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# 'Sink foreign vessels caught fishing illegally'

**KUALA LUMPUR:** Foreign vessels caught fishing illegally in Malaysian waters should be sunk after they are confiscated, Agriculture and Agro-based Industry Minister Datuk Salahuddin Ayub proposed.

He said Malaysia would not be alone in making such a decision as many of its neighbouring countries had done it.

"I agree and propose that these vessels be sunk to become artificial reefs.

"We should do this as our neighbouring countries have done the same," Salahuddin said in the Dewan Rakyat during the question-and-answer session, here yesterday.

He said a maximum penalty would be imposed on ships' captains (from RM1 million to RM6 million per person) and crew members (from RM100,000 to RM600,000 per person) if they were caught trespassing into Malaysian waters.

Salahuddin was responding to



*Agriculture and Agro-based Industry Minister Datuk Salahuddin Ayub speaking to reporters at the Parliament lobby yesterday.* PIC BY

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a question by Kota Tinggi lawmaker Datuk Halimah Sadique, who asked if the ministry planned on amending the Fisheries Act to prevent foreign vessels from fishing illegally in

Malaysian waters.

New maximum penalty under Section 25 Article 317 of the Fisheries Act 1985 would see vessels caught fishing illegally in high seas be fined RM4 million, he said.