship of the Galapagos Islands and they are reasonably worried that the huge industrial fishing fleet might not fully respect Ecuadoran sovereignty, much less the zone's environmental pristineness. The *Cuatro Pelegatos* authors note that the fishing fleet is used for more than fishing, but also as an instrument of strategic coercion. The third reference came out independently at almost the same time. It is from *Infobae*, a major online news network out of Argentina. The *Infobae* analysis is more global. The prompt for their article was not the felt imposition of the fleet in the eastern Pacific, but rather news that an even larger Chinese fishing fleet was dominating North Korean waters and pushing North Korean vessels out. The *Infobae* piece brings up a macabre angle—hundreds of fishing boats with dead Koreans have been washing up on Japanese shores. The article suggests that this aggression from the Chinese fleet along with North Korean weakness are the principle drivers of the phenomenon. The last reference is from Mexico. The article is of a worry expressed from the Mexican fishing industry. **End OE Watch Commentary (Demarest)**

“...The boats turn off their radars and locator systems in order to avoid detection, which suggests illicit activity...”

Source: “Piratas chinos se dirigen a Chile: arrasan con la pesca legal y los recursos marítimos (Chinese pirates go towards Chile: devastates legal fishing and maritime resources),” *PanamPost*, 2 October 2020. <https://panampost.com/sabrina-martin/2020/10/02/piratas-chinos-se-dirigen-a-chile-arrasan-con-la-pesca-legal-y-los-recursos-maritimos/>

At least 340 clandestine boats of Chinese origin arrived in the Pacific to plunder its maritime resources, violating international norms. The boats turn off their radars and locator systems in order to avoid detection, which suggests illicit activity by what would be this parallel navy of the Chinese regime...They do not respect borders...

“...one of the silent wars that is most costly to nature...”

Source: Los chinos, los nuevos piratas de los mares (The Chinese, the new pirates of the sea),” *Cuatro Pelagatos*, 27 July 2020. <https://4pelagatos.com/2020/07/27/los-chinos-los-nuevos-piratas-de-los-mares/>

China, the postmodern pirate: China has 260 boats in the waters near the Galapagos Islands. It is a looting point for the largest fleet in the world, that is carrying out one of the silent wars that is most costly to nature: the war on illegal fishery...

China doesn't just fish: it destroys ecosystems that took thousands of years to form...This is an activity of the Chinese State. In fact, the authorities in Peking consider their fleet of fishing boats as an instrument of expansion and presence in disputed maritime zones...

A navy far superior to what was imagined: The report of ODI (High Seas Development Institute) states that the fishing fleets in waters distant from China are 5 to 8 times larger than expected. Of 16,966 boats identified, 12, 490 have been seen outside Chinese international waters. Their ownership and control is not transparent...

No one knows its size exactly, but it is monumental...

[It is] an invention of the Chinese Communist government...

The Chinese fishing fleet developed thanks to a state subsidy of more than a billion dollars a year...The price of calamari doesn't come close to the cost of the fuel needed to catch it...

Fishing fleet and paramilitary fleet...From North Korea to Mexico, Indonesia and South America, the incursions of the Chinese fishing boats are increasingly more frequent, shameless and aggressive. It is easy to imagine how an apparently civil confrontation could change into a military conflict...



Continued: China's Fishing Pirates Loot the Americas

“...North Korean ‘ghost boats’, that are frequently found filled with cadavers on the beaches of Japan...”

Source: Cómo opera la armada de piratas chinos que saquean los mares y enfrenta al régimen con Corea del Norte (How the fleet of Chinese pirates that loot the seas and confront the North Korean regime operates),” *Infobae*, 23 July 2020.

<https://www.infobae.com/america/mundo/2020/07/23/la-armada-de-pesqueros-ilegales-que-saquean-los-mares-y-enfrentan-a-china-con-corea-del-norte/>

A gigantic fleet of industrial ships is looting the waters of North Korea, turning the regime in Pyongyang into the latest victim of Beijing’s limitless ambitions...

The Chinese activity had catastrophic consequences for the economy of North Korea...So, in recent speeches Kim Jong-un ordered the state fishing industry to increase its range. The North Korean fishermen, desperate, found themselves forced to navigate to distances from the coast that were increasingly dangerous, poorly equipped and with few fuel reserves...

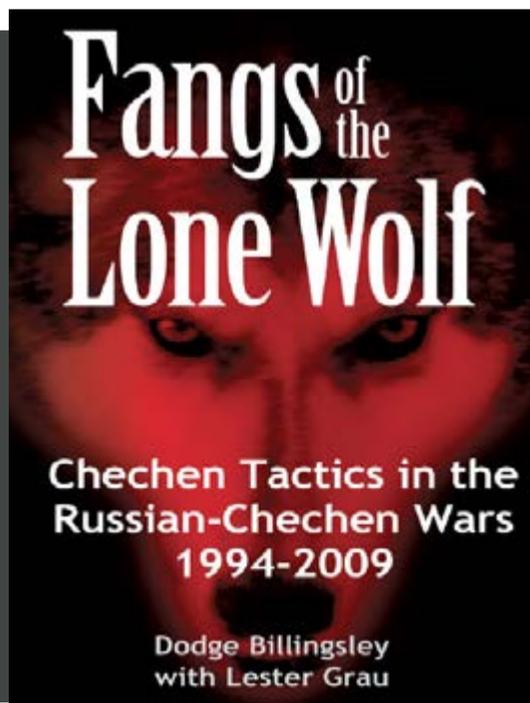
In 2017 the Japanese Coast Guard also reported having seen more than 2,000 North Korean fishing boats fishing illegally in [Japan’s] waters...

also, the Chinese practice [of coercing North Korean boats out of their own waters] appears to finally explain the mysterious phenomenon of the North Korean ‘ghost boats’, that are frequently found filled with cadavers on the beaches of Japan...There were more than 500 in the last five years, with some 150 in the past year...

“...any moment the Chinese fleet might want to fish in their national waters...”

Source: Piratas chinos acechan aguas mexicanas (Chinese pirates creep into Mexican Waters),” *Excelsior*, 4 August 2020. <https://www.excelsior.com.mx/nacional/piratas-chinos-acechan-aguas-mexicanas/1397892>

...Recent accusations in social media from the Ecuadoran Navy about the presence of the Chinese-flagged fishing fleet near the emblematic Galapagos Islands provoked organized fishermen throughout Latin America to launch the voice of alarm to unite to eradicate illegal fishing... Humberto Becerra Batista, vice-president of Alescas [fishing union conglomerate] explained that the countries of the region are raising their voices in face of the possibility that at any moment the Chinese fleet might want to fish in their national waters. Also the president of the Chamber of Fishing and Aquatic Agricultural Industries (Canainpesca) in Mexico, he underlined that up to know...



Fangs of the Lone Wolf is about combat experience in urban, mountain and fairly open terrain. It is not a comprehensive history of conflict. This book is a series of snapshots — of vignettes — describing the difficulty, the hardship, the victories and the defeats of the participants. It is an examination of the raw data of combat in a foreign land, and is aimed to advance the professional military study of conflict.

<https://community.apan.org/wg/tradoc-g2/fmso/m/fmso-books/195587/download>