

## **Chairman Gallagher on CCP Illegal Fishing**

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*as prepared for delivery*

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Gullible Western politicians are constantly telling us that the Chinese Communist Party can be a responsible partner on the environment.

So let's take a look at some fishy numbers.

The EU has 300 long-distance fishing vessels. The US has even fewer. The People's Republic of China claims to cap their fleet at 3,000, more than 10x our vessels, an already astounding number.

In actuality, some reports estimate China has an armada of 17,000 distant-waters fishing vessels, many of which operate illegally — in addition to using slave labor for their crews.

These ships sail around the world, strip mining the oceans, and depriving people from Africa and Latin American to South East Asia from their livelihoods.

Last year, China accounted for 80 percent of fishing in the waters off Argentina, Ecuador, and Peru. It accounted for 99 percent of fishing near the Galapagos Islands.

According to the UN, nearly 90 percent of the world's remaining fish stocks are today fully exploited or depleted — and the CCP is disproportionately responsible for this trend.

Often PRC fishing vessels receive vast government subsidies, in part because they are a form of shadow navy — a practice a UN official likened to “paying a burglar to rob your neighbor's house,” and is yet another way in which the lines between China's military and civilian economy constantly blur.

The CCP is not a “green” partner – it is the number one, flashing red threat to the environment.

It is high time we treat it as such.