Exposed! Here are China’s Maritime Militia Ships at Whitsun Reef

By Andrew S. Erickson and Ryan D. Martinson

Erickson is a Professor of Strategy in the Naval War College’s China Maritime Studies Institute and a visiting scholar at Harvard’s John King Fairbank Center for Chinese Studies. Martinson is a researcher in the China Maritime Studies Institute at the Naval War College.

29 March 2021

The views expressed here are those of the authors alone.
The are based solely on analysis of publicly-available open sources.
They do not represent the policies or estimates of the U.S. Navy, the U.S. government, or any other organization with which they are associated.
Geography

- Jiangmen (江门市) is a City in Guangdong (pop. 4.5 million)
- Taishan City (台山市, pop. 941,000) is administered by Jiangmen

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# The “Fancheng Nine” Trawlers

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By Andrew S. Erickson and Ryan D. Martinson
March 15, 2017: Fancheng Fisheries and Guangxin Shipbuilding sign contract for nine “backbone” Spratly boats

Yuetaiyu 18000 undergoes sea trials (October 2017)

Sources:
http://www.gshi.cn/news_view.asp?id=276
http://www.gshi.cn/news_view.asp?id=323

By Andrew S. Erickson and Ryan D. Martinson
Delivery Ceremony for the “Fancheng Nine”
(December 5, 2017)

• Present at the delivery ceremony for the nine trawlers:

1. **Wan Liang’an**, Deputy Commander of the Jiangmen Military Subdistrict (江门军分区副司令员万良安)

2. **Zhang Yuanfa**, Director of the Readiness Construction Bureau, Jiangmen Military Subdistrict (江门军分区战备建设处处长张远发)

• Also present, General Manager of Fancheng Fisheries, **Huang Jiang** (黄江)


By Andrew S. Erickson and Ryan D. Martinson
Director of the Jiangmen City Bureau of Veterans Affairs, Li Guangyi, visits the Far Seas Militia Squadron at Shadi Bay (April 2019)

Li Guangyi’s delegation tours the pilothouse of one of the militia vessels

Source: http://www.cnts.gov.cn/zfgzbym/styjrswj/zfwgk/zfxxgkml/gzdt/content/post_1553292.html

By Andrew S. Erickson and Ryan D. Martinson
AIS Tracks of the “Fancheng Nine” in the South China Sea (March 28, 2020 – March 27, 2021)

Shows the AIS transmission of seven squadron vessels from March 28, 2020 – March 27, 2021.

Source: www.marinetraffic.com

By Andrew S. Erickson and Ryan D. Martinson
AIS Tracks of the “Fancheng Nine” in the Spratlys
(March 28, 2020 – March 27, 2021)

Shows the AIS transmission of seven squadron vessels from

Source: www.marinetraffic.com

By Andrew S. Erickson and Ryan D. Martinson
AIS Tracks of the “Fancheng Nine” at Union Banks
(March 28, 2020 – March 27, 2021)

Shows the AIS transmission of seven squadron vessels from March 28, 2020 – March 27, 2021.

Source: www.marinetraffic.com

By Andrew S. Erickson and Ryan D. Martinson
AIS Tracks of Seven of Fancheng Fisheries vessels
(March 1 – 27, 2021)

Vessels tracked:
1. Yuetaiyu 18111
2. Yuetaiyu 18222
3. Yuetaiyu 18333
4. Yuetaiyu 18555
5. Yuetaiyu 18666
6. Yuetaiyu 18888
7. Yuetaiyu 18999

Shows the AIS transmission of seven company vessels from March 1 – 27, 2021.

Source: www.marinetraffic.com

By Andrew S. Erickson and Ryan D. Martinson