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Brazen foreign boats a threat to fishermen

KUALA PENYU: Local fishermen are irked by the encroachment of foreign vessels fishing illegally in the district.

They said Vietnamese fishermen not only depleted the fisheries resources here, but were often rude to the local fishing community, especially small-scale fishermen.

Fisherman Wahit Abdullah, 42, said foreign fishermen did not care if they disrupted marine habitats.

"Vietnamese boats that come here take all the resources, including endangered species such as turtles.

"This has affected the income of local fishermen.

"They catch a tonne of fish,

while we only get a basket to bring home," he told the New Straits Times Press.

Wahit said there had been an increase in the number of foreign vessels and it was worrisome as the Vietnamese were brazen that they even dared to fish near the beaches.

Angler Musah Tabir, 30, said he had witnessed foreign vessels trawling fish with big nets several times.

"They are there day and night, even in shallow waters, including areas for anglers.

"This poses a danger to our safety.

"The authorities must tackle this encroachment issue as they are robbing our resources," he



Vietnamese fishermen are known to be brazen that they even dare to fish near the beaches, say fishermen in Sabah.

said, adding that if the situation continued, the foreign fishermen would become more brazen.

Fishing tour operator Abd

Rahim Majin, 52, said there was a time when he brought a group of anglers here and several foreign vessels came too close to

his boat, endangering their safety.

"In the end, we did not catch a single fish."