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Annex 860

Annotated Satellite Image of Thitu Reefs (6 Mar. 2014)

China's Destruction of Thitu Reefs as seen from Space

6 March 2014



Western Reefs

Thitu Island

Thitu Reefs

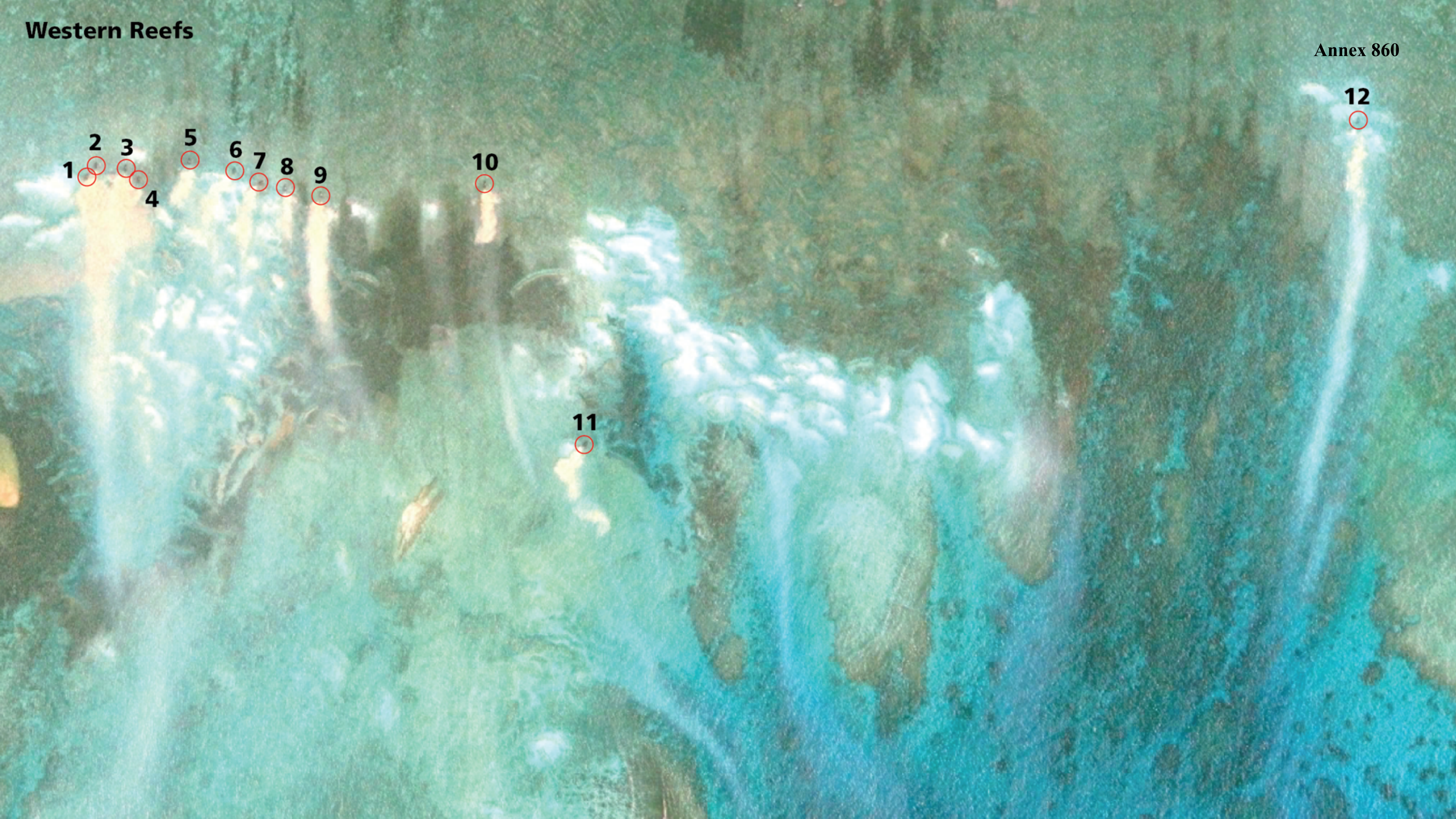
Eastern Reefs

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Eastern Reefs

1



2



Larger support vessels

3



6



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Annex 861

Carmela Fonbuena, “PH arrests 11 Chinese fishermen off Palawan”, *Rappler* (7 May 2014), available at <http://www.rappler.com/nation/57456-missing-chinese-fishermen-half-moon-shoal>



Gang clashes outside
Bali prison ...
INDONESIA



Chelsea resmi pecat
Jose Mourinho
INDONESIA



Japan, Indon
agree on defe
INDONESIA



PHILIPPINES



PH arrests 11 Chinese fishermen off Palawan

(2nd UPDATE) A Philippine police official says the Chinese fishing boat is intercepted 60 nautical miles off the coast of Palawan, bearing 500 turtles

Carmela Fonbuena

@carmela fonbuena

Published 3:40 PM, May 07, 2014

Updated 9:58 PM, May 07, 2014



MISSING CHINESE FISHERMEN. China says 11 fishermen are missing off the coast of Palawan. Photo from nansha.org.cn

MANILA, Philippines (2nd UPDATE) – The Philippine National Police (PNP) maritime group intercepted a Chinese fishing boat with 500 turtles on Tuesday, May 6, off the coast of Palawan, a PNP official confirmed to Rappler.

PNP spokesperson Senior Superintendent Theodore Sindac said that the Chinese boat, with a crew of 11, were found on Hasa-Hasa Shoal (Half Moon Shoal), which is just 60 nautical miles off the coast of Palawan.

"At about 7 am, May 6, 2014, at the Half Moon Shoal, Palawan, 2 vessels were captured. One is a local boat with 5 Muslim passengers carrying more or less 40 turtles. The other one is a Chinese boat with 11 passengers and carrying more or less 500 turtles," Sindac said in a text message.

Watch this report below.

PH arrests 11 Chinese fishermen off Palawan



The Chinese fishing boat Qiongqionghai 09063 was manned by a certain Chen Hi Quan and 10 Chinese crew.

The fishing boat is being towed to Palawan, where appropriate charges will be filed.

Sought for comment, the spokesperson of the Philippine military's Western Command (Wescom) based in Palawan said the PNP is the lead agency in the operation.

"As for Wescom, we have coordinated with the PNP to secure the safety of everyone involved," said Wescom spokesperson Lieutenant Cheryl Tindog told Rappler.

The Department of Foreign Affairs in a statement said relevant authorities in Palawan will address the case "in a just, humane, and expeditious manner."

"The seizing of the Chinese fishing boat...and the apprehension of its crew...were undertaken as actions to enforce maritime laws and to uphold Philippine sovereign rights over its EEZ," the statement read.

China state news media Xinhua earlier posted a [report](#) on the 11 "missing" fishermen.

"They (Chinese fishermen) were on board fishing boat Qiongqionghai 09063, which was intercepted by an unidentified armed vessel at about 10 am in waters off the Half Moon Shoal of Nansha Islands," Xinhua reported.

Xinhua said China has mobilized fishing boats to search for the missing fishermen.

China and the Philippines are engaged in a bitter maritime dispute over the West Philippines Sea (South China Sea).

Hasa-Hasa Shoal is frequented by Chinese fishermen. It is located at about 60 nautical miles off the coast of Palawan – well within the Philippines' Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) based on the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS).

In 2012, a Chinese naval frigate was stranded in the same area. (READ: [Chinese ship rescued in Half Moon Shoal](#)) – [Rappler.com](#)

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Annex 862

Rupert Wingfield-Hayes, “Why are Chinese fishermen destroying coral reefs in the South China Sea?”, *BBC* (15 Dec. 2015), available at <http://www.bbc.com/news/magazine-35106631>

Magazine

Why are Chinese fishermen destroying coral reefs in the South China Sea?

By Rupert Wingfield-Hayes

BBC News, South China Sea

15 December 2015 | [Magazine](#)

What I came across on a reef far out in the middle of the South China Sea has left me shocked and confused.

I'd been told that Chinese fishermen were deliberately destroying reefs near a group of Philippine-controlled atolls in the Spratly Islands but I was not convinced.

"It goes on day and night, month after month," a Filipino mayor told me on the island of Palawan.

"I think it is deliberate. It is like they are punishing us by destroying our reefs."

I didn't take it seriously. I thought it might be anti-Chinese bile from a politician keen to blame everything on his disliked neighbour - a neighbour that claims most of the South China Sea as its own.

But then, as our little aircraft descended towards the tiny Philippine-controlled island of Pagasa, I looked out of my window and saw it. At least a dozen boats were anchored on a nearby reef. Long plumes of sand and gravel were trailing out behind them.



"Look," I said to my cameraman, Jiro. "That's what the mayor was talking about, that's the reef mining!"

Even so, I was unprepared for what we found when we got out on the water.

A Filipino boatman guided his tiny fishing boat right into the midst of the Chinese poachers.

They had chained their boats to the reef and were revving their engines hard. Clouds of black diesel smoke poured into the air.



"What are they doing?" I asked the boatman.

"They are using their propellers to break the reef," he said.

Again I was sceptical. The only way to see for sure was to get in the water.

It was murky and filled with dust and sand. I could just make out a steel propeller spinning in the distance on the end of long shaft, but it was impossible to tell exactly how the destruction was being carried out.

The result was clear, though. Complete devastation.

This place had once been a rich coral ecosystem. Now the sea floor was covered in a thick layer of debris, millions of smashed fragments of coral, white and dead like bits of bone.



I swam on and on. In every direction the destruction stretched for hundreds of metres, piles and piles of shattered white coral branches. It seemed so illogical. Why would fishermen, even poachers, destroy a whole coral system like this?

Then, down below me, I spotted two of the poachers, wearing masks and trailing long breathing hoses behind them. They were manhandling something heavy.

As they struggled up the sandy underwater slope, through a stream of bubbles, I caught sight of what they were carrying - a massive giant clam, at least 1m (3ft) across.

They dropped it on to a pile near their boat. Next to it lay three others they had pulled out earlier. Clams of this size are probably 100 years old, and - as I discovered later on an internet auction site - can sell for between \$1,000 (£665) and \$2,000 a pair.

We motored out to a group of much larger fishing boats anchored just off the reef. These are "mother ships" to the small poacher boats on the reef. On board the big boats I could see hundreds of clam shells stacked high.



On the stern of each boat, two large Chinese characters spelled out the name, Tanmen.

I'd heard of Tanmen before. It's a fishing port on the large Chinese island of Hainan.

Chinese construction in the disputed Spratly Islands

- Chinese claimed territorial waters
- Reef reclaimed or built on by China
- - - Philippines exclusive economic zone, under UN rules



In May 2014 another boat from Tanmen had been caught by Philippine police on another reef close to the Philippines called Half Moon Shoal. On board, the police had found 500 Hawksbill sea turtles, most of them dead.

Hawksbill turtles are critically endangered and protected under the Convention on the International Trade in Endangered Species (Cites).



A Philippine court sentenced the nine Chinese poachers to a year in prison.

Beijing was furious. The foreign ministry demanded the convicted poachers be immediately released and accused the Philippines of "severely violating China's sovereignty... by illegally detaining Chinese fishing vessels and fishermen in waters off China's Nansha Islands".

None of this proves China is protecting the poachers. But nor does Beijing appear to be doing anything to stop them. The poachers we saw showed absolutely no sign of fear when they saw our cameras filming them.

Back on Pagasa, a Philippine marine corps officer told me the destruction of the reef has been going on for at least two years, day and night.

"You men are armed," I said to him. "Why don't you go over there in your speedboat and chase them off or arrest them?"

"It's too dangerous," he said. "We don't want to start a shooting war with the Chinese Navy."

I still found it hard to understand why these Chinese fishermen, who have a long tradition of fishing on these reefs, are now destroying them.



Greed may be one answer. In newly wealthy China there is far more money to be made from looting and trading in endangered species than in catching fish.

There is another sad fact about what is going on out here.

However shocking the reef plundering I witnessed, it is as nothing compared to the environmental destruction wrought by China's massive island building programme nearby.

The latest island China has just completed at Mischief Reef is more than 9km (six miles) long. That is 9km of living reef that is now buried under millions of tonnes of sand and gravel.

September 2015



January 2012



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Rupert Wingfield-Hayes flies over China's new artificial islands built on coral reefs in the South China Sea, and gets a furious and threatening response from the Chinese Navy.

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