



Five out of six undocumented Myanmar fishermen sitting on their boat after being arrested by the Pahang Malaysian Maritime Enforcement Agency (MMEA) off the waters of Nenasi, Pekan, on Thursday. PIC COURTESY OF THE MMEA

LOCALLY REGISTERED VESSEL

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MMEA seizes foreign-crewed fishing boat*

KUANTAN: The Pahang Malaysian Maritime Enforcement Agency (MMEA) detained six Myanmar fishermen and seized a locally-registered Class C boat 8.3 nautical miles east off Nenasi, Pekan, on Thursday.

State MMEA director Maritime First Admiral Kamal Ariffin Jusoh said the six, including a skipper, were detained during Op Makmur at 3.40pm.

Initial investigations revealed that the boat was crewed by six Myanmar men aged between 19 and 31.

All six did not have proper iden-

tification documents.

"MMEA personnel detained the Myanmar nationals and seized the boat and its equipment, as well as their 4,500kg catch.

"All the items, along with the crew, were taken to the maritime post jetty in Teluk Gading, Rompin and handed to investigating officers for further action," Kamal Ariffin said in a statement yesterday.

He added that the operation was mounted following complaints from the public of foreigners in waters off Nenasi.

The case is being investigated

under Section 8(b) of the Fisheries Act 1985 for violating licencing regulations and fishing at a prohibited location. Those who commit the offence can be fined by the Fisheries Department.

"The MMEA urges fishermen to refrain from violating regulations to ensure the safety of Malaysian waters."

He urged those with information on illegal activities at sea to contact the Pahang Maritime Operations Centre at 09-571 7345 or the MERS emergency hotline, which operates for 24 hours, at 999.