

Indonesia news articles from January 2020 to April 2022



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<https://www.icsf.net/news/>



Indonesia's fishing industry faces downturn amid push for higher productivity

<https://www.eco-business.com/news/indonesias-fishing-industry-faces-downturn-amid-push-for-higher-productivity/>

"Indonesia's fish stock has declined in the past five years as more of the country's waters are now fully exploited, according to new government data.

The latest data released by the fisheries ministry earlier this month put Indonesia's estimated fish stock at 12 million metric tons, down almost 4 per cent from the 12.5 million metric tons estimated in 2017. The data also showed that 53 per cent of the country's 11 fisheries management areas, known as WPPs, were now deemed fully exploited, indicating that more stringent monitoring is required, up from 44 per cent in 2017.

Marine observers say the figures are cause for concerns, especially in light of the fisheries ministry's plan to increase production at a time when more of the fisheries areas are already fully exploited.

One major plan by the ministry is to reopen the country's fishing grounds to vessels funded by foreign investors, which were previously blamed for depleting fish stocks over the course of several years. The ministry also aims to designate some areas for fishing industry, and others for nursery grounds."

Indonesia holds 15 percent of world tuna production: Ministry

<https://en.vietnamplus.vn/indonesia-holds-15-percent-of-world-tuna-production/225379.vnp>

"Indonesia has cornered a 15-percent share of tuna, skipjack, and mackerel tuna production globally to emerge as the world's largest producer of the commodities, Antara News reported, citing the Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries (KKP).

The news agency quoted director of marketing at the Directorate General of Marine and Fishery Products Competitiveness, Erwin Dwiwana, as saying on April 19 that Indonesia saw an increase in production of 3.66 percent on average, higher than the world average increase of 3.42 percent.

The Philippines is the second-largest producer with a production share of 7.3 percent, followed by Vietnam at 6.6 percent, and Ecuador 6.1 percent. The largest tuna production in Indonesia is of skipjack tuna and yellowfin tuna.

However, Dwiyana said, even though it is the largest tuna producer, Indonesia has not been able to become the world's largest tuna exporter.

According to statistics of ITC Trademap, Indonesia ranks only sixth in tuna export with a 5.33 percent share of the world market in 2020."

India and Singapore organise East Asia Summit workshop on IUU fishing

<https://orissadiary.com/india-and-singapore-organise-east-asia-summit-workshop-on-illegal-unreported-and-unregulated-fishing/>

"The Department of Fisheries, Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying, Government of India, and the Government of Singapore organized a virtual East Asia Summit (EAS) Workshop on Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated (IUU) Fishing yesterday, co-chaired by India and Singapore Food Agency (SFA). Shri Jatindra Nath Swain, Secretary, Department of Fisheries (DoF), Government of India, gave the keynote address. The workshop was attended by 8 EAS member countries, and 4 knowledge partners, officials of the Department of Fisheries, Government of India, fisheries officials of different States/Union Territories, and other invitees.

In his inaugural address, Shri Swain highlighted the urgent call for combating illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing. Mr. Swain shared some of India's efforts and initiatives to combat IUU fishing especially through working with coastal fishing communities.

The Workshop began with the opening session led by India and chaired by Joint Secretary, Department of Fisheries, Government of India, Dr. J Balaji. During the welcome address, Dr. J Balaji introduced the theme of the workshop and welcomed all the esteemed delegates, panelists and participants in the Workshop from the countries of Australia, Cambodia, China, Indonesia, New Zealand, Republic of Korea along with India and Singapore. In his opening remarks to the EAS IUU Workshop, the CEO of the Singapore Food Agency highlighted the importance of combating IUU fishing which has negatively impacted the livelihood and food security of the coastal fishing communities.

The Technical Session 1 was focused on regional collaborations in combating IUU fishing and was chaired by Singapore Food Agency. The knowledge-partners, namely, the Bay of Bengal Programme Inter-Governmental Organization (BOBPIGO), the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organization (CSIRO), the Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center (SEAFDEC) and the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) shared the regional efforts and the groundbreaking and continuous efforts being taken to combat IUU fishing. During the Technical Session 2, representative from each participating country shared their national success

stories, experience gained and measures being taken up by the respective country to curb IUU fishing."

Indonesian Ministry trains fishermen in advanced village program

<https://en.antaranews.com/news/224653/ministry-trains-serang-people-in-advanced-fishermen-village-program>

"The Maritime Affairs and Fisheries Ministry of Indonesia edified communities in Serang, Banten, through a series of trainings in March-April 2022 to pursue the Advanced Fishermen Village Program that can drive economic growth for the coastal communities.

Maritime Affairs and Fisheries Minister Sakti Wahyu Trenggono stated that the Kampung Nelayan Maju (Advanced Fishermen Village) Program was part of the government's efforts to create an organized, advanced, clean, healthy, and comfortable fishing village, which could improve the quality of life and productivity of fishermen and their families' businesses.

""The fishing village is developed to become more advanced. It (was done with the) expectation that there will be no other fishing villages with (a negative) image, such as (with the impression of) poverty, (being messy) and dirty. They must be more well-organized and competitive,"" he affirmed..."

Indonesia's Maritime Affairs Ministry impounds 22 illegal fishing vessels

<https://en.antaranews.com/news/222045/maritime-affairs-ministry-impounds-22-illegal-fishing-vessels>

"Indonesia's Ministry of Maritime Affairs and Fisheries (KKP) impounded 21 Indonesian fishing vessels and one foreign fishing vessel during a surveillance operations conducted in six Indonesian Fisheries Management Areas (WPPNRI) in mid-March 2022.

""In the operations carried out in the waters of Raja Ampat, Lampung, Peleng Strait, Tolo Bay, Riau Islands, Sulawesi Sea and Java Sea, we seized 21 Indonesian fishing vessels and one foreign fishing vessel,"" said the Director General of Marine and Fishery Resources Supervision Rear Admiral Adin Nurawaluddin, in a statement here on Sunday.

Nurawaluddin said that the seizure of the vessels underscored the ministry's seriousness in protecting marine and fishery resources from theft and illegal fishing practices.

He explained that in Raja Ampat, surveillance ship (KP) Hiu Macan 04 impounded two Indonesian fishing vessels, KM. Mattajang and KM. Cahaya Selamat 01, for being involved in a transshipment in breach of the existing rules..."

Tech-enabled startups are helping transform Indonesian fisheries, but challenges persist

<https://kr-asia.com/tech-enabled-startups-are-helping-transform-indonesian-fisheries-but-challenges-persist>

"As a maritime nation, Indonesia is the second largest fish producer in the world. Generating around USD 4.1 billion in annual export earnings, the industry supports more than 7 million jobs in the country, according to the World Bank.

Despite its huge potential, fishermen in Indonesia face major challenges that pose a threat to their ways of life. These range from underdeveloped infrastructure to a lack of transparent market pricing. To date, the Indonesian government has taken several steps to improve the welfare of seafaring workers through the provision of financial assistance for equipment, insurance programs for fishermen, and diversification training, among other means.

Nevertheless, these measures have proved insufficient to address the issues they face. To bridge the gap, tech entrepreneurs have developed smart solutions to improve the operations of fishermen and their livelihoods. From the use of artificial intelligence to weather predicting apps, these aquaculture platforms help small-scale fishermen access technology, financing, and markets...

Eight Indian fishermen detained in Indonesia

<https://www.news18.com/news/india/eight-indian-fishermen-aboard-vessel-detained-in-indonesia-4877048.html>

"Eight fishermen from Andaman and Nicobar Islands have been detained in Indonesia for illegally entering the territorial waters of the neighbouring country, a senior official said on Tuesday. The Union territory's Fisheries Department Director Utpal Kumar Sar said that the Ministry of Home Affairs is looking into the matter.

It is suspected that fishing vessel 'MV Blessing' with eight fishermen aboard had drifted towards the territorial waters of Indonesia a few days back either due to an engine failure or strong winds, he said.

Indonesian coastal authorities detained them for illegally entering the territorial waters of the Southeast Asian nation, he added..."

Indonesian fishing boat found with banned trawl net highlights enforcement challenges

<https://news.mongabay.com/2022/03/indonesian-fishing-boat-found-with-banned-trawl-net-highlights-enforcement-challenges/>

"A fishing vessel seized by authorities in Indonesia for a zoning violation was doing more than just fishing out of bounds, local fishers allege: it may have been using a destructive type of net that's banned nationwide.

Local maritime police seized the Indonesian-flagged KM Sinar Samudra on Feb. 18 after finding it fishing within 13 nautical miles (24 kilometers) of the coast of the Natuna Islands. At 130 gross tonnage (GT), the vessel should have been operating at least 30 nautical miles (56 km) offshore, under a fisheries law provision for vessels larger than 30 GT.

An inspection of the vessel found two types of fishing gear on board, one of which appeared to be a cantrang, a trawl net that was initially banned in 2015 for its destructive nature; a 2010 study showed that nearly 50% of cantrang catches were bycatch and discards..."

Police in Indonesia's Aceh arrest 8 Indian fishermen for illegal fishing

<https://en.antaranews.com/news/218945/aceh-police-arrest-8-indian-fishermen-for-illegal-fishing>

"A team from the Marine and Air Police Directorate of Aceh Provincial Police has arrested eight Indian fishermen for fishing illegally in the waters off Aceh Besar district.

The eight fishermen comprise a skipper and seven crew members, Marine and Air Police Director of Aceh Provincial Police, Commissioner Risman Aldino, said in Banda Aceh on Tuesday.

"They were arrested while fishing in Lhoong waters, Aceh Besar district, on Monday (March 7, 2022) around 1 p.m. local time. The motor vessel of the Indian fishermen was 18 miles from Lhoong coast when they were arrested," he informed.

We fish too: Invisible women in tuna industries

<https://www.deccanherald.com/international/we-fish-too-invisible-women-in-tuna-industries-1088928.html>

"The assumption that the tuna fishing industry is a man's world is not only misleading, but also damaging. In the coastal Indonesian city of Bitung, women who fish cannot formally register their occupation and miss out on government support provided to fishers. The assumption that the fishing industry is dominated by men, or that only men fish, is not only wrong, but damaging.

Given women make up half of the population, it's important to know if the development of fishing industries benefits both women and men. A first step is making women visible through gender-disaggregated data to have a better picture of how women are impacted.

Ministry seeks accurate data of small fishermen to tackle poverty in Indonesia

<https://en.antaranews.com/news/217877/ministry-seeks-accurate-data-of-small-fishermen-to-tackle-poverty>

"To address the issue of poverty in coastal areas, accurate data from the Maritime Affairs and Fisheries Ministry regarding small fishermen in several areas was deemed necessary, according to an expert.

""(Accurate data on small fishermen is necessary), so that in the event of the issuance of new policies, fishermen would no longer need to get new identifiers (to indicate they are small fishermen). That is actually unnecessary and is (practically) a waste of money for nothing, (when in reality, the money) means a lot to small fishermen and their families,"" Executive Director of the Center for Maritime Studies for Humanity Abdul Halim stated on Wednesday.

According to Halim, a policy was currently in place under which small fishermen were not required to pay fees, though the services provided were still deemed perfunctory.

He also drew attention to fishermen, who faced challenges in form of administrative arrangements, in which they were required to do paperwork to get the certificate. Moreover, additional costs had to be borne to process documents showing that they were small fishermen.

Indonesian govt.'s command center in Maluku to supervise illegal fishing

<https://en.antaranews.com/news/213737/governments-command-center-in-maluku-to-supervise-illegal-fishing>

"The Maritime Affairs and Fisheries Ministry is planning to set up a command center in Maluku Province to supervise illegal fishing in Indonesia. The command center will supervise activities in the Indonesian waters to be divided into six zones, with the Maluku waters being zone 3,

Maritime Affairs and Fisheries Minister Sakti Wahyu Trenggono stated in the South Sulawesi provincial capital of Makassar on Sunday. "

"We will use a satellite to supervise (the waters) round the clock to prevent illegal fishing. To that end, we will set up a command center at the Office of the Maluku Governor to function as a control center, particularly for zone 3,"" he remarked. The satellite will conduct an aerial, round-the-clock supervision of fishing ships in the zone, he remarked while adding that such supervision was common to the rest of the world.

The command center will be able to check the quantity of fish caught by fishing ships from the Indonesian waters as well as to monitor their fishing permits, he stated.

Indonesia, Malaysia to hold joint patrols against illegal fishing

<https://news.mongabay.com/2022/02/indonesia-malaysia-to-hold-joint-patrols-against-illegal-fishing/>

"Malaysia and Indonesia, whose fisheries have long suffered from illegal fishing, have agreed to carry out on joint patrols against poaching vessels in waters that connect the two Southeast Asian countries. The joint operation in particular will beef up maritime security against illegal fishers in the Strait of Malacca, one of the world's most heavily trafficked shipping lanes, and the North Natuna Sea, at the southern tip of the hotly contested South China Sea.

The initiative will include sharing technological advancement in monitoring, and will be formalized in an agreement drafted by both governments later this year, according to a statement published by Indonesia's Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries.

This operation isn't only targeting fishers from outside of the [two] countries, but also fishers from our own countries, Indonesia and Malaysia, who refuse to abide by the laws, Hamzah Bin Zainudin, the Malaysian home affairs minister, said as quoted in the statement. He added the joint patrols would take place at least three times a year.

Indonesia's Fisheries Ministry innovates to develop seaweed fertilizer

<https://en.antaranews.com/news/212469/fisheries-ministry-innovates-to-develop-seaweed-fertilizer>

"Bantul District Fisheries Processing Research Center of the Maritime Affairs and Fisheries (KKP) Ministry of Indonesia has developed a seaweed fertilizer processing technology, KKP Minister Sakti Wahyu Trenggono informed in a press release here on Sunday. "

"Seaweed is a prominent commodity for Indonesian people which can be used ecologically, economically, and socially to encourage environmentally friendly and sustainable national and global development," he remarked. Meanwhile, Acting Head of the ministry's Center for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries Research and Human Resources (BRSDM) Kusdiantoro stated that the research was conducted to support the second priority program of the ministry.

The priority program aims to develop export-oriented aquaculture commodities, including shrimp, lobster, crab, and seaweed. Head of Bantul District Fisheries Processing Research Center Luthfi Assadad has informed that there are two seaweed fertilizer processing technologies which have been developed, namely liquid fertilizer and solid or granular fertilizer processing technologies.

Indonesia's investment in marine, fisheries sector reached US\$419 mn in 2021

<https://en.antaranews.com/news/211801/investment-in-marine-fisheries-sector-reached-rp602-trillion-in-2021>

"Indonesia's investment in the marine and fisheries sector in 2021 had reached Rp6.02 trillion (US\$419 million), Marine Affairs and Fisheries Minister Sakti Wahyu Trenggono stated.

"Investment in marine and fisheries in 2021, based on the data of BKPM (Investment Coordinating Board) and OJK (Financial Service Authority) as of September 2021, has reached Rp4.39 trillion.

Until December 2021, the amount is expected to reach Rp6.02 trillion," Trenggono noted during a working meeting with the House of Representatives' Commission IV here on Wednesday.

The investors came from Singapore, Switzerland, India, Japan, and China, among others, for investment chiefly in East Java, West Java, Central Java, Jakarta, and Lampung. Meanwhile, fishery production in 2021 had reached 24.480 million tons, the highest in seven years. In 2015, production was recorded at 22.311 million tons.

Global knowledge competition launched to combat overfishing

<https://www.seafoodsource.com/news/environment-sustainability/cfi-cf-launches-global-knowledge-competition-to-combat-overfishing>

"The Coastal Fisheries Initiative's Challenge Fund (CFI-CF) has launched the Global Knowledge Competition (GKC) to find innovative solutions addressing overfishing in coastal fisheries in four countries: Cabo Verde, Ecuador, Indonesia, and Peru.

The competition is asking for coalitions or individual organizations to create approaches that promote sustainable use and management of fish stocks through the coordination of fisheries, communities, and seafood industry stakeholders in the four countries. Winners of the competition will receive public recognition by the World Bank and other partners and will gain access to services to refine their solutions to aid future implementation.

Both winners and runners-up will be able to share their solutions with the seafood industry and investors. CFI is funded by the Global Environment Facility to preserve marine resources, specifically to ensure coastal fisheries can continue contributing to food security and economic and social development.

Its Challenge Fund focuses on making connections between fishing communities, businesses, investors, and the government to help improve the sustainability and productivity of the coastal fisheries.

Indonesian shrimp cooperative gets Fair Trade certification

<https://www.seafoodsource.com/news/environment-sustainability/indonesian-shrimp-cooperative-gets-fair-trade-certification>

"Blueyou and Fair Trade USA have announced the first Fair Trade-certified aquaculture project in Indonesia, involving a group of small-scale shrimp farmers and a local processing facility. Blueyou is a trading and service company doing business in sustainable seafood in the fisheries and aquaculture sectors. It works as an exclusive market access partner for the distribution of Fair Trade-certified shrimp products.

According to Blueyou, a seafood consultancy based in Zurich, Switzerland, the project involves 324 shrimp farmers of a local cooperative and a processing facility run by aquaculture feed producer and shrimp exporter PT Central Proteina Prima Tbk (CP Prima) in Sumatra.

The Fair Trade certification means they have been found to satisfy international standards of labor and human rights. Farmers participating in the project expect to receive a premium of at least USD 0.15 (EUR 0.13) per kilogram of final products, which the cooperative's members can decide how to use for community and environmental projects.

The project applied the Aquaculture Stewardship Council (ASC) certification methodology to the semi-intensive shrimp farming area of Wahyuni Mandira in South Sumatra. Farmers in the cooperative only use feed and shrimp larvae supplied by CP Prima have taken measures to ensure the risk of disease and contamination are minimized at their farms. Food safety compliance in the project is ensured via a secure traceability system, according to Blueyou.

The project benefits not only local communities with the development funds but also consumers in the market with its sustainable seafood, Blueyou said in a press release. Read more:

<https://www.seafoodsource.com/news/environment-sustainability/indonesian-shrimp-cooperative-gets-fair-trade-certification>

Sustainable fishing by 2025: What is the current situation in Indonesia?

<https://www.dw.com/en/sustainable-fishing-by-2025-what-is-the-current-situation-in-indonesia/a-60134067>

"When the Indonesian government announced plans to make the country's fishing industry sustainable in early 2019, Arifsyah Nasution welcomed the news. The ocean campaign leader for Greenpeace in Southeast Asia has long been sounding the alarm about endangered fish stocks in Indonesian waters. But he is skeptical that the situation will change much by 2025.

With over 7 million tons of catch annually, Indonesia is the second-largest fishing nation after China. Most is for domestic consumption, with the 270 million-strong population eating more than three times as much fish and seafood as the global average. This has wide-ranging consequences: Most fish stocks in Indonesia are completely depleted or already overfished.

According to the Marine Affairs and Fisheries Ministry, 90% of Indonesian boats draw their catch from areas that are already overfished and overcrowded with boats. Indonesian waters are home to 37% of the world's marine species, many of which are endangered as a result of fishing. Shrimp, for example, are already overfished in more than two-thirds of Indonesian waters, and are therefore becoming increasingly rare. Quotas have already been exhausted in other parts of the country, too.

Indonesia eyes sustainable fish farming with 'aquaculture villages'

<https://www.eco-business.com/news/indonesia-eyes-sustainable-fish-farming-with-aquaculture-villages/>

"Indonesia is one of the top exporters of farmed seafood, but fish farming in the country has long come at the expense of carbon-rich mangrove forests and other important coastal ecosystems. The Indonesian government plans to have a network of dozens of villages with aquaculture farms by the end of the year, in a bid to spur the post-pandemic economic recovery by catering to global demand for farmed seafood.

Indonesia's fisheries ministry said in December that it has established six of these so-called aquaculture villages and would add 130 more by the end of 2022. The villages will cultivate high-value aquaculture commodities, including shrimp, lobster, crab and seaweed.

Boosting production of commodities for exports comes first, TB Haeru Rahayu, the ministry's director-general of aquaculture fisheries, said at an online event. He added the program would strengthen the country's food security and create new jobs.

Indonesia embraces implementation of Carbon Economic Value

<https://www.lexology.com/library/detail.aspx?g=26c31b0b-2b12-4089-8fec-714c4fb7823a>

"On 29 October 2021, shortly before the 2021 United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP 26), Indonesia issued Presidential Regulation No. 98 of 2021 on the Implementation of Carbon Economic Value to Achieve Nationally Determined Contribution Targets and Control over Greenhouse Gas Emissions in Relation to National Development (Regulation).

The Regulation builds on Indonesia's ratification of the Paris Agreement (via Law No. 16 of 2016), under which Indonesia expressed its hope to better manage the impact of climate change and stated its commitment to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and to achieve the nationally determined contribution (NDC).

The Regulation prescribes mitigation and adaptation actions as the two main methods to tackle climate change and to achieve the NDC. It also introduces the concept of carbon economic value (nilai ekonomi karbon) " it develops a regulatory framework on carbon pricing and carbon trading arrangements (including registration and valuation, economic incentives, and carbon levies and taxes) and signals Indonesia's readiness to graduate from a voluntary carbon market into a compliance carbon market.

As one would expect with such a substantial and wide-ranging piece of legislation, details on implementation will need to be fleshed out in future ministerial level regulations. The government agencies will be led by the Coordinating Minister for Maritime Affairs and Investment and will involve other Ministers such as the Minister of Finance, Minister of Environment and Forestry, Minister of National Development Planning, Minister of Energy and Mineral Resources, Minister of Industry, Minister of Transportation, Minister of Agriculture, Minister of Marine Affairs and Fisheries and Minister of Trade.

Indonesia: Floods displace thousands in Sumatra, 1 dead in Aceh

<https://floodlist.com/asia/indonesia-floods-sumatra-aceh-january-2022>

"At least one person has died and thousands have evacuated their homes after floods and landslides on the island of Sumatra, Indonesia. Severe flooding has also affected wide areas of Malaysia on the other side of the Malacca Strait. Disaster management authorities reported

severe flooding and landslides in the province of Aceh in the north of Sumatra Island after heavy rain from 30 December and the overflow of Krueng Peutoe, Krueng Keureuto, Sepanjang, and Langsa Rivers.

The city of Lhokseumawe recorded 149 mm of rain in 24 hours to 30 December 2021. The regencies of East Aceh, North Aceh and Aceh Tamiang were all affected, along with areas in Langsa City. As of 03 January 2022, a total of 67,871 people were affected, 19,947 displaced and 17,646 homes damaged. One fatality was reported in East Aceh Regency.

Meanwhile the government of Padang Lawas Regency in North Sumatra province has declared a state of emergency after floods in Batang Lubu Sutam district late on 31 December 2021. Around 350 people were affected and 70 homes damaged across 15 villages. Medan City, capital of North Sumatra, recorded 88 mm of rain in 24 hours to 30 December 2021.

In Indonesia's Sulawesi, a community works to defuse blast-fishing crisis

<https://news.mongabay.com/2022/01/in-indonesias-sulawesi-a-community-works-to-defuse-blast-fishing-crisis/>

"Syukur Dullah grew up surrounded by a fringe of intact reefs off Lora, before the bombings decimated corals near the village in Indonesia's Southeast Sulawesi province. This stretch of coral was colorful" like heaven, said Syukur, who is now the elected chief of Lora village, in Southeast Sulawesi's Bombana district. Lora also used to retain a buffer of mangrove trees, which helped provide food security for the 412 families who live along the village's 7-kilometer (4-mile) coastline.

Today, that stretch of coast is barren and brown, a legacy of deforestation upriver for plantations and the explosives dropped on reefs to kill and catch fish. Whenever we used to sit around, we could hear the sound of bombs going off, Syukur said. Blast fishing has long been illegal in Indonesia, and other coastal and island nations, where millions rely on nearshore fishing grounds for income and food security.

Around 80% of Indonesia's 2.4 million fishers operate small boats and fish only near shore, according to Rare, a U.S.-based conservation organization that partners with fishers in Lora. Use of homemade bombs, often fashioned from fertilizer and kerosene, is one of the world's most destructive forms of fishing, according to the United Nations Environment Programme.

The explosives kill indiscriminately, blowing up everything from fish eggs to dolphins, while rupturing vast stretches of coral reefs already endangered by climate change. However, increased law enforcement and social work by NGOs is helping cut down blast fishing, together with other destructive practices, such as the use of cyanide.

Indonesia's Tuna Fishers for Sustainable Fishing: ~Let's Take a Day Off'

<https://en.tempo.co/read/1544629/tuna-fishers-for-sustainable-fishing-lets-take-a-day-off>

"Fair Trade Fisher Associations in Maluku and North Maluku in Indonesia recently celebrated World Fisheries Day (WFD) 2021, along with the rest of fishery communities around the globe. This year, they called out to fellow small-scale fishers to consider taking a one-day break from fishing each week, or a total of 52 days a year. This effort is intended to help reduce fish mortality, allowing more time for fish to grow and breed, to help naturally restore fish stocks in the sea.

Data collected by Masyarakat dan Perikanan Indonesia (MDPI) Foundation so far indicates that the size of tuna caught in the last few years has been in decline, with fishers needing to travel further out, resulting in longer fishing days and increased fuel costs. These signs of declining catch volumes need to be monitored, especially by small-scale fishers, who are living with many limitations as is. Many of them have no alternative source of income; they cannot afford to keep paying the high operational cost of fishing only to return with too little catch, if any.

The globally commemorated day has also become our organization's annual awareness-raising festivity; from a series of school talks to information and data-sharing with fishers, along with a variety of fun events to keep the community entertained, while advocating for healthier ocean ecosystems.

These grassroots activities are carried out across all MDPI project sites, spanning two to three days leading up to the official day-of on November 21st, involving all fisher associations that we work alongside with.

2004 Indian Ocean tsunami: 17 years on, a look back at one of the deadliest natural disasters in history

<https://www.hindustantimes.com/world-news/2004-indian-ocean-tsunami-17-years-on-a-look-back-at-one-of-the-deadliest-natural-disasters-in-history-101640476494667.html>

"December 26, 2021, marks 17 years since the devastating Indian Ocean earthquake and tsunami of 2004 which struck the coasts of multiple countries in south and southeast Asia and took a fatal toll on the population there. Listed among the worst calamities in this part of the world, more than 230,000 people across India, Sri Lanka, Maldives, Thailand, and Indonesia were and the countries sustained billions of dollars worth of damages to property after the 100-foot tsunami triggered by a magnitude 9.1 earthquake.

The 2004 Indian Ocean Tsunami is also known as the Boxing Day Tsunami or, in the scientific community, the Sumatra-Andaman earthquake. According to a report by CNN, the tremors were so powerful that it was one of those rare instances when the entire planet vibrated and no place on Earth escaped movement. Globally, this earthquake was large enough to basically vibrate the whole planet as much as half an inch, or a centimeter, the report quoted an associate professor of geosciences at the Penn State University in the United States. Everywhere we had instruments, we could see motions.

Triggered by the undersea earthquake activity offshore, the 100-foot-high tsunami waves laid bare complete annihilation in as many as 14 countries, making it one of the deadliest natural disasters in recorded history. According to geological estimates, the 2004 earthquake was the third-largest of its type to ever be recorded, and it managed to even trigger aftershocks as far away as in Alaska. The plight of the affected people and countries prompted a worldwide humanitarian response, with donations totalling more than \$14 billion.

Indonesia, hit worst by the disaster, was however no stranger to earthquakes, lying between the Pacific Ring of Fire and the Alpide Belt along the south and west. The 2002 Sumatra earthquake is, in fact, believed to have been a foreshock to this main event.

Spike in incursions highlights joint Australian and Indonesian interests in combating illegal fishing

<https://www.aspistrategist.org.au/spike-in-incursions-highlights-joint-australian-and-indonesian-interests-in-combating-illegal-fishing/>

"A significant rise in Indonesian illegal fishing in Australia's northern waters highlights a significant maritime security threat, and our border enforcement agencies can't afford to drop the ball. Over the past six months, Australian authorities have confiscated more than 600 kilograms of trepang (sea cucumber) from Indonesian fishing vessels in our waters. Overfished and valuable, Australian trepang sells for \$15-30 a kilogram in Indonesia.

The trepang trade between various Australia's First Nations peoples and Indonesia's orang Makassar from Sulawesi has been well established since before Australia's colonisation. That activity is now recognised in native title jurisprudence. But these modern-day illegal fishers use contemporary fishing equipment and pose a threat to coral reefs, marine conservation and maritime border security.

Responding to the incursions, Australian authorities burned the three least seaworthy of the offending boats last month. That's consistent with Australia's (and Indonesia's) punitive procedures for illegal fishing. Over the past 20 years, Australia has destroyed around 1,500 boats

engaged in illegal fishing in our waters and prosecuted more than 2,000 foreign nationals involved (mainly Indonesian).

Fishermen in Indonesia's Natuna contend with foreign poachers "and now, local competition

<https://asianews.network/natuna-fishermen-contend-with-foreign-poachers-and-now-local-competition/>

"As a fisherman from Laut Island, the northernmost inhabitable place in Natuna regency, Riau Islands province in Indonesia, 46-year-old Asmareno says he often has run-ins with foreign fishing vessels, an experience he describes as very disturbing. They don't bother us, but they do tell us to leave, which we do because we are afraid, he told The Jakarta Post on Wednesday, as members of the National Border Management Agency (BNPP) made a working visit to the island.

Located about six hours from Natuna's capital of Ranai, Laut Island is home to some 2,200 people, most of whom are fishermen. It lies at the southern tip of the South China Sea, a highly strategic and resource-rich body of water upon which China, Brunei, Malaysia, the Philippines, Taiwan and Vietnam have sometimes overlapping claims.

The island is adjacent to one of Indonesia's most remote exclusive economic zone (EEZ) baseline markers, located in the North Natuna Sea, where curbing illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing remains a big challenge for the local authorities, as they regularly face encroachments from Malaysia, Vietnam and China.

But nowadays, Asmareno is also concerned about competing with fishermen from the northern coast of Java, who have started to overcrowd local fishing spots. At a public discussion held on the island, Asmareno asked Home Minister Tito Karnavian and Coordinating Political, Legal and Security Affairs Minister Mahfud MD "both members of the BNPP "to assign the out-of-town fishermen to waters at least 30 miles away from Laut Island so they wouldn't have to compete with each other for their catch.

Indonesia echoes climate change handling in Asia Pacific

<https://www.thejakartapost.com/adv/2021/11/15/indonesia-echoes-msmes-empowerment-climate-change-handling-in-asia-pacific.html>

"Indonesia's Minister of Communications and Informatics Johnny G. Plate said President Joko Widodo has invited all countries in the region to solidify cooperation to push inclusive empowerment of the Micro Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) and sustainably handling

the climate change impact for collective benefit. The statement was made during the Business Advisory Council (ABAC) of the 2021 Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation Summit, which was held virtually on Thursday (11/11/2021).

On the climate change handling sustainability, Johnny went on, President has highlighted that the handling on climate change impact must be done in balance with the social and economic development, to fulfil the sustainable development's target. Forest conservation and ocean wealth, and the transformation toward new and renewable energy must benefit the lower-class communities.

Indonesia's Fisheries Ministry intensifies campaign against fish bombing

<https://en.tempo.co/read/1528428/fisheries-ministry-intensifies-campaign-against-fish-bombing>

"The Marine and Fisheries Ministry (KKP) of Indonesia has intensified the campaign against fish bombing in areas where the practice is prevalent in Central Sulawesi province, a senior official has said. The campaign against fish bombing will be intensified as part of efforts to support the implementation of blue economy, healthy sea, and Prosperous Indonesia (Indonesia Sejahtera) program launched some time ago, the ministry's marine and fisheries resource supervisory (PSDKP) director general Adin Nurawaludin said in a press statement issued on Saturday.

In a bid to protect the world's biosphere reserves and to boost the implementation of blue economy, of course, we do not only apply the law enforcement approach, but also raise public awareness as one of the important instruments, he noted. Campaigns and information dissemination against destructive fishing, particularly fish bombing, need to be carried out continually since fish bombing is widely prevalent in some regions, he said. Moreover, the public should be educated about the negative impacts of fish bombing, he added.

Indonesian Traditional Fishers Association calls for accelerating, expanding mangrove ecosystem restoration

<https://en.antaranews.com/news/198289/knti-calls-for-accelerating-expanding-mangrove-ecosystem-restoration>

"The Indonesian Traditional Fishers Association (KNTI) has encouraged to expedite and expand policies pertaining to the restoration of mangrove ecosystems or forests in regions. ""The KNTI itself has long pushed for the restoration of mangrove ecosystems, especially in the northern coast of Java that is damaged,"" KNTI Daily Chairman Dani Setiawan stated when contacted by Antara here on Monday.

Setiawan emphasized that mangrove ecosystems can support marine biota. "Coastal mangrove forests are very important. Fish can lay eggs, forage, grow, and even play there," he remarked. Setiawan noted that in the archipelago, mangroves are able to provide food containing fish protein.

The KNTI daily chairman explained that mangrove ecosystems also function as filters for pollutant materials, thereby reducing the volume and energy of waves in the event of disasters, such as tsunamis.

Hence, he called on the government to prevent damage to coastal areas due to large-scale industrial and plantation expansion that had a dire impact on the coastal environment. "If mangrove ecosystems are damaged or lost, it will damage the life chain of water resources," he cautioned.

Study shines a light on Indonesia's murky shark fishery and trade

<https://news.mongabay.com/2021/11/study-shines-a-light-on-indonesias-murky-shark-fishery-and-trade/>

"As a fisheries biologist in Indonesia, Andhika Prasetyo connects with fishers by accompanying them on their voyages out to sea. He can always tell from their faces whether the day's fishing is going well: if there are smiles, the catch will be good. When I see [the fishers] happy, I wish that they could always feel that way, Andhika, an associate researcher at Indonesia's Center for Fisheries Research and a doctoral candidate at the University of Salford in the U.K., told Mongabay.

But managing the balance between ample catches and long-term sustainability is a challenge. Fisheries authorities often struggle to keep track of where fish are caught across Indonesia's vast archipelago and to trace their subsequent trade in domestic and international markets.

The complexities of shark and ray fisheries and their subsequent impacts on struggling populations is a particularly tricky area, according to Andhika. He recently led a study, published in Marine Policy, that identifies where improvements should be made to strengthen the regulation of such fisheries.

Skippers shocked by influx of Indonesian fishing boats in protected waters close to Australian mainland

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2021-10-14/illegal-fishing-boat-influx-off-australian-mainland/100530120>

"Photographs obtained by the ABC reveal a surge in illegal Indonesian fishing crews operating close to the Australian mainland, seemingly under the nose of federal border protection agencies. Multiple operators have provided footage and photographs showing foreign fishermen scooping up seafood and clambering on delicate coral atolls within the Rowley Shoals Marine Park.

The boat skippers say it's the first time they've seen Indonesian crews at the coral reefs, which are located 300 kilometres off the coast of Broome.

Indonesia's Togean Islands National Park's 60 percent coral reefs damaged

<https://en.antaranews.com/news/194061/togean-islands-national-parks-60-percent-coral-reefs-damaged>

"At least 60 percent of the coral reefs in the Togean Islands National Park (BTNKT) in Tojo Una-Una District, Central Sulawesi, have suffered mild to serious damage. "Some 40 percent of the coral reefs have suffered serious damage, while 20 percent were mildly damaged," head of the Togean Islands National Park Bustang stated here on Wednesday. According to Bustang, the coral reef damage was an impact of environmental transformation and the use of explosives in illegal fishing.

Indonesian govt. should promptly discuss crucial Island Regions Bill: Expert

<https://en.antaranews.com/news/192429/dpr-govt-should-promptly-discuss-crucial-island-regions-bill-expert>

"The House of Representatives (DPR) and the government of Indonesia should hold discussions at the earliest on the Island Regions Bill deemed urgent at present, according to Indonesian Destructive Fishing Watch (DFW) national coordinator Moh Abdi Suhufan. "Currently, the number of maritime-based national development instruments are quite less.

The existing regulations and policies are not yet sufficiently strong to make Indonesia the world's maritime center," Suhufan stated here on Monday. The coordinator remarked that the Island Regions Bill become increasingly important in order to offer a bigger role to provinces, districts, and cities, with an expansive ocean territory, to control development activities.

After long delay, Indonesia repatriates 200 Vietnamese held for illegal fishing

<https://www.benarnews.org/english/news/indonesian/vietnamese-fishermen-repatriated-09292021171444.html>

"Indonesia this week repatriated 200 Vietnamese fishermen who languished at immigration detention centers for months amid the coronavirus pandemic after local authorities confiscated their boats on suspicion of poaching in Indonesian waters, officials said Wednesday. Another 216 fishermen from Vietnam will be sent home in October, according to a senior official at Indonesia's Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries.

Dear ASEAN, modern slavery at sea is worsening on your watch

<https://www.thejakartapost.com/academia/2021/09/26/dear-asean-modern-slavery-at-sea-is-worsening-on-your-watch.html>

"Forced labor and human trafficking within the industry persist as acute problems and are intricately connected to illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing (IUU fishing) as fisheries crime threatens marine ecosystems and fish stocks, which adversely impacts food security and sustainable fishing in coastal communities around the world, as indicated by ILO.

As many as 34 Indonesian migrant fishers have detailed conditions suggesting signs of forced labor on 13 suspected foreign fishing vessels, while 62 others on 41 fishing vessels and 4 refrigerated transport vessels complained about further labor and human rights abuses in a follow up report.

Indonesia's emerging aquaculture startups

<https://thefishsite.com/articles/indonesias-emerging-aquaculture-startups>

"More than 30 startups have now joined Indonesia's Digifish Network, bringing sophisticated innovation and business models to unravel the problems in every segment of the aquaculture industry. The wave of digitisation that has been sweeping across various industries in the last decade has reached Indonesia's aquaculture sector. These innovations, many of which have been made by millennials, have produced a variety of products, services, and business models that have never existed before in the industry.

Worked to death: How a Chinese tuna juggernaut crushed its Indonesian workers

<https://news.mongabay.com/2021/09/worked-to-death-how-a-chinese-tuna-juggernaut-crushed-its-indonesian-workers/>

"One of China's biggest tuna fishing firms, Dalian Ocean Fishing, made headlines last year when four young Indonesian deckhands fell sick and died from unknown illnesses after allegedly being subject to horrible conditions on one of its boats. Now, an investigation by Mongabay, Tansa

and the Environmental Reporting Collective shows for the first time that the abuses suffered by workers on that vessel ” most commonly, being fed substandard food, given possibly dangerous drinking water and made to work excessively ” were not limited to one boat, but widespread and systematic across the company’s fleet.

Moreover, migrant fishers on many boats were subject to beatings and threats to withhold pay if they did not follow orders. Many have not received their full salaries or been paid at all. China has the world’s largest distant-water fishing fleet, and Indonesia is widely believed to be the industry’s biggest supplier of labor. In 2019 and 2020, at least 30 fishers from Indonesia died on Chinese long-haul fishing boats, often from unknown illnesses.

Detecting anchored fish aggregating devices (AFADs) and estimating use patterns from vessel tracking data in small-scale fisheries

<https://www.nature.com/articles/s41598-021-97227-1>

"Monitoring the use of anchored fish aggregating devices (AFADs) is essential for effective fisheries management. However, detecting the use of these devices is a significant challenge for fisheries management in Indonesia. These devices are continually deployed at large scales, due to large numbers of users and high failure rates, increasing the difficulty of monitoring AFADs. To address this challenge, tracking devices were attached to 34 handline fishing vessels in Indonesia over a month period each.

We detected 139 possible AFADs, of which 72 were positively classified as AFADs. Our approach enabled us to estimate AFAD use and sharing by vessels, predict catches, and infer AFAD lifetimes. Key implications from our study include the potential to estimate AFAD densities and deployment rates, and thus compliance with Indonesia regulations, based on vessel tracking data.

A tale of three Indonesian ministers and a flip-flopping fisheries policy

<https://www.benarnews.org/english/news/indonesian/indonesia-fisheries-09032021132427.html>

"Indonesia’s new fisheries minister faces a challenging task as he follows in the footsteps of a pro-business politician now locked up for taking bribes, and a tough-talking seafood exporter whose boat-burning policies made her wildly popular with fisher folk. But analysts say the portfolio is an important one because the sprawling archipelago nation can take a leading role in boosting Indonesia’s economy while combating illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing, which the United Nations describes as one of the greatest threats to marine ecosystems and fisheries sustainability.

Indonesia's newly minted investigators to go after illegal fishing kingpins

<https://news.mongabay.com/2021/09/indonesias-newly-minted-investigators-to-go-after-illegal-fishing-kingpins/>

"Indonesia is scaling up its fight against fisheries-related crimes, going beyond boat crews to target the ultimate beneficiaries of these illegal practices. The country's fisheries ministry announced the move in the wake of a Constitutional Court decision in June that allows civil servants to investigate certain criminal acts.

The civil servant investigators can now follow the trail of assets of the criminals in the fisheries and marine sector for signs of money laundering, Adin Nurawaluddin, the ministry's director-general of marine and fisheries resources monitoring, said in a statement.

Study shows how sustainable livelihood programs for Indonesian fishers can succeed

<https://news.mongabay.com/2021/08/study-shows-how-sustainable-livelihood-programs-for-indonesian-fishers-can-succeed/>

"Fishing is integral to millions of Indonesians' livelihoods and identities, with an estimated 2.5 million households involved in small-scale (non-industrial) fishing and aquaculture. Small-scale fishing includes a wide variety of activities, from subsistence harvesting to fish processing, and is performed by individuals, informal fishers' groups, and even formal private sector businesses. But despite Indonesia's rich marine, coastal and mangrove ecosystems, approximately 11% of Indonesian fishers live in poverty.

Compounding that, they must navigate a myriad of environmental threats, including overfishing, water pollution, urban development and climate change. And although small-scale fishing has smaller environmental impacts than industrial fishing, fishing of any sort is an extractive industry and so even small-scale activities can conflict with conservation objectives.

Over the past few decades, many conservation and sustainable development organizations working across the archipelago have developed alternative-livelihoods programs to help fishing communities enhance or diversify their incomes and protect their environmental resources.

When climate adaptation fails, who is responsible? Indonesia is asking

<https://www.csmonitor.com/World/Asia-Pacific/2021/0826/When-climate-adaptation-fails-who-is-responsible-Indonesia-is-asking>

"The fishermen of Asilulu knew something was up when the tuna fled their shores for cooler waters. They didn't grasp that global warming was heating the ocean and displacing the fish on which their livelihoods depended. But they knew they needed to rethink how they fished. So the community of roughly 2,000 people adapted. They pooled their resources so boats could travel further in search of tuna.

In 2011, an Indonesian PhD student wrote his thesis about Asilulu's successful community-led adaptation to climate change on a seashore thousands of miles from the centers of power where climate policy is decided. That was then. This is now: Most fishermen have since given up on long, costly expeditions and turned their back on the sea that nourished past generations. The fish have gone too far, says Umar, one of the last remaining tuna fishermen.

Fishers in Indonesia's Natuna Islands fend off domestic, international threats

<https://www.rappler.com/environment/fishers-natuna-islands-indonesia-fending-off-domestic-international-threats>

"The Natuna Regency, an archipelago of 272 islands in the South China Sea, is hot property "smack in the middle of one of the world's busiest shipping and fishing routes. Despite being closer to Malaysia and Singapore, the Natuna Islands are actually part of Indonesia and have become one of the biggest hotspots for illegal fishing in country.

In 2016, as many as 280 foreign vessels were discovered fishing illegally in just one area, at fishing Zone 711, just north of Natuna, according to a study of Radar Sat footage by the Infrastructure Development of Space and Oceanography project.

With illegal, unregulated, and unreported (IUU) fishing having depleted seafood stock in the South China Sea by up to 90% since the 1950s, fishers from across the region are being forced further from the shore to find catch, and closer to conflict with each other.

Twinning aquaculture with marine conservation

<https://thefishsite.com/articles/can-aquaculture-co-exist-with-mpas-zanzibar-indonesia-tunisia>

"Proof that aquaculture can have positive impacts within Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) is offered by a collection of case studies by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN). The NGO is in the process of publishing a series of studies that examine how aquaculture initiatives can share conservation objectives with the community, while outlining critical issues that should be explored on a case-by-case basis.

Three new case studies in the IUCN worldwide catalogue of case studies on combined aquaculture and marine conservation have been published this week, adding to the inaugural study, which was published last year.

Slavery to advocacy: How one Indonesian fisherman is fighting abuse at sea

<https://www.thejakartapost.com/life/2021/08/13/slavery-to-advocacy-how-one-fisherman-is-fighting-abuse-at-sea.html>

""Welcome to the hell ship. That was how a man welcomed Imam Syafi'i and his fellow fishermen aboard the dilapidated fishing boat that was to be their workplace for the next few months in 2011. The vessel, berthed at a harbor in Trinidad and Tobago, could support 35 tons, but its appearance made Imam wary. In Indonesia, Imam and his friends filed a lawsuit against the recruitment company.

He and 55 fellow crew members also founded the Solidarity Forum for Indonesian Workers Abroad (FSPILN) and staged protests in their hometowns, including Pematang and Tegal, to encourage local administrations to take action against companies that recruited crew members there. They also occupied the Indonesian Migrant Worker Protection Agency (BP2MI, previously BNP2TKI) building for 23 days.

Daily life of Indonesian fishermen amid COVID-19 pandemic

<https://www.bignewsnetwork.com/news/270572373/asia-album-daily-life-of-indonesian-fishermen-amid-covid-19-pandemic>

"Fisheries play an important role in the economy of Indonesia. A relatively large number of people are involved directly and indirectly in the sector. According to the Indonesian Traditional Fishermen Association, survey results found that the economy of traditional fishermen was improving amid the COVID-19 pandemic.

Based on a survey they conducted on 5,292 fisherman respondents in 25 regions in Indonesia from April to May 2021, most traditional fishermen claim that their catch is entirely absorbed by the market.

Climate change threatens food security of 65 nations: study

<https://www.eco-business.com/news/climate-change-threatens-food-security-of-65-nations/>

"Scientists have projected that millions of people in 65 nations globally, particularly those in Africa and South-East Asia and the Pacific, could face increased malnutrition as climate change

and overfishing take their toll on fisheries. According to a study that analysed over 800 fish species from more than 157 countries, climate change and overfishing could lead to acute shortages of vital micronutrients from the oceans.

Countries whose fisheries are at increased risk include those in Sub-Saharan Africa such as Mozambique and Sierra Leone, and East Asian and Pacific countries including Cambodia, Indonesia, Malaysia and Timor-Leste, according to the study published this month (20 July) in *Current Biology*. Countries with nutrient-dense catches are more vulnerable to climate change, mostly tropical nations from East Asia, Pacific, and Sub-Saharan Africa where micronutrient deficiencies are particularly prevalent, says Eva Maire, the study's lead author and a senior research associate at the Lancaster Environment Centre, Lancaster University, England.

This suggests unmet potential for fisheries to help close nutrition gaps, especially amongst coastal communities. Maire says that the study found a clear impact from climate change on the overall availability of micronutrients for 65 nations, and consequently threatening the food security of millions of people living in these countries could be threatened. She explains that fish is a good source of protein and many vitamins, minerals, and fatty acids that are often missing in the diets of coastal populations throughout the world.

Making fish more accessible locally could have a huge impact on global food security and combat malnutrition-related diseases in millions of people globally, she adds. Researchers analysed the combined influence of climate change and overfishing on micronutrient availability using fish catch data from 157 countries for the years 2010 to 2014.

Our analysis highlights the need to consolidate fisheries, climate, and food policies to secure the sustainable contribution of fish-derived micronutrients to food and nutrition security, the study says. Maire tells SciDev.Net that an earlier study found that climate change could lead to large-scale redistribution of global fish catches with a drop of up to 40 per cent. We need to find a way to put human nutrition at the core of fisheries policies. Food security policymakers should acknowledge that fish is nutrient-rich food and work on what can be done to increase access to fish by malnourished people.

Effective climate [change] mitigation is a high priority, she says. Edward Kimani, chief research scientist, fisheries and aquatic ecology at the Kenya Marine and Fisheries Research Institute, says that economic impacts of reduced fishery production include reduced employment and household incomes as well as other fisheries support activities, and reduced trade and exports. Fish production is dependent on the aquatic environment and climate change directly impairs productivity, he explains, adding that the study's findings could inform policymakers of the impacts of overfishing and climate change on one key source of food and nutrition in Africa.

It is an early warning towards preparing mitigation by reducing the impacts as well as developing alternative sources of food and economic activities to cover the loss due to overfishing and climate change, he says. Strategies for mitigating overfishing, according to

Kimani, include the development of other economic activities such as coastal and marine tourism to reduce the number of people who directly depend on fishing, and the development of fish farming to reduce dependence on harvesting of fish in their natural habitat.

Could Indonesia's fledgling eel farming sector be on the cusp of a breakthrough?

<https://thefishsite.com/articles/could-indonesias-fledgling-eel-farming-sector-be-on-the-cusp-of-a-breakthrough-unagi>

"Indonesia's eel farming industry has huge potential "as long as all stakeholders can make a supportive ecosystem "according to Angga Kurniawan, general manager of one of the country's pioneering eel farms. Eel has long been popular on the menus at Japanese restaurants, where it is known as unagi and is a premium dish. While popular, demand is limited, due to technical issues relating to eel production, and due to the premium prices they fetch. Eels were traditionally caught by a handful of fishermen in rural rivers "far away from the sea where they were spawned.

However, due to their popularity as a premium commodity, some entrepreneurs and companies are now trying to cultivate this enigmatic fish. Eel has a high value compared to other freshwater commodities. The cost of eel production typically ranges from 90,000 "120,000 IDR/kg. Farm-gate price of these species ranges from 150,000 " 160,000 IDR/kg, while in retail, the price can reach up to IDR 300,000/kg " this means that the margins for eel farmers can equal shrimp farming levels. One of the Indonesian companies which has focused on research into, and production of, eels is PT Laju Banyu Semesta (Labas), which is located at Bogor, in West Java.

The general manager, Angga Kurniawan, says that the company has been focusing on eel farming for over 10 years. Apart from the value of the species, he was also attracted to farming eels because they are endemic to Indonesia " unlike other popular aquaculture species like vannamei shrimp, tilapia or catfish. In addition, he says that he also aims to provide an alternative good quality seafood for local people. The farming process starts at the glass eel phase, after they have hatched in the sea. The glass eels are usually caught by fishermen in estuaries, in areas such as Sukabumi (West Java), Cilacap (Central Java), Banyuwangi (East Java) and Sulawesi.

Kurniawan explains that it takes about 18 months to grow these glass eels to market size of 250 - 400 grams. However, he notes that eel cultivation is still risky, especially in the early stages. There are at least three challenges in eel culture: namely survival rate, feed conversion ratio (FCR) and daily growth rate (DGR). Based on his research, Kurniawan has split the risk by dividing it into three phases of cultivation: phase 1, phase 2, and the grow-out phase. This policy had not yet been formed when Kurniawan and his company began to focus on eel production. The first and second phases have a similar system. Both require strict aquaculture practices, especially in water management. The water should be free from potential pathogens by using UV

disinfection prior to stocking. Once the eels are stocked, the water quality is maintained by using recirculating aquaculture systems (RAS) and aeration. "

"We use all the filter tools in the RAS: biological, physical and chemical. We also add nitrifying bacteria, such as Nitrosomonas and Nitrobacter, directly to the farming tank. We need these to reduce ammonia levels, which can rise due to the high protein feed needed by the eels. With this system, we only add water to replace that lost by evaporation,"" he explains. Based on his experience in the last ten years, Kurniawan believes such a cultivation system can be developed and duplicated by other farmers to increase local production and offer farmers a chance to diversify. The key thing, says Kurniawan, is building a supportive ecosystem, covering factors including research, marketing, logistics, infrastructure, regulation and consumer education. In 2019, Indonesia's eel production " from both capture fisheries and aquaculture " was recorded at a comparatively modest 500 tonnes. Meanwhile, global eel production from aquaculture was 269,000 tonnes in 2018, suggesting that there's scope to increase production.

The global authority on the status of the natural world, the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) noted that the global status of *Anguilla bicolor* and *A. marmorata*, which are farmed by Kirniawan are NT (Near Threatened) and LC (Least Concern) respectively. However, Kirniawan believes that stocks of both are still abundant in Indonesia. There are still many fishermen, he notes, who offer glass eels, which he doesn't have the capacity to on-grow. However, while waiting for the emergence of a well-formed business ecosystem, the company has also been developing various trials to make eels accepted by a wider market. As a result, Labas now also develops processed products, such as kabayaki (grilled), shirayaki (grilled with seasoning) and frozen fillets. "

"Another goal is to see what the market response is like,"" Kirniawan adds. In Indonesia, eels have traditionally been associated with Japanese, Chinese, or Korean food. However, looking ahead, Kirniawan hopes that eels can be processed into various types of products so that they can be consumed more in his homeland. He also wishes to make eels more affordable. During the Covid-19 pandemic, he says that domestic consumers became a very important market, following trade restrictions abroad.

Indonesia's fish barn program targeted to contribute Rp3.71 trillion annually

<https://en.antaranews.com/news/181124/indonesias-fish-barn-targeted-to-contribute-rp371-trillion-annually>

"Indonesia's Marine Affairs and Fisheries Ministry (KKP) has targeted the National Fish Barn (LIN) Program to contribute Rp3.71 trillion each year to non-tax revenues (PNBP) owing to the vast potential in the fisheries sector. If we (the KKP) implement the LIN, we can generate Rp3.7 trillion every year from the Fisheries Development Area (WPP) 718, Marine Affairs and

Fisheries Minister Sakti Wahyu Trenggono stated during a virtual coordination meeting with related ministries and agencies on Wednesday.

The Fisheries Development Area of the Republic of Indonesia (WPPNRI) 718 comprises the Aru Sea, Arafuru Sea, and eastern part of Timor Sea. Administratively, the area is located within Papua, West Papua, and Maluku Provinces. Furthermore, the area has potential to 5,500 workers, he said, adding that the KKP had regulated the fishing mechanism within the area. Each fisherman will have a fishing quota and be able to only bring his catch to the appointed ports. There will be eight fishing ports near WPPNRI 718 to support the Ambon New Port as the main integrated harbor.

The Ambon New Port is expected to be the export gateway for fisheries products in the LIN area, he said. In the meantime, refrigerated container ships will be provided for the domestic market. The ships supply the products from ports within the LIN area to destination ports. This scheme also aims to support the government's sea toll, Trenggono expounded.

The KKP will streamline the supervision system of Indonesia's marine areas to ensure the scheme runs well using satellite-based technology, the minister highlighted. The system can additionally monitor fish stocks, oil spill, condition of corals, shrimp and seaweed farming areas, as well as the integrated coastal regions apart from supervising the fishing boats with or without the vessel monitoring system (VMS), he explicated. We want to change the fishermen's focus from searching to catching fish, Trenggono stated.

Indonesia reimposes ban on destructive seine and trawl nets in its waters

<https://news.mongabay.com/2021/07/indonesia-reimposes-ban-on-destructive-seine-and-trawl-nets-in-its-waters/>

"Indonesia has once again enforced a full ban on the use of a group of seine and trawl nets that threaten the sustainability of the country's fish stocks. The Indonesian fisheries ministry issued a new decree at the end of June that excludes several seine and trawl nets from being operated in the country's waters. These are locally known as dogol and cantrang, midwater trawl nets (pukat ikan), and bottom otter trawl nets (pukat hela dasar).

This issue has become a global concern, Sakti Wahyu Trenggono, the fisheries minister, said in a July 27 webinar. If we keep allowing cantrang fishing to continue, we can prove that the Java Sea has been overfished and its coral reefs have been destroyed.

The fisheries sector in Indonesia, the world's largest archipelagic country, plays an important role in supporting national and global food security. The country's waters support some of the highest levels of marine biodiversity in the world, and the fisheries industry employs about 12 million Indonesians. The country is the second-largest fish producer in the world, behind only

China. The ban on these seines and trawls was initially imposed in 2015 by then-minister Susi Pudjiastuti. These devices are highly effective for catching large amounts of fish, but also extremely non-discriminative.

A 2010 study by the Bogor Institute of Agriculture (IPB) showed that nearly 50% of cantrang catches were bycatch and discards. But the ban was hugely unpopular among fishing communities on the north coast of Java, Indonesia's most populous island, a region known as Pantura. These fishers have traditionally used cantrang in the Java Sea, and they historically represent a sizeable voting bloc, making the cantrang ban a loaded political issue. In response, the fisheries ministry exempted the Pantura fishers from the ban and gave them a three-year grace period to give up their cantrang nets.

In late 2019 and early 2020, the Pantura fishers were enlisted as an unofficial navy, sent by the government to fish with their cantrang nets in the waters around the Natuna Islands between Sumatra and Borneo. The move was meant to establish a heavy Indonesian presence there to counter incursions into the area by Chinese fishing boats; while China hasn't explicitly laid claim to the Natuna waters, its controversial nine-dash line includes the area, which is acknowledged by the rest of the world as Indonesian waters. But the stunt also sparked tensions between the Java cantrang fishers and local artisanal fishers.

In November 2020, the ban was lifted altogether by Susi's successor, Edhy Prabowo, who said these nets were needed to boost catches and in turn attract greater investment in Indonesia's marine capture fishery. About a week after lifting the ban, Edhy was arrested on corruption charges in a separate case, and was later replaced by the current minister, Trenggono. With the latest development, Trenggono has completely banned the use of these seine and trawl nets across the archipelago. If they don't stop, then we will have to force them to stop because [cantrang] destroys the environment, he said. Trenggono added his office is encouraging cantrang fishers operating with boats smaller than 30 gross tonnage to switch to either using less destructive fishing gear, or working in fish farming instead.

Sewage from anchored ships laying waste to coral reefs in Spratly Islands in the South China Sea "report

<https://www.philstar.com/headlines/2021/07/12/2111973/sewage-anchored-ships-laying-waste-coral-reefs-spratlys-report>

"Raw sewage from hundreds of anchored ships in the Spratly Islands in the South China Sea, including West Philippine Sea, have damaged coral reefs in the area, according to a report from a US-based geospatial imagery and data analysis company. Liz Derr, co-founder and CEO at Similarity, presented the Spratlys water quality report in an online forum organized by the Stratbase ADR Institute on the fifth anniversary of the South China Sea arbitral ruling. Similarity released satellite images showing how anchored ships created chlorophyll-a blooms

in Union Banks, located entirely within the country's exclusive economic zone in the West Philippine Sea.

According to the report, chlorophyll-a concentration in water is a measure of phytoplankton. "Excess phytoplankton that cannot be consumed by the reef inhabitants dies off and sinks to the sea floor, where it is consumed by bacteria," the report read. "These bacteria consume oxygen that would normally be available to the fish, creating a 'dead zone,'" it added. The report showed chlorophyll-a concentration on Mabini (Johnson South), McKennan (Hughes), Pagkakaisa (Lansdowne), Ross and Roxas (Collins) Reefs.

Mabini and McKennan Reefs are occupied by China while Pagkakaisa and Roxas Reefs are occupied by Vietnam. Satellite images showed that there had been increased chlorophyll-a concentration on these features in the past five years, indicating overgrowth of algae. "

"Fleshy algae on reefs increase copious amounts of nutrients, which microbes eat. These microbes then endanger corals by depleting oxygen from the environment or by introducing diseases," Similarity reported. What is worse is that overfishing in the waters near coral reefs have removed the primary-algae eaters, increasing the population of fleshy algae. "Tipping the balance towards algae results in increased acidification of the water, increasing coral erosion," the report read, adding that this is in addition to increased ocean acidification from climate change.

Coral reefs in the Spratlys matter as fishes from the area supply 85% of coastal inhabitants. Similarity also noted that Spratly reefs serve as nurseries for adult fish stock that make up the fisheries in the Philippines, Vietnam, Malaysia, Brunei and Indonesia. "Damaging these reefs directly affects the fish stocks of the entire South China Sea and can lead to a hunger crisis in coastal regions and a collapse of commercial fishing in the South China Sea," Similarity said. As of June 17, 236 ships, likely Chinese, have been spotted in Union Banks as seen on satellite images released by Similarity.

Root and branch reform: Protecting and restoring the world's mangrove forests

<https://phys.org/news/2021-06-root-reform-world-mangrove-forests.html>

"With the International Day of Forests 2021 already a fading memory, perhaps it's time to forget them for another year and shift our attention to the next worthy cause. Well, no. If anything, we need to be redoubling our efforts to ensure that they remain permanently in the spotlight, not least the most neglected, threatened and undervalued forest type of all. Mangroves have never really had their day in the sun, despite their crucial importance as coastguards, climate allies and wildlife havens.

Fauna & Flora International (FFI) views mangrove protection and restoration as an integral part of our global efforts to reverse biodiversity loss and combat climate change, twin challenges that are inextricably linked. Across our project portfolio, we are striving to redress the balance, working with in-country partners to ensure that mangroves receive the attention they deserve. FFI works across an 800,000-hectare seascape in Honduras, the vast majority of which comprises three important marine protected areas (MPAs), namely Cuero y Salado Wildlife Refuge, the Cayos Cochinos Marine National Monument and the island of Utila in the Bay Islands National Marine Park.

This seascape contains interconnected estuary, lagoon, mangrove, seagrass and coral reef habitat and is part of the globally important Mesoamerican Barrier Reef. The area harbors a rich diversity of species including the critically endangered hawksbill turtle, the Antillean manatee and the little-known and intriguingly named wishiwilly del suampo, a critically endangered spiny-tailed iguana confined to the island of Utila and one of only two lizard species found exclusively in mangrove swamps.

The degradation of mangrove habitat, which provides sanctuary for numerous coastal and marine species, particularly juvenile fish, has contributed to the decline in fisheries that is threatening the livelihoods of coastal communities in Honduras. FFI and our in-country partners have established a mangrove monitoring program and, with community support, we are aiming to reforest an area of mangrove estimated to sequester an additional 3,000 tons of carbon. There are ongoing efforts to remove an invasive oil palm that poses an additional threat to the native trees.

We are currently exploring opportunities related to blue carbon across the seascape, which has potential to expand mangrove cover by approximately 800 hectares, and seeking support for further coastal restoration to reduce land-based impacts on the nearshore environment and build resilience to hurricanes, as well as conducting a blue carbon feasibility study.

Cambodia's extensive coastline is fringed by almost 80,000 hectares of mangrove forest, which provide natural nurseries for the reef fish and other marine life on which numerous coastal communities rely for their livelihoods. FFI's work is focusing on the establishment of a national network of MPAs, building on our critical support for the designation of Cambodia's first large-scale MPA in the Koh Rong Archipelago in 2016.

As part of our wider marine conservation and fisheries management efforts, FFI is working to maintain the intact mangroves lying within the MPA boundary. This is combined with locally led initiatives to restore previously deforested mangrove areas, and four community mangrove nurseries have been established so far within Koh Rong, paving the way for future scaling up of restoration efforts.

In support of community-based approaches to the protection and restoration of marine resources, we are also investigating the use of sustainable financing mechanisms including opportunities to secure payment for blue carbon storage and sequestration by mangroves and other coastal forest,

thereby increasing resilience to climate change impacts. FFI is forging new partnerships for mangrove protection and marine conservation in the far north of Koh Kong province, on Cambodia's northern coast.

This work focuses on approximately 16,000 hectares of mangrove forest in Peam Krasop Wildlife Sanctuary and Koh Kapik Ramsar Site, a wetland recognized for its international importance in helping to build climate resilience. As the world's largest archipelago comprising an astounding 17,500 islands, Indonesia is on the front line of climate change and heavily dependent on the health of its coastal and marine ecosystems.

FFI works across a number of project sites in Aceh, West Papua and West Kalimantan to support and enhance coastal resilience. In order to ensure community buy-in, much of our work in these locations revolves around the establishment of locally managed marine areas in which resource use is governed by customary laws and practice.

These multiple-use zones also encompass mangrove habitat, and are largely patrolled by communities, with ad hoc support from government officials. In future, we are aiming to help strengthen management of mangrove resources, promote development of more sustainable harvesting methods and support community engagement in local decision-making to enhance coastal resilience.

Protecting mangroves from clearance for charcoal production has been a focus in southern Myanmar, where, in collaboration with local fishing communities and the government, FFI is in the process of establishing locally managed marine areas that include mangrove habitat. In northern Kenya, FFI has partnered with the Northern Rangelands Trust and the Nature Conservancy to support Kiunga and Pate Island Conservancy in addressing the significant threat posed by the unsustainable extraction of mangroves for firewood and poles used in construction.

Efforts to reduce illegal exploitation have so far focused on increasing the number of patrols carried out by local rangers. Meanwhile, restoration measures have included the planting of more than 35,000 mangrove seedlings since 2015. Following initial success on the island of Pemba, FFI is scaling up its engagement to take an ecosystem-based approach to coastal resource management in northern Tanzania, incorporating 300,000 hectares of coastal forest across Zanzibar and the mainland.

The coral reefs of Pemba, among the most diverse in East Africa, are extremely vulnerable to climate change. FFI is working to promote ecological resilience by reducing direct pressures on the marine environment through the introduction of community fisheries management measures and work to reduce the harvesting of mangrove wood.

Coastal communities take the lead: How plans to safeguard Southeast Asia's biodiverse waters are evolving

<https://www.eco-business.com/news/coastal-communities-take-the-lead-how-plans-to-safeguard-southeast-asias-biodiverse-waters-are-evolving/>

"When Imanuel Mofu dove down to the reef fringing Boo Island in early March last year, he knew immediately that something was amiss. The 32-year-old patrolman and his fellow crewmembers had inspected the colourful corals many times before. Now, they lay in pieces, bombed by fishermen to kill fish for easy collection. I was very sad to see this. A large part of the reef was gone, recalls Mofu.

Only one month before, another crew had been arrested for dropping explosives on a reef nearby that is also part of the Kofiau-Boo Islands Marine Protected Area (MPA), which is located in Raja Ampat, an archipelago in the province of West Papua in Indonesia's far east. It is rare that perpetrators get caught, Mofu says. Monitoring the park, which covers <<148,979 hectares, an area about twice the size of Singapore, and contains a staggering 44 small islands, is no easy feat. Mofu heads out on patrols up to 10 times a month, yet no one can be everywhere at once, and the reserve lacks the resources to send out staff around the clock.

Most of the time, only traces of illegal fishing practices are found. That can be corals blasted to shreds. It can be unexploded, homemade fish bombs, sunk to the ocean floor. Sometimes, it is dead sharks, thrown back into sea after their fins had been cut. Every violation is meticulously documented by patrolmen to eventually get ahead of the offenders, increasingly through mobile applications. Mofu is from Arborek, an indigenous village that is part of an Indonesian government programme to boost tourism in the area.

His community relies on the reefs, not just for food"about a quarter of the ocean's fish depend on healthy corals"but also because they attract visitors. And so, several years ago, he decided to join the patrol teams that scout the park to help keep it safe. Commitment from communities and the local government has been a key ingredient to West Papua's success in safeguarding its rich marine ecosystems, says Meity Mongdong, who manages Conservation International's West Papua programme.

When the group surveyed the area's incredible biodiversity and released the findings together with other organisations like the Nature Conservancy and the World Wide Fund for Nature in 2003, authorities promptly invited all customary leaders and other stakeholders to Tomolol village in the south of Raja Ampat to officially declare that the region needed protection, and that no more destructive fishing would be carried out. In 2006, the first two MPAs were introduced. Four more were added two years later. Today, more than a dozen parks are scattered across the region.

Communities are extremely supportive of MPAs, says Mark Erdmann, who is vice president for Conservation International's Asia-Pacific marine programmes, and has provided technical support to conservation projects for many years. They know that if you don't restrict commercial fishing, outsiders will come in and damage the ecosystems that their livelihoods depend on.

More and more, villagers are recognised as critical stakeholders in conservation planning and management.

In 2014, Indonesia established its MPA management authority (UTPD), which has since been turned into a collaborative institution to allow authorities and communities to look after marine parks and govern financial resources together. It is a trend that has emerged across Southeast Asia, notes Erdmann. In recent years, a major change in marine conservation has been a growing belief that it should be bottom-up, he says. Back in the 1990s and early 2000s, MPAs were set up through a top-down process.

At the national level, somebody in a faraway skyscraper would decide on a new MPA, draw a line on the map, and drop out of the sky onto these communities. And they, of course, were not very happy about that. No one likes to be told what to do, he continues. It's far more effective to bring communities on board to give them a sense of ownership and ensure the area has value to them. Ongoing education and outreach efforts are important too to make sure villagers don't forget about the perils posed by overfishing, he adds.

Tin mines close in on an Indonesian fishing hamlet still clinging to nature

<https://news.mongabay.com/2021/06/tin-mines-close-in-on-an-indonesian-hamlet-still-clinging-to-nature/>

"In the lore of Bangka Island, one of the world's main tin-producing centers, the rocky, white-sand beach of Tuing holds a special place. Tuing Beach is one of several areas around Bangka, off the southeast coast of Indonesia's Sumatra Island, where locals believe they can spot the footprints of Akek Antak, a mythological figure who appears prominently in oral tradition here. Often called the White Arab, Akek Antak is thought by some historians to have been a Sufi mystic who actually lived around the 10th century, around the time that Islam may have begun its spread throughout the Indonesian archipelago.

The Lom people, who live in Tuing hamlet, believe they are descended from Akek Antak, giving them added motivation to protect the environment here. We don't dare damage the rocks here, Sukardi, 51, a Tuing community leader, told Mongabay during a recent visit to the beach. Today, though, Sukardi says his community faces a threat: a plan to allow Indonesia's largest tin mining company to expand its operations into Tuing's pristine coast. For generations, the Lom, said to be the oldest tribe in Bangka, have preserved their land and sea to build their livelihoods outside of mining. Unlike the rest of their Indigenous community residing in neighboring hamlets who gave in to tin mining, they still hold on to their ancestors' oldest wisdom: living in harmony with nature.

Mine-free for centuries, dating back to colonial times, Tuing faces the South China Sea on the northeastern coast of Bangka. The hamlet covers an area of about 2,500 hectares (6,200 acres),

with a population of about 185 families. Our lives have been peaceful and happy, Sukardi said. We have enough food, we can send our children to school just by selling fish and harvest. So why destroy nature by mining for tin? Bangka is the source of about 90% of all the tin mined in Indonesia, the world's second-largest producer of the metal, mainly used as solder in electronic devices. It has long become the leading industry here and boosted the domestic economy. But decades of mining have left their mark.

Environmental degradation and water and air pollution have been devouring Bangka since the tin mining rush started in the early 2000s, when mobile phones became widespread and demand for solder multiplied. The Indonesian Forum for the Environment (Walhi), an NGO, found that tin mining in Bangka has degraded 5,270 hectares (13,022 acres) of coral reef and 400 hectares (988 acres) of mangrove forest. Between 2017 and 2020, Walhi recorded 40 deaths linked to tin mines, with more than half of them in 2019 alone. According to the Mining Advocacy Network (Jatam), an industry watchdog, Bangka registered the most deaths in Indonesia of people falling into abandoned mining pits, with 57 reported dead between 2014 and 2020 in this way.

These threats are the Lom people's greatest concern regarding the coastal zoning plan that underlies state-owned miner PT Timah's permit. Under the zoning plan approved by the government of Bangka-Belitung province, 11.2% of the area's waters are allocated for mining. The Indigenous Lom community strongly oppose to this tin mining plan and has held several meetings to protest, said Edo Martono, an official in Mapur village, of which Tuing hamlet is a part. This isn't the first battle by Bangka residents against the zoning plan rolled out just last year.

Although the local government says the interests of the fishing communities have been taken into account and the zoning plan was approved by consensus, the impact on Bangka's fishers has proven to be devastating, locals say. Fishermen of Matras and Teluk Kelabat are some of the many examples of people losing their source of income because of coastal mining in Bangka, Edo said. Tuing's waters are known as the squid center of Bangka, where around 170 fishermen from around the area fish daily. We have only been using rods and nets to fish, not even 5 miles from the shore, Sukardi said. We are prohibited to damage or alter anything in the sea.

Many fishermen from other areas also fish here. We welcome them as long as they use fishing rods and nets. Besides fishing, Sukardi is also a farmer. The coral reefs along the Tuing coast are also well preserved. We fish on those coral reefs. We understand that if they are damaged, fish will disappear, he added.

Last year, a France 24 documentary reported the visible ecological impacts of coastal mining in Batu Belubong, a hamlet 6 kilometers (3.7 miles) down the coast from Tuing. Water polluted by mud, pumped from great depths, could be seen for kilometers. Beaches in some places were covered with blocks of clay. A decrease in fish populations was also reported, especially near the mines, affecting local livelihoods.

Indonesia to become main global player in shrimp market: Minister

<https://nusadaily.com/en/culture/indonesia-to-become-main-global-player-in-shrimp-market-minister.html>

"Indonesia can emerge as the key player in the global shrimp market with the government's support to boost exports and production, Marine Affairs and Fisheries Minister Sakti Wahyu Trenggono stated. The ministry has fully supported the programs to increase national shrimp exports, Trenggono noted in a statement here on Monday quoted from Antara.

During the 2015-2019 period, highest demand in the global market was recorded for shrimp after salmon. Indonesia's shrimp produce contributed 6.9 percent to the global supply during the 2015-2020 period, he pointed out. We must explore this market potential, especially that offers high value to Indonesia's shrimp produce, the minister affirmed. The ministry has prepared some programs to boost production and exports of shrimp through the revitalization of ponds by conducting infrastructure development and simplification of licensing for shrimp businesses, among others.

Moreover, it has developed the shrimp estate model for farmers to conduct shrimp cultivation in an integrated area through a technology-based production process and an environment-friendly approach to maintain sustainable cultivation. Indonesia, constituting 7.1 percent of the market share, was the fifth-largest shrimp exporter in 2019 after India, Ecuador, Vietnam, and China.

On World Oceans Day, threats to West Philippine Sea gain relevance

<https://globalnation.inquirer.net/196833/on-world-oceans-day-threats-to-west-philippine-sea-gain-relevance>

"World Oceans Day is celebrated each year across the globe every June 8. The United Nations said the yearly event seeks to generate awareness on the impact of human activities on oceans, which is gaining relevance especially in the West Philippine Sea. World Oceans Day reminds everyone of the major role the oceans have in everyday life, the UN said. They are the lungs of our planet and a major source of food and medicine and a critical part of the biosphere, it added. As part of this year's celebration of World Oceans Day, the global impact of illegal fishing, especially by China in the West Philippine Sea, is recalled.

A study published in 2020 in the scientific journal Science Advances revealed that between 2005 to 2014, at least 7.7 to 14 million metric tons of illegal fish catches were traded illicitly each year. As a result, between \$8.9 and \$17.2 billion in gross revenues were lost to illicit trading. The study also found that Asia, Africa, and South America were dealt a huge blow in illegal catch and gross revenue losses during the same period.

Analysis by data consumer company Statista on Tuesday (June 8) noted that the Asian continent loses at least \$6.7 billion in annual gross revenue from illegal fishing and trading. Assuming that 50 to 80 percent of illicit commercial catch and 10 to 30 percent of the illicit artisanal catch is traded, up to \$3.4 billion is lost every year in the Western Central Pacific (incl. the South China Sea), while up to \$2.0 billion vanishes annually in Northeast Asia and up to \$1.5 billion of revenue goes missing in the Eastern Indian Ocean every year, said Statista's Katharina Buccholz, citing the 2020 study.

The Central Eastern Atlantic lost around \$4.3 billion each year. Among the countries that suffered the most revenue loss due to illicit fishing were China, the Philippines, the US Pacific territories, Cambodia, Indonesia, Malaysia, Morocco, Mauritania, Russia, and Guinea. The harmful economic impact of the illicit trade of illegally caught fish does not only harm annual revenues of regions or countries worldwide. According to the study, illegal fishing has also brought to Asia food insecurity, job loss, and income loss for local fishers.

In 2019, out of a total of 152 coastal states assessed worldwide, China gained the worst scores for their degree of exposure to and quality of response toward illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) fishing. <https://www.iuufishingindex.net/> China, which operates the world's largest overseas fishing fleet with 200,000 to 800,000 fishing boats, accounts for nearly half of the world's fishing activity" according to an article published in 2020 at the Yale School of the Environment.

Aside from being the world's biggest seafood exporter, China's population also accounts for over a third of the total fish consumption worldwide. Having depleted the seas close to home, the Chinese fishing fleet has been sailing farther afield in recent years to exploit the waters of other countries, including those in West Africa and Latin America, where enforcement tends to be weaker as local governments lack the resources or inclination to police their waters, said investigative reporter Ian Urbina in his article.

Most Chinese distant-water ships are so large that they scoop up as many fish in one week as local boats from Senegal or Mexico might catch in a year he added. China has also expanded its maritime presence in Northeast Asia and most notably in the West Philippine Sea"causing the still unresolved territorial dispute and tension between the Philippines and China. This was despite the international arbitral ruling in The Hague in 2016 which declared China's mythical nine-dash claim to most of the South China Sea, including the West Philippine Sea, as invalid and baseless.

China, according to the ruling, violated Philippine sovereignty and Filipinos' right to fish and explore resources in the West Philippine Sea. Beijing considered the ruling as trash and does not recognize it. The Philippines, along with fellow Southeast Asian neighbors Brunei, Malaysia and Vietnam, have overlapping claims to the sea along with China. Despite an agreement to refrain from provocative actions, China has continued to expand and militarize territories that it

claims in the maritime region.

Indonesian tin miners target the ocean as reserves dwindle on land

<https://wkzo.com/2021/06/07/indonesian-tin-miners-target-the-ocean-as-reserves-dwindle-on-land/>

"From the shores of Indonesia's Bangka island, miners like Hendra head out by boat every day to scores of crudely built wooden pontoons dotted off the coast that are equipped to dredge the seabed for lucrative deposits of tin ore. Indonesia is the world's biggest exporter of tin used in everything from food packaging to electronics and now green technologies. But deposits in the mining hub of Bangka-Belitung have been heavily exploited on land, leaving parts of the islands off the southeast coast of Sumatra island resembling a lunar landscape with vast craters and highly acidic, turquoise lakes.

Miners are instead turning to the sea. On land, our income is diminishing. There are no more reserves, said Hendra, 51, who shifted to work in offshore tin mining about a year ago after a decade in the industry. In the ocean, there are far more reserves. Often grouped together around undersea tin seams, the ramshackle encampments of pontoons emit plumes of black smoke from diesel generators that rumble so loudly workers use hand gestures to communicate.

Hendra, who like many Indonesians uses one name, operates six pontoons, each manned by three to four workers, with pipes that can be over 20 metres (66 feet) long to suck up sand from the seabed. The pumped mixture of water and sand is run across a bed of plastic mats that trap the glittery black sand containing tin ore. Hendra is among scores of artisanal miners who partner with PT Timah to exploit the state miner's concessions.

The miners are paid about 70,000 to 80,000 rupiah (\$4.90 to \$5.60) per kg of tin sand they pump up, and a pontoon typically produces about 50 kg a day, Hendra said. Timah has been ramping up production from the sea. Company data shows its proven tin reserve on land was 16,399 tonnes last year, compared with 265,913 tonnes offshore. The huge expansion, coupled with reports of illegal miners targeting offshore deposits, has heightened tension with fishermen, who say their catches have collapsed due to steady encroachment on their fishing grounds since 2014.

Fisherman Apriadi Anwar said in the past his family earned enough to pay for his two younger siblings to go to university, but in recent years, they have barely scraped by. Never mind going to university, these days it's difficult to even buy food, said Apriadi, 45, who lives in Batu Perahu village. Apriadi says fishing nets can get tangled up in offshore mining equipment, while trawling the seabed to find seams of ore has polluted once-pristine waters. Fish are becoming scarce because the coral where they spawn is now covered with mud from the mining, he added.

Indonesian environmental group Walhi has been campaigning to stop mining at sea, especially on Bangka's western coast, where the mangroves are relatively well-preserved. The mangrove is an ecological fortress for the coastal area, said Jessix Amundian, executive director with Walhi Bangka Belitung. In a statement, Timah said it communicates with fishing communities to improve their catch, adding it had built artificial reefs to help restock the sea in line with regulations.

Authorities have cracked down on the tin industry from time to time, particularly illegal mining, and remaining land reserves are often hard to access or require heavy machinery to exploit. Still, rising tin prices are an incentive to overcome these obstacles. Amri, an unlicensed miner in Bangka, said he had restarted his land operations after a 14-month hiatus when tin prices rose due to tighter global supplies.

From Flores to Papua: Meet 10 of Indonesia's mangrove guardians

<https://news.mongabay.com/2021/06/from-flores-to-papua-meet-10-of-indonesias-mangrove-guardians/>

"Indonesia has more mangrove forests than anywhere else on Earth. The country's 17,500 islands house around 3.2 million hectares (7.9 million acres) of mangrove, or one-fifth of the world's remaining area. However, these unique ecosystems crucial for marine habitat, flood control and carbon sequestration are quickly being cleared. Last year, President Joko Widodo's administration announced an ambitious plan to replant mangroves on 600,000 hectares (1.5 million acres) of degraded coastline by 2024.

While this made headlines, there is some skepticism whether the slow-moving bureaucracy can meet this goal" at least not without the help of local advocates passionate about protecting these vital habitats. Here we highlight 10 of Indonesia's mangrove heroes" just a few of the many individuals and local groups who have toiled in relative obscurity while planting hundreds of thousands of trees across the country.

They have worked tirelessly for decades, often at great personal expense, to restore these habitats, because they recognize the benefits healthy mangroves provide for their communities. They are: Iwan Winarto, Aziil Anwar, Rika Rumadas, M. Taiyeb, Saptoyo, Ridwan, Tazruddin Hasibuan, Slaman, Sukamsi and Vinsensius Litan Witi.

Joint statement in advance of the 25th Session of the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission

<https://www.bluemarinefoundation.com/about/>

"Yellowfin tuna in the Indian Ocean is overfished and subject to continued overfishing, with scientists warning that the stock could collapse within the next five years if fishing pressure is

not reduced. A stock rebuilding plan was put in place by the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC) in 2016 to significantly reduce catches, based on 2014 catch levels. However, this has proved ineffective, with catches increasing by over 10% between 2014 and 2019, according to new catch figures.

A Special Session of the Commission was held in March to deal specifically with the sustainability of the yellowfin tuna fishery. However, an unwillingness to negotiate, primarily on the part of the EU and other distant water fishing nations, resulted in the meeting ending without the adoption of an updated rebuilding plan for the overfished stock.

The 25th Session of the IOTC is being held virtually from 7-11 June 2021 and two proposals on an interim plan for rebuilding the Indian Ocean yellowfin tuna stock have been tabled “ one submitted by the EU and another submitted collectively by Maldives, Kenya, South Africa and Comoros. There is also an urgent need to improve the management of fish aggregating devices (FADs) in the Indian Ocean, primarily to reduce catches of juvenile tropical tunas, but also to help mitigate the other ecological impacts associated with drifting FADs, including marine plastic pollution, ghost fishing and the bycatch of turtles, sharks and marine mammals.

To this end, a proposal on the management of FADs in the IOTC area of competence has been submitted by Kenya, Sri Lanka, Maldives, Mozambique, Pakistan, Somalia, South Africa, Indonesia, and Tanzania. Blue Marine Foundation (BLUE) and the International Pole and Line Foundation (IPNLF) hereby confirm their support for the following two conservation and management measure (CMM) proposals: -- IOTC-2021-S25-PropF On an interim plan for rebuilding the Indian Ocean yellowfin tuna stock in the IOTC area of competence , submitted by Maldives et al.³; and -- IOTC-2021-S25-PropE On management of fish aggregating devices in the IOTC area of competence , submitted by Kenya et al.#

It should be noted that the fishing mortality of yellowfin tuna in 2017 was 20% above the target reference point, and that the spawning biomass was 17% lower than the target. The proposal tabled by Maldives et al. acknowledges this and correctly notes that a reduction in catch of 16.7% compared to 2017 levels is required to ensure the timely recovery of the stock. This would necessitate a catch limit of roughly 341,000t. BLUE and IPNLF agree with this reduction and support this catch limit.

However, having tried and failed to ensure that a yellowfin catch limit of 346,438t was adopted at the Special Session of the Commission earlier this year μ, Maldives have submitted a new proposal with a new, higher total allowable catch (TAC) of 383,000t. In addition, the Maldives proposal provides a significant catch buffer of over 20,000t, by assigning 2,000t catch limits to IOTC members who have fished very little or not at all in the past.

Given the uncertainty and ambiguity contained within the IOTC Scientific Committee’s most recent report, and the failure of the Scientific Committee to provide adequate advice to IOTC

members at the Special Session of the Commission in March, there is a clear risk of no new stock rebuilding plan being adopted at the upcoming Commission meeting. The proposal put forward by Maldives and its co-sponsors is equitable, removes all exemptions, is gear type neutral and takes into account the needs of developing coastal states and small island developing states. Importantly, it would bring about the IOTC's first formal TAC for yellowfin tuna, and an almost 15% reduction from 2019 catch levels.

Therefore, while acknowledging that a lower catch limit more closely in line with the 16.7% reduction from 2017 levels should be a priority, BLUE and IPNLF support the proposal tabled by Maldives. As the most ambitious proposal tabled, we encourage all IOTC members to use this as a starting point for negotiations at the upcoming Commission meeting. In contrast, the proposal tabled by the EU is based heavily on the joint proposal IOTC-2021-SS4-PropE tabled at the IOTC Special Session in March and, given that this proposal was rejected at the Special Session, BLUE and IPNLF encourages the EU to withdraw its current proposal and support the more ambitious proposal put forward by Maldives. Similarly, although the EU did not provide a catch limit within its CMM proposal, our simulations estimate it to be roughly 395,000t "significantly higher than that of the Maldives proposal.

The proposal tabled by Kenya and its co-sponsors aims to reduce the number of drifting FADs per vessel from 300 to 150, calls for greater transparency in how these FADs are deployed, tracked and retrieved, and further calls for a three-month ban on fishing around drifting FADS and a phasing out of supply vessels. BLUE and IPNLF recognise the importance of improved FAD management in the region and therefore support the proposal tabled by Kenya.

Lastly, BLUE and IPNLF would like to emphasise that the 25th Session of the IOTC represents IOTC members' last chance to adopt an interim yellowfin tuna stock rebuilding plan for 2022 that is both equitable and in line with IOTC Resolution 12/01 on the implementation of the precautionary approach.

Indonesian fishers plead with president on seine nets and other assistance

<https://news.mongabay.com/2021/05/indonesian-fishers-plead-with-president-on-seine-nets-and-other-assistance/>

"President Joko Widodo met with fishermen in East Java last week for a discussion on fishing gear policy, infrastructure and how the COVID-19 pandemic had affected their business. After inspecting the fish on display at a market at Brondong National Fisheries Port, Jokowi, as the president is popularly known, and his entourage of local officials and the minister of fisheries went out to the docks, where they were met by a throng of fishermen who yelled greetings in Javanese, his native language.

Many of the fishermen previously used seine nets, known locally as cantrang, and wanted to obtain permits to resume using the devices in the wake of the lifting of a ban on their use, Agus Mulyono, chairman of the local chapter of the All Indonesian Fishermen's Association (HNSI), said at the event. The ban on seine nets, which are highly effective, indiscriminate tools for sweeping up large amounts of fish, was lifted last November partly on the grounds that it was difficult to enforce, the fisheries ministry said at the time, adding that permits would only be issued to boats already using the nets.

The fishermen were ready to pay taxes on their use of the nets, Agus added. Some fishermen complained about silting at the port preventing boats from docking at low tide, a problem Jokowi said he'd look into. I have told them that we will conduct dredging operations in the next two or three months, Jokowi said in a statement. The fishermen said the pandemic hadn't affected their work much, though they did complain about unstable fish prices" something Jokowi said he couldn't do much about.

How small-scale seafood supply chains adapt to COVID-19 disruptions

<https://phys.org/news/2021-04-small-scale-seafood-chains-covid-disruptions.html>

"In February 2020, Rio (not his real name), a crab and sea snail processor in Langkat regency on the Indonesian island of Sumatra, found his business drying up. Normally at this time of year his business would have been booming from seafood exports to China and Hong Kong for the Lunar New Year festival. Like many others in small-scale seafood supply chains across the world, Rio was feeling the impacts of COVID-19. In the early months of the pandemic, community lockdowns and public health risks combined with restrictions on worker movement and seafood trade forced small-scale fishing communities in several parts of the world to close down their businesses.

They were left in a state of economic and social uncertainty. Some small, local seafood vendors, like Indonesian pedagang along-along who sell fish, vegetables and other perishable foods from motorbikes, adapted. They were able to continue selling seafood despite the pandemic. How did they cope? What helped or hindered others in small-scale seafood supply chains as they dealt with uncertainties generated by COVID-19? In a recent article, we documented the initial pandemic impacts and responses across seven seafood supply chains in Indonesia, India, Peru and the US. Our findings offer insights into how to increase the adaptability of fishworkers and small-scale seafood supply chains in preparation for future shocks.

Coping amid the pandemic: In some countries, like India and Peru, the important role of fishing and seafood sales in maintaining livelihoods and providing food was overlooked. The sector was not classified as an essential service and was not allowed to continue operating, despite its economic contribution to society. Seafood is the most traded food item in the world. Yet an estimated 81% of the catch from small-scale fisheries is sold for local consumption.

The global small-scale seafood sector employs 32 million fishers and 78 million individuals involved in processing and sales. Seafood supply chains are economically important for trade and livelihoods and critical to food systems. International trade supports the livelihoods of many fishworkers, but also exposes them to the risks of global markets. As COVID-19 began to disrupt international trade, fishworkers involved in seafood exports had few options but to sell locally. Due to differences in preferences, this was not always successful. For example, jumbo flying squid is eaten in Peru, but not at the volumes or in the product forms consumed in the international market.

In some cases, high-production areas such as Langkat or coastal regions of Peru ended up with more seafood than local markets could handle. The result was a price crash. Participating in a variety of supply chains, particularly at smaller, more local scales, helped some fishworkers deal with these shocks. For example, in California, consumption of sea urchin roe, or uni, was usually limited to restaurants. With restaurants closed, some uni fishers and sellers promoted local supply chains by teaching customers how to handle and prepare uni at home.

This made direct sales easier. In India's Andaman Islands, grouper fishers switched from multi-hooked longlines to nets. This enabled them to catch different fish and sell these to local markets. Similarly, Peruvian offshore and high seas artisanal fishers switched to nearshore fishing. By doing this, they contributed to local food security while earning revenue from diverse sources. In all seven of the seafood supply chains we examined, some individuals and organizations quickly changed their marketing strategies and adapted to pandemic-related regulations.

Existing networks of fishery organizations and relationships with consumers helped reorient supply chains. For example, Peruvian fishing associations, which are normally socially and politically active, began marketing seafood through local supply chains. In India, the Dakshin Foundation and other non-profits working along the coast harnessed existing networks like the National Fishworkers Forum and partnered with boat associations in several coastal states, including the Andamans, to distribute food aid within fishing communities and help stranded fishworkers return home.

With limited ability to meet in person, fishers and seafood traders used familiar apps, like WhatsApp, to communicate with other fishworkers and connect to local buyers. In the Andamans, communities used WhatsApp to co-ordinate aid. In Peru, it was used to set up informal fish distribution networks. This enabled fish sellers to launch new services such as door-to-door delivery. California's Tuna Harbor Dockside Market quickly developed an online platform to sell directly to consumers.

At the same time, this increased their social media presence. The shift to online marketplaces enabled some fish sellers to reach a wider audience. What's next? COVID-19 has exposed many existing weaknesses in small-scale seafood supply chains. It has also highlighted several

successful strategies for adapting to such large-scale shocks. In the cases examined, these actions contributed to livelihoods and seafood distribution being able to continue during this pandemic.

The successes and failures of strategies adopted by individuals and organizations within this sector offer clear lessons for policymakers, the public and development agencies. Policymakers could recognize small-scale fisheries as essential food suppliers, while local markets support small businesses and fishing communities to help supply chains adapt to disruptions. When it comes to technology, NGOs, development agencies and the tech sector could help cultivate social networks and digital technologies for that purpose. These lessons can inform adaptations to climate change and other predicted threats to seafood supply chains in Indonesia and beyond.

The circular economy: Why Indonesian shrimp farmers are changing the shape of their ponds

<https://thefishsite.com/articles/the-circular-economy-why-indonesian-shrimp-farmers-are-changing-the-shape-of-their-ponds>

"Indonesia is one of largest shrimp producers in Southeast Asia. Initially, in the 1980s, black tiger prawn (*Penaeus monodon*) was the most widely cultivated species and most farmers favoured the use of large rectangular ponds, with an average area of <<2,500 “ 5,000 m². When most changed to vannamei production in the early 2000s, due to whitespot (WSSV) disease outbreaks that hit monodon horribly, the type of shrimp pond changed little, other than the addition of HDPE linings or concrete to the ponds.

However, in the last decade the shrimp farming model has begun to vary, including the construction of some smaller ponds, of 1,000 m² or less. The popularity of these mini-ponds was a response from those who want to be involved in the sector but have limited capital and land. Originally, these small ponds adopted the traditional rectangular shape, based on a very simple construction using bamboo as the frame and tarpaulin as its lining.

This type of pond was developed by farmers in Madura, East Java, in their backyards. Recently, the trend of small-sized shrimp ponds has shifted towards circular designs, typically with a diameter of 5 to 30 metres. This type of farm is popular among young farmers, while the government and private companies are also participating in developing this kind of pond as a pilot for millennials and small-scale farmers. Finding the best way One of the farmers who has been experimenting with circular ponds is Rizky Darmawan.

This millennial farmer, who is also the chair of the Indonesian Young Shrimp Farmers (Petambak Muda Indonesia/PMI) has been developing circular designs since 2019 at his existing pond area in West Nusa Tenggara (NTB). He was inspired by Erwin Budiman from Medan, North Sumatra, a fellow farmer who had started using this design in 2016 and is now the chair of Shrimp Club Indonesia (SCI) Medan chapter. ""We built our first two circular ponds in 2019.

Our ponds are now entering the fourth cycle. Initially, we decided to build circular ponds to fill the narrow strip of remaining land in our pond area.

At the same time we did it to conduct R&D at our location, he says. He's also trialling using the circular ponds for his shrimp nursery, as he can easily transfer the juveniles to the large ponds for grow-out. He currently operates 10 circular ponds, with an average diameter of 20 metres (3.140 m² of productive area). He also has been building an additional 35 units in two different locations. Generally, circular shrimp ponds are constructed using wire mesh or bamboo as the frame and HDPE as the inner lining. However, there are also those who use combination galvanized steel and fibreglass.

The diameter of the ponds varies from 3 to 30 metres. Given their comparative novelty, circular ponds have not been fully understood and mastered by shrimp producers and that are still many more things to be learned and adapted in managing this pond system. In his research process, Rizky did not apply a standard system, but instead trialled different production methods. "We just decided to try it and see what the results are like. If it works, we can increase the efficiency of our ponds," he explains.

According to Rizky, the advantages of the circular design include the ease of ensuring water circulation, so the waste is more easily removed through the central drain. In addition, a smaller pond size makes it easier to combine with new technologies, such as RAS (recirculating aquaculture system). Meanwhile the challenge is that the farm technicians have to try to focus on several different types of ponds in one area. While one hectare traditionally contains 2 - 4 rectangular ponds, with circular ponds it will likely contain 10 - 20 units, potentially making it more labour intensive. "

"But also, because the pond is divided into several units, shrimp culture practices become relatively safe, because when a disease strikes, fewer shrimp are affected. So we can reduce the risk," he notes. Rizky is aware that the most important thing is to stay profitable. Instead of applying the latest technology to his circular ponds straight away, he actually started with a lower level until he found the optimal system. He hasn't yet invested in digitisation and IoT-related tech.

As a result, he is currently stocking the shrimp with a density of 150 PL (post-larvae)/m². With this density, the production target he wants to achieve is 1.3 tonnes per pond in 90 days "the equivalent of 41 tonnes per hectare. For water quality management, he has adopted similar practices to conventional ponds, changing the water every day, as needed. He also did a little research to find the best way to maintain the dissolved oxygen level, trialling various combinations, including the use of 1 paddle wheel with 1 blower, 2 paddle wheels with 1 blower, and 1 paddle wheel with 1 nanojet. "So far, by using one paddle wheel we can make sludge collect in the centre of the pond. So, we will use this method for the next cycle," he says.

Feed management is also almost the same as in large ponds and he uses Profeeder auto-feeders, which are made by Aquaculture Innovation Indonesia, for gaining efficient and effective results. With this system, he can get an average feed conversion ratio (FCR) of below 1.2. Rizky predicts that circular ponds will become increasingly popular in Indonesia. Several farmers who are members of the PMI have also started to develop it. He admits that he had been asked several times for his opinion regarding the construction of this system. "Other farmers have developed their own designs, which I have also visited and studied, he says.

The opportunity for small farmers: The circular pond system was also initiated by Nonot Tri Waluyo, a shrimp producer from an integrated fisheries company, Central Proteina Prima (CPP). Through his company, he targets farmers who have limited resources, such as capital and land, to become his partners. According to him, the advantages of the circular pond concept include being efficient in terms of land use, more practical, lower cost and suitable for small scale producers. He also notes that these ponds can be built in only 48 hours.

The circular ponds owned by the partners of CPP have diameters starting at 15 metres. However, according to Nonot, most have a diameter of 28 - 30 metres. For optimal performance, a 30 metre pond needs three paddle wheels to maintain its dissolved oxygen levels. The stocking density with this system can be pushed up to 200 PL/m², but of course the farm management will be more challenging at higher densities. For household scale, according to Nonot, the density of 100 - 125 PL/m², which is quite profitable and it's realistic to achieve a shrimp survival rate of 80 - 90 percent.

Nonot believes that water quality management in circular ponds is easier, because the organic waste can be concentrated in the centre of the pond and easily removed through a central drain. Therefore, the "playroom" for shrimp is also getting wider. This situation can reduce shrimp stress level and make them healthier. Nonot and CPP have initiated this circular shrimp pond in various regions, including Lampung, Central Java, East Java and West and East Nusa Tenggara.

Millennial shrimp farming (MSF) The circular shrimp project was also developed by the Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries (MMAF) through several of its research centres. This style of pond was built as a pilot project and learning facility for young farmers who want to get involved in shrimp aquaculture. As a result the project is called Millennial Shrimp Farming (MSF). It was initiated by MMAF and Digifish Network, an Indonesian fisheries start-up network. Through MSF, the government is targeting the growth of young farmers in Indonesia, which is expected to be one of the contributors for national shrimp production and can help to increase the country's shrimp export value by up to 250 percent between 2020 (when it was worth \$2 billion) and 2024. The MSF pilot farms use the latest technologies, such as digitalisation and IoT, to speed up decision making and minimise losses should an outbreak of disease occur.

One of the latest technology applications being trialled at MSF facilities is Oxygen-Mixed (Oxy-Mix) Fine Bubble, which is produced by Wendy Prabowo, a researcher at UTP in East Java. These are capable of producing oxygen from two sources, namely from free air and liquid oxygen. This combination can produce oxygen in the form of nano and micro bubbles which can maintain oxygen levels in the water properly. "MSF is one of the MMAF's featured programmes, in order to promote shrimp farming to improve local economies. Pilot MSF installations have been built in two locations of the Technical Implementation Units (Unit Pelaksana Teknis/UPT) of the Directorate General of Aquaculture, namely in Jepara and Situbondo," said director general of aquaculture of MMAF, Slamet Soebjakto recently.

Thai authorities detain 34 Acehnese fishermen: Panglima Laot

<https://en.antaranews.com/news/172390/thai-authorities-detain-34-acehnese-fishermen-panglima-laot>

"Thai authorities detained 34 Acehnese fishermen over poaching in the country's waters since the Thai navy seized their 60-GT fishing boat "KM Rizky Laot" on April 9, 2021. Aceh Province's traditional fishing community Panglima Laot has coordinated with the Indonesian consulate in Songkla over the detention of these fishermen. Early this week, the consulate officials had traveled to the place where the Acehnese fishermen were detained, Panglima Laot Deputy Secretary General Miftach Cut Adek remarked.

Panglima Laot has additionally coordinated with the Aceh Maritime and Fisheries Office and Oceanic and Fisheries Resources Surveillance Station (PSDKP), Adek noted. The Acehnese fishermen's fishing vessel was intercepted by the Royal Thai naval vessel on its way back to East Aceh District through Thailand's sea route after catching fish. The fishing boat's skipper is identified as Abdul Halim, Adek noted in a press statement that ANTARA quoted in Banda Aceh, the capital of Aceh Province, on Wednesday.

ANTARA noted that prior to this case, the Thai authorities had also arrested 51 Acehnese fishermen last year. In early 2020, Thai authorities detained 30 Acehnese fishermen and three children after they were caught poaching in Thailand's waters. Thereafter, in February, 2020, at least 21 fishermen and three children were caught poaching in the country's waters. The six children were repatriated to Indonesia on July 16, 2020.

Early in October, 2020, the Indonesian Traditional Fishermen Association (KNTI) confirmed that 51 Acehnese fishermen had returned to Indonesia after being granted a royal pardon from Thailand's King Maha Vajiralongkorn on his birthday on July 28, 2020. The fishermen had received the pardon owing to efforts by the Indonesian Foreign Ministry through the Indonesian Consulate General in Songkla.

Cyclone kills nearly 180, as aid pours into Indonesia, East Timor

<https://www.dailysabah.com/world/asia-pacific/cyclone-kills-nearly-180-as-aid-pours-into-indonesia-east-timor>

"The death toll from the tropical cyclone Seroja has risen to nearly 180 people in islands stretching from Indonesia to neighboring East Timor, as rescue efforts for those trapped from flash floods and landslides continued and two Indonesian navy ships packed with aid arrived Thursday in the archipelago. The vessels docked in hard-hit Lembata and Adonara island with hospital ships also en route to the ravaged cluster of islands in eastern Indonesia where thousands have been left homeless and dozens are still missing.

Torrential rains from Seroja, one of the most destructive storms to hit the region in years, turned small communities into wastelands of mud and uprooted trees, sending thousands fleeing to shelters amid widespread power blackouts. The storm on Sunday swept buildings in some villages down a mountainside and to the shore of the ocean on Lembata, where one of the aid ships arrived Thursday. The navy vessels are packed with food, including rice and noodles, as well as blankets and other materials for some of the region's more than 20,000 evacuees. "

"The two navy ships arrived today," said Kompiang Aribawa, a regional naval base chief. "Another ship will arrive later today carrying military personnel who will be deployed to help people in the aftermath of the disaster," he added. A cargo plane left Jakarta for the disaster-struck region with about 100,000 face masks, virus test kits, as well as prepared food and blankets for survivors, Indonesia's disaster agency chief said earlier.

At least 140 people have been listed as dead in Indonesia. Another 37 were killed in East Timor, a tiny half-island nation of 1.3 million sandwiched between Indonesia and Australia that is officially known as Timor-Leste. More than 70 people are still listed as missing, with disaster agency officials deploying sniffer dogs to search mountains of debris for bodies and any survivors.

Rescuers have spent the past few days using diggers and shovels to extract mud-covered corpses from the debris. Hospitals, bridges and thousands of homes were damaged or destroyed by the storm. Authorities in both countries were also battling to avoid COVID-19 outbreaks in cramped evacuation shelters.

Fatal landslides and flash floods are common across the Indonesian archipelago during the rainy season, with deforestation often the cause, environmentalists say. The disaster agency has estimated that 125 million Indonesians, nearly half of the country's population, live in areas at risk of landslides.

Shrimp Insights: India, Indonesia, and Vietnam all poised for continued growth

<https://www.seafoodsource.com/news/supply-trade/shrimp-insights-india-indonesia-and-vietnam-all-poised-for-continued-growth>

"Despite setbacks caused by the COVID-19 pandemic and increasing competition from Ecuador, Asia's top shrimp exporting nations should expect continued growth, according to a top shrimp market analyst. Willem van der Pijl, who founded the Seafood Trade Intelligence Portal (STIP) in 2013, formed Shrimp Insights, a consultancy aimed at the shrimp sector, in June 2020. He recently published a series of blogs on his site looking deeper into the shrimp industry in India, Indonesia, and Vietnam.

India, the world's top shrimp exporter, had a difficult year in 2020, with production and export performance severely hit by the COVID-19 pandemic. The South Asia nation is estimated to have produced between 650,000 and 700,000 metric tons (MT) of shrimp last year, down from 780,000 to 800,000 MT in 2019. According to data from the Society of Aquaculture Professionals (SAP), production in India's shrimp-farming states of Odisha, West Bengal, Andhra Pradesh, and Gujarat, all fell in 2020.

And India's shrimp exports dropped 14 percent year-on-year to 575,000 MT in 2020, with the U.S., China, and the E.U. remaining the country's primary markets. Its sales of raw peeled products dropped 12 percent to 21,200 MT, though its overall exports of cooked and other value-added products to the U.S. increased last year. Its drop in production was replaced in the global marketplace by Ecuador, which boosted sales of raw peeled products by 15,000 MT. Ecuador sharply increased its shipments of mid-sized shrimp to the U.S. last year, while India dropped 14 percent of its U.S. market share. India also lost a portion of the shell-on market in the U.S. to Ecuador and Indonesia.

India's exports to China performed even worse, falling 35 percent, or more than 100,000 MT in 2020, due to the impact of COVID-19 and trading uncertainties caused by a border dispute. With China being India's most important market for smaller-sized shrimp, China's recovery will be crucial for India's 2021 outlook, van der Pijl said. India will struggle to improve production in the first half of 2021 due well-stocked inventories in the U.S. and China's heightened food security checks, van der Pijl said. Nonetheless, India's outlook is bright, given its potential to expand its capacity and its low production costs. I am sure that, in the long run, India will be a major contributor to the expected surge of global farmed shrimp production, he said.

I even believe that under the right conditions, India's own surge in production might come sooner than we expect. Elsewhere in Asia, van der Pijl projected Indonesia, which increased its vannamei exports by 24 percent last year to 209,000 MT, will continue its significant shrimp-sector growth. Indonesia's overall shrimp exports totaled 239,000 MT in 2020, 15 percent higher than 2019, with vannamei accounting for 75 percent of the total, black tiger shrimp 16 percent, and wild-caught shrimp 9 percent, according to data from Indonesia's Department for Competitiveness of Marine and Fisheries Production.

Discrepancies between the two data-sets could be due to the fact that Indonesian exporters were forced to stockpile some product as a result of a shipping container shortage that grew more acute at the end of 2020. Additionally, Indonesia's improved 2020 figures could possibly be the result of lower domestic consumption, van der Pijl surmised, pointing to the fact that shrimp feed sales dropped by 12 percent to 309,000 MT last year " a figure that suggests the country's 2021 shrimp production might decline, he said.

The U.S. was Indonesia's top export market for shrimp, followed by Japan. Higher demand from the retail sector in the U.S. was the main contributor to the growth of the Indonesia's exports last year. However, many U.S. buyers have shifted over to purchasing smaller sizes from other suppliers, such as Ecuador, as Indonesia processors sold larger sizes, according to van der Pijl. Indonesia has set an ambitious goal of growing its shrimp industry by 250 percent by 2024. Van der Pijl said he skeptical of Indonesia's ability to reach that target, but said the country does have potential to increase its production significantly.

I expect that improved availability of consistently high-quality post-larvae, combined with more biosecure farms and sustainable production practices, will result in an increase in Indonesian vannamei production in 2021 and beyond, he said. Another Southeast Asian nation making moves in the shrimp segment is Vietnam, which grew its farmed shrimp exports by 8 percent in 2020 to USD 3.3 billion (EUR 2.8 billion), supported by the growth of vannamei sales due to higher demand from the retail sector during the pandemic.

Van der Pijl said Vietnam has an advantage in its Best Aquaculture Practices- and Aquaculture Stewardship Council-certified farms producing vannamei shrimp, which will help meet rising global demand for ecolabel-certified raw peeled and cooked peeled products. I think in terms of demand the situation might be quite good for Vietnam due to continued retail consumption during the first and probably also second quarter of the year at the cost of foodservice, van der Pijl said.

According to van der Pijl, Ecuador remains the biggest threat to Asia's shrimp export trade, and evidence of that can be seen in the fact that it increased its share of the U.S. and European markets as compared to its total exports last year, especially challenging Asian competitors in the retail sector.

In the U.S. market, Vietnam had an advantage in cooked shrimp but trailed Indonesia and Ecuador in exports of raw peeled and headless shell-on (HLSO) shrimp, according to the Vietnam-focused Shrimp Insights report. And prompted by the loss of the Chinese market and encouraged by a free trade agreement with the E.U., Ecuador has increasingly targeted Europe to drive up sales. In doing so, Ecuador may have taken some raw peeled retail business away from Vietnam, which used to be northwestern Europe's favorite supplier, van der Pijl said.

Lower demand due to the pandemic and possible more competition from Ecuador have together contributed to the moderate growth in Vietnam's shrimp exports to Europe last year, despite the

support from its new free trade agreements with the European Union and the United Kingdom. But van der Pijl said he believed Ecuador's aggressive moves into the U.S. and E.U. markets are just a temporary tactic and that Ecuadorian shrimp exporters will return their focus to Asia " and specifically China " once the COVID-19 pandemic comes under full control.

Diversity on ocean floor near equator may disappear, researchers warn

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202104/1220338.shtml>

"Warming waters have driven thousands of ocean species poleward from the equator, threatening marine ecosystems and the livelihoods of people who depend on them, researchers reported Monday. Comparison of data on nearly 50,000 species over three 20-year periods up to 2015 revealed that the exodus from tropical waters is accelerating, they reported in the journal PNAS. The tropics have long harbored an outsized proportion of marine life, but could see that diversity disappear if climate change is not brought to heel, the authors warned. "

"Global warming has been changing life in the ocean for at least 60 years," senior author Mark Costello, a professor of marine biology at the University of Auckland, told AFP. "Our findings show a drop of about 1,500 species at the equator," he added. "This will continue throughout the century, but the pace will depend on how we reduce - or not - greenhouse gas emissions." Poleward migration was more pronounced north of the equator, where oceans have warmed more quickly than in the southern hemisphere. It was also more prevalent among open water fish than so-called benthic species living on the ocean floor. "

"Benthic species can only move during their floating life-stage, and thus their shift [poleward] is between generations," Costello explained. By contrast, species living in the high seas "can move with the water masses in their lifetime." Marine life in tropical waters declines when annual average sea temperature rises above 20 to 25 C, depending on the species, the study found. "The 'missing' tropical species are likely following their thermal habitat as subtropical waters warm," noted coauthor David Schoeman, a professor of ecology at Nelson Mandela University in Port Elizabeth, South Africa.

Fossil records show that the same thing happened 140,000 years ago, the last time global surface temperatures were as hot as they are now. Based on data in the open-access Ocean Biodiversity Information System, the statistical study does not look at how individual species will adapt to new environments.

In general, open-water species are likely to fare better, earlier research has found. The impact on commercial fish stocks in the tropics is not addressed either, though it is clear which parts of the world will be hit the hardest. "Indonesia and other nations near the equator, such as in West Africa, have the most to lose because their stocks can only decrease," as no new species will replace those leaving, Costello said.

Worldwide, about 1.3 billion people live in coastal tropical areas, many of which rely on fisheries for food. A recent review article in Nature estimated that the maximum catch potential of tropical fish stocks in so-called exclusive economic zones - 370 kilometers from the coast - would decline 40 percent by mid-century if global warming continues unabated.

Road map towards the ratification of ILO Convention No. 188 to protect Indonesian fishers

https://www.ilo.org/jakarta/info/public/pr/WCMS_776485/lang--en/index.htm

"The Indonesian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, supported by the ILO, conducted a webinar on 5 March to examine challenges and opportunities for Indonesia when ratifying the ILO Convention No. 188 on Working in Fishing. As the biggest sending country for migrant fishers, the webinar was part of the Indonesia's efforts to protect its fishers. Fishing is recognized as a hazardous occupation with the highest incidence of occupational injuries and fatalities. Fishers across the range of commercial fishing operations commonly face long working hours, remote work, exposure to dangerous weather conditions and the generally hazardous nature of working in the marine environment.

Representing the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Febrian A. Ruddyat, Director General for Multilateral Cooperation, highlighted the commitment of Indonesian government to provide better protection for its workers in the fishing sector, including its migrant fishers. The protection of Indonesian fishers is the priority of Indonesian government. The ratification is the initial step for actions to protect our migrant fishers, he stated. Similarly, Andy Rahcmianto, Director General for Protocol and Counsellor, underscored the development of road map that would provide guidance for Indonesia towards the ratification. We can take benefits from international standards provided by the ILO Convention in Fishing Work that can be adapted to Indonesian contexts.

From the perspective of the international standards, Brandt Wagner, Head of MARITIME Sector Unit, ILO Geneva, explained that the Convention sets out binding requirements relating to work on board fishing vessels, including occupational safety and health, medical care at sea and ashore, rest periods, written working agreements, social protection and decent living conditions. The ratification will provide better protection for fishers in fishing sector. This will also make the sector more attractive to youth and young workers that, in turn, promote employment and sustainability, he said. Meanwhile, Mi Zhou, Chief Technical Advisor of the ILO's Ship to Shore Rights South East Asia, highlighted the supports given by the ILO. Through its developmental project, the ILO continue to support its member States, including Indonesia, to make improvements needed. The ILO's Ship to Shore Rights South East Asia, in collaboration with the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), is a four-year programme, funded by the European Union (EU). It aims to strengthening legal frameworks, protecting labour rights, and empowering workers in the fishing

and seafood processing sectors in seven South East Asia countries, including Indonesia, Zhou said.

Thailand is one of the 18 countries that already ratified the ILO Convention No. 188 in 2019 and has become the first country in Asia. Jon Hartough, ITF/Fisher Rights Network Thailand Project Lead, shared the experience of Thailand in taking steps to improve its fishing sector. Some recommendations for fisher protection include the involvement on trade unions in policy formation and implementation, development of detailed legislation, improvement of interagency cooperation and capacity building for labour inspectors.

Another country to share its experience as a ratified country is South Africa. Solwyn Bailey, Fishing Safety Specialist of the South African Maritime Safety, explained that the country ratified the ILO Convention in 2013, which came to force in 2017. The first detention under the Convention took place in 2018, following complaints by the crew about working conditions. The webinar concluded with the initial step to develop a road map highlighting preparation steps towards the ratification of the ILO Convention No. 188. The road map includes mechanisms to build a coordination mechanism among relevant stakeholders, examine and harmonize existing regulations and strengthen enforcement efforts. More information on Ship to Shore Rights South East Asia can be found at www.shiptoshorerights.org

Four strategies for a blue economy in Indonesia: Reflections from the Oceans for Prosperity report

<https://blogs.worldbank.org/eastasiapacific/four-strategies-blue-economy-indonesia-reflections-oceans-prosperity-report>

"Indonesia is second only to China as the world's largest fishing nation, with a fishery sector that contributes over US\$ 27 billion in GDP and 7 million jobs. Oceans are also critical in mitigating the impact of natural disasters. Coral reefs and mangroves lessen the impact of floods and tsunamis for those who live along the regions, where such protection is worth at least US\$ 639 million annually.

Yet, despite the government's efforts to maintain the health and improve the productivity of the country's oceans, there are challenges which continue to threaten the benefits derived from oceans. 38% of the country's marine capture fisheries are overfished, with a large fraction of the domestic small-scale fishing fleet (over 600,000 vessels) unmonitored and unregulated. Around one-third of Indonesia's valuable coral reefs are in poor condition. Marine debris hurts tourism, fisheries, shipping, and ecosystems, costing the Indonesian economy at least US\$ 450 million per year. Indonesia can overcome these challenges and derive greater value from its oceans with the right policies and investments. The government of Indonesia has signaled its strong commitment to a sustainable ocean economy or blue economy.

A new World Bank report, *Oceans for Prosperity: Reforms for a Blue Economy in Indonesia*, details the status of, and trends, and opportunities towards a blue economy in Indonesia, building on the existing efforts and goals set out by the government. The report argues that the future of these oceanic sectors relies on the health of the natural assets “ marine and coastal ecosystems. Indonesia has developed a fishery management area system that provides a structure for making critical decisions on fisheries harvest levels.

The system is conceptually sound yet remains in need of budget, human resources, and fully-defined management plans that can prevent fish stock depletion, including clear harvest limits determined based on sound science and data. Indonesia has developed marine spatial plans that identify areas of the oceans suitable for economic activity and areas that should remain protected. Integration of these plans with business permitting systems is now needed to ensure development adheres to zoning.

A scorecard system could be used to track compliance and plan implementation progress, with indicators that measure status of coastal and marine resources, such as extent and quality of mangroves and coral reefs. In the long term, Indonesia could consider developing a marine and coastal cadastre (spatial title registry) to help avoid conflicts over oceans and coastal use.

Indonesia could move towards “rights-based” fishery management principles, which underpin many of the best-managed fisheries globally. Under such systems, governments grant harvest rights to certain communities for their near-shore areas, or grant harvest rights to firms for select quantities of catch within an overall harvest limit. These arrangements give fishers a stake in the management of their fisheries, encouraging good stewardship and improvements in productivity. Indonesia could complement its impressive mangrove restoration target “600,000 hectares by 2025 “with stronger conservation measures.

Restoration needs to be completed by measures that reduce and eventually stop further loss of natural mangroves. Extension of the primary forest conversion moratorium to mangroves would be a valuable step; Indonesia could also seek results-based payments for the carbon included in the biomass and soil of its massive mangrove estate, and ensure these benefits reach coastal communities to generate incentives for continued mangrove management.

The World Bank is supporting the government's efforts to realize a blue economy strategy through investments such as *Lautan Sejahtera* (*Oceans for Prosperity*), an investment in preparation that will improve coastal livelihoods and restore critical ecosystems, the *Coral Reef Rehabilitation and Management Program*, a 20-year investment in coral reef management and research capacity, and the *Integrated Tourism Development Program (ITDP)*, a platform for integrated and sustainable tourism planning and infrastructure.

The World Bank is also providing technical support through the *Indonesia Sustainable Oceans Program*, adding to the blue-economy knowledge-base and building capacity. Through these and

many other related efforts towards the same goals, Indonesia can secure a blue economy for present and future generations.

New initiative fights gender inequality in the seafood industry

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/ariellasimke/2021/03/07/new-initiative-fights-gender-inequality-in-the-seafood-industry/?sh=21c78a2c943c>

"Leading up to International Women's Day on March 8th, we highlight the contributions of women around the world. Although they make up half of the seafood workforce, women are underrepresented in decision-making, and very few are in leadership roles. Until recently, conversations about seafood sustainability have focused on environmental responsibility, excluding social justice.

The Seafood and Gender Equality (S.A.G.E) initiative launched in October aims to achieve gender equality in at least 75% of global seafood production by 2030, a lofty goal, but according to founder Julie Kuchepatov, an attainable one. After all, there is no better time to ignite the conversation about gender inequality in the industry, says Kuchepatov. According to The International Organisation for Women in the Seafood Industry, women's role in the industry is significant, yet often undervalued and overlooked, meaning that women are often found in low-paid roles rather than at the top.

The global pandemic has catalyzed massive shifts in how business is done, and big decisions are being made. According to Kuchepatov, women must be involved in making those decisions in order to achieve social and environmental responsibility in our food supply chains. She stresses that the industry is evolving and ready for this change. Diverse voices in the industry will bring increased profitability, higher morale in the workplace, and stronger leadership.

Largely a one-woman show since its early days, S.A.G.E has been bolstered by unprecedented amounts of community backing: The support I've received has been incredible, she says, it proves that this is necessary. When a fishery is evaluated for sustainability certification against standards set forth by one of the leading certification bodies, such as the Marine Stewardship Council (MSC), several environmental factors are assessed. If a fishery has environmental sustainability shortcomings, it is enrolled in a Fishery Improvement Project (FIP) to help address those issues.

FIPs help to establish best practices to mitigate environmental harm. Certifying agencies work with community leaders to set industry goals and evaluate progress measurements. The problem is that most of these leaders are not women, and women tend not to have decision-making powers and opportunities in these communities, says Kuchepatov. This keeps women out of

rooms where the decisions are made. Additionally, these certification standards don't address social responsibility to the same extent that they do environmental responsibility.

S.A.G.E hopes to work with certifying bodies to suggest additional standards that reflect these important considerations. As an environmental standard setter, the Marine Stewardship Council's mission is to end the global crisis in overfishing which is threatening the world's fish stocks and with it, the livelihoods and food security of millions of people, says Jackie Marks, senior PR manager at the MSC, in an email, Some of the fisheries and supply chain partners that are engaged with the MSC sustainable fishing standard are actively supporting women's livelihoods, such as Namibia Hake and Indonesia Blue Swimmer crab...the MSC continues to engage with those that are developing social standards for fisheries.

Kuchepatov believes that the focus on social responsibility is the natural evolution of the seafood sustainability movement, which has historically focused on environmental responsibility. Now that seafood sustainability certification has become so ubiquitous, the next step is improving treatment and representation for people working in the industry.

I'm leaning towards the advocacy, education, and communication focus...and building the capacity and opportunities for leadership for women in the industry It's about making sure that everyone is involved in [fisheries management], and that means women as well . As a first step, S.A.G.E will launch a digital magazine and podcast with the intention of uplifting and amplifying women's voices.

OPAGAC: IOTC should enforce driftnet ban

https://www.worldfishing.net/news101/industry-news/opagac-iotc-should-enforce-driftnet-ban?mkt_tok=ODgzLURXWS04OTkAAAF7m9-oLzXRekFqkhYxU1V5JtuT5jk5k4sXaugDJynZ6kEdU_VFnhuvLU2N-Hu5uO30d2Si_FT3LgVUxQxKZMxp_7dXHxcr1xrzB1mhv0vMtE

"The Spanish tuna fleet is 'perplexed' that the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission intends to assign yellowfin tuna quotas to fleets that use driftnets despite their high bycatch of threatened species. Driftnets, which one study suggests have led to an 80% reduction in Indian Ocean dolphin populations since 1950, were banned by the UN in 1993, the EU in 2015 and by the IOTC in 2012.

Julio Moran, managing director of the Organisation of Associated Producers of Large Tuna Freezers (OPAGAC) which represents the Spanish fleet, said that what was happening in the Indian Ocean can not be allowed to continue. There are countries using illegal gear, he said, which is against the IOTC's own measures and the IOTC is not only letting them have a quota, but letting them get away with exceeding their quota scot free.

The IOTC has released proposals for rebuilding the yellowfin tuna population which OPAGAC says ignore the use of driftnets over the permitted length of 2.5km. Fleets using these larger nets include Iran, Indonesia, Sri Lanka, Pakistan and Oman, fleets which OPAGAC feels transgress other requirements such as vessel authorisation and complying with observer programmes.

The international community, especially the European Union, can not just stand there, said Julio Morán. It must demand that the IOTC give driftnet fleets zero quote and include vessels that fish with driftnets on the IUU [illegal, unregulated and unreported fishing] list, he said.

Calls for accountability after coal-slurry spill in Indonesian river

<https://news.mongabay.com/2021/02/calls-for-accountability-after-coal-slurry-spill-in-indonesian-river/>

"A coal-slurry spill into a river in Indonesian Borneo has killed hundreds of fish and forced authorities to shut off water lines to households. The waste-management facility at coal miner PT Kayan Putra Utama Coal's site in North Kalimantan province was reportedly breached on the evening of Feb. 7. The slurry spilled into the Malinau River and other waterways, including the Sesayap River, home for the nearly extinct Irrawaddy dolphin (*Orcaella brevirostris*). By the morning of Feb. 8, the water in the Malinau had turned brown and cloudy, and nearly a thousand dead fish were found floating on the surface, according to residents.

The local water board, which pipes its water from the river, shut off its pipeline over concerns that the pollution would contaminate the area's water supply. The water supply was cut off for two days, according to Rosiena Kila, a resident of the district of Malinau, who also shared photos on Facebook of the dead fish. She added that residents had to collect rainwater during this time. On Feb. 10, the North Kalimantan provincial legislature issued a letter to local authorities to investigate the incident.

If it's proven that the environmental pollution was caused by a certain company, we hope the government will certainly take an assertive move by demanding responsibility from the company "administrative, civic and criminal, the letter, signed by councilor Hasan Basri, said. Residents say the spill wasn't the first of its kind in Malinau, where coal mining is a major industry, but that it was the worst. Coal slurry spills are a classic problem in Malinau, Rosiena said. Five companies manage mining concessions along the Malinau River, according to data from the Mining Advocacy Network (Jatam), an NGO. They are PT Artha Marth Naha Kramo, PT Amarta Teknik Indonesia (ATI), PT Kayan Putra Utama Coal (KPUC), PT Baradinamika Muda Sukses (BMS), and PT Mitrabara Adiperdana (MA).

Jatam has recorded coal slurry spills in the river dating back to 2010. One particular incident, in 2017, was so severe that authorities ordered the company responsible, BMS, to suspend its

operations for 60 days. In 2018, Jatam published a report showing the deterioration of the Malinau River's ecosystem over the years due to mining activities. It cited complaints from residents that the river was turning darker and muddier, and fish populations had declined. Residents have also stopped using the river for bathing in or washing their clothes.

The problems of weak enforcement of environmental regulations, a lax licensing process, and a general failure to rehabilitate the river ecosystem mean there's no deterrent effect for the coal companies, said Andry Lalingka, coordinator of Jatam's North Kalimantan chapter. He added that, for residents, losing access to the river meant economic losses, given how reliant they are on the Malinau as both a source of water and a transport conduit. It's fair to suspect that mining companies intentionally do this [spill slurry] to reduce the load on their waste facilities, Andry said. KPUC, the miner accused in the latest spill, has apologized for its negligence and promised to help distribute clean water to affected residents.

It holds two permits allowing it to mine a combined 4,476 hectares (11,061 acres) of forest. Government records identify KPUC's beneficial owners as Soesanto, Gunawan Santoso, Lauw Kardono Lesmono, and Hendry Lesmana. Other names listed in the corporate deeds are Soegwanto, Ery Santi, and Juanda Lesmana. Juanda Lesmana is a prominent businessman with interests in North Kalimantan's logging, shipping, and hospitality industries.

He has also publicly backed politicians running in local and national elections, including the current governor and deputy governor of North Kalimantan, Zainal Paliwang and Yansen Tipa Padan. While those ties suggest any punishment for KPUC will likely be trivial, Rosien said she still hopes justice will be served. Pity the people of Malinau who depend on the water and natural resources, she said. I hope the government of Malinau and other responsible stakeholders will immediately bring sanctions that can give a deterrent effect to the company so that this won't happen again.

Indonesia's Fisheries Ministry builds mangrove nursery in Pasuruan, E Java

<https://en.antaranews.com/news/167226/fisheries-ministry-builds-mangrove-nursery-in-pasuruan-e-java>

"The Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries (KKP) has built a mangrove nursery in Pasuruan district, East Java, as part of efforts for preventing coastal abrasion and a labor-intensive program. The mangrove nursery program must be able to empower the surrounding community to work in the mangrove nursery, because this program is a labor-intensive program in the context of mitigating the impact of the pandemic, TB Haeru Rahayu, director general of marine space management at the KKP, said in a press release issued here on Tuesday.

The mangrove nursery in Pasuruan has primarily been set up to ensure the availability of mangrove seeds to meet the needs of mangrove nurseries and for planting and rehabilitation

efforts. The Mangrove Seed Garden has been built by the Ministry of Maritime Affairs and Fisheries through the directorate general of marine space management using the additional budget for the National Economic Recovery Program (PEN) for the 2020 fiscal year.

The mangrove nursery spans 3,093 square meters and houses 500 thousand seedlings of the species *Rhizophora* sp. Mukarim, manager of the mangrove tourism area and mangrove seed garden in Penunggul village, Nguling district, said that in 34 years, he has planted millions of mangrove trees. There are 14 species of typical coastal fauna that can be seen in mangrove areas, namely milkfish, mullet, mudskipper, snails, oysters, green clams, lizards, monitor lizards, snakes, white egrets, mangrove crabs, white shrimp, small crabs, and dragonflies, he informed.

Local fishermen benefit from this increasingly sustainable mangrove, because they catch fish not far from the coast and can sell their catch to visitors, said Mukarim, who received the Kalpataru award for environmental preservation and the Satya Lencana award for development from former president Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono and President Joko Widodo.

Haeru Rahayu lauded Mukarim for his hard work in planting and preserving mangroves in Penunggul village, Nguling district, Pasuruan. He said that the Mangrove Center of Excellence Program aims to produce 100 million seedlings for mangrove planting programs in Indonesia. He emphasized that the KKP is ready to provide support to Mukarim and other communities to develop sustainable mangrove ecotourism and to keep the beach free of rubbish.

Eight Indonesian pole-and-line and handline fisheries celebrate achieving MSC certification

<http://ipnlf.org/news/eight-indonesian-pole-and-line-and-handline-fisheries-celebrate-achieving-msc-certification>

"The International Pole and Line Foundation (IPNLF) working in close collaboration with its local partner and IPNLF member, Asosiasi Perikanan Pole & Line dan Handline Indonesia (AP2HI), commended the highly focused, collaborative endeavours of multiple stakeholders that have enabled these fisheries to reach this important milestone. The advancement of these fisheries towards certification, is a tangible demonstration of the ability of small-scale fisheries to support their local communities and compete in the global marketplace. As one of the world's largest seafood producers, Indonesia plays a key role in safeguarding marine ecosystems and global seafood supplies.

These eight fisheries and their sourcing method comprise highly selective, small-scale operations which harvest tuna with very low impact on other ocean species and the environment. In Indonesia, the one-by-one tuna sector is often a family or community business, and a major contributor towards local economies and food security. For many years, IPNLF and AP2HI have

been helping to preserve this important economic and cultural heritage by supporting local capacity-building initiatives.

Trian Yunanda, Director of Fish Resources Management at the Indonesian Ministry of Maritime Affairs and Fisheries (MMAF), applauded the achievement, saying, IPNLF and AP2HI have been working closely with MMAF on improving data collection and fisheries monitoring programmes, leading to more effective management of these fisheries. All of us need to recognise the important role that truly sustainable fisheries, that contribute to environmental, social and economic improvements, can make to the livelihoods of our fishers, and to the viability of our businesses. These actions lead to healthier oceans for us and for future generations.

The eight fisheries, or Units of Assessment (UoAs), are located throughout the Indonesian archipelago; from North Sulawesi and North Maluku, to the Banda Sea, and East and West Flores in the south. Certification of these fisheries will add around 11,000 tonnes of one-by-one skipjack and yellowfin tuna to seafood markets that promote social responsibility and environmental sustainability. Nine different AP2HI members are involved in these small-scale fishery supply chains, which incorporates 307 handline and 73 larger pole-and-line vessels.

The catches are part of the regional Western and Central Pacific Ocean stocks. Jeremy Crawford, Southeast Asia Director of IPNLF, praised the determined efforts of AP2HI members and other stakeholders and the vital support provided by the Ministry in progressing the eight fisheries towards full assessment.

We are pleased to be part of this important process of building value in the local one-by-one tuna supply chains. Together with our local partners, and with the support of the Indonesian Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries (MMAF), IPNLF has been able to realise significant improvements in fishery operations, governance, and in securing livelihoods.

These improvement programmes include fishery data collection and monitoring, which are carried out by local onboard observers and portside enumerators who collect valuable information, at sea and on land, to better understand the environmental impacts associated with fishing operations. This data also helps to inform fishery governance and decision-making processes. Information on the vessels and crew are collected along with data on catch and effort that includes the number of days at sea, bycatch levels, bait utilisation and potential interactions with endangered, threatened and protected (ETP) species. Electronic monitoring systems for small-scale fisheries are also implemented through time-lapse cameras, vessel tracking, and working with the government on analysing VMS data.

On land, IPNLF and AP2HI work closely with fishery operators to improve chain of custody and fishery compliance to national regulations, and also engage with the government on the development of effective management measures. The MSC Fisheries Standard includes three core principles against which fisheries are assessed: sustainable fish stocks, minimising

environmental impacts and effective fisheries management. In addition to operational improvements, the Indonesian fisheries are also implementing tangible social improvements, such as building equity through value creation and market access, implementing internationally accepted codes of conduct and improved labour standards.

AP2HI was established in 2012 to unite the tuna pole-and-line and handline fisheries in Indonesia under a single association, comprising 50 members from the catching, processing and trading sectors. The association encourages the use of natural resources in Indonesia in a fair, transparent, and sustainable way and has worked closely with IPNLF to improve both the social responsibility and environmental sustainability of their fisheries. The partnership between AP2HI and IPNLF was established to primarily focus on improving the livelihoods of Indonesian one-by-one fishers and the communities that depend on them.

Commenting on the certification of the fisheries, Janti Djuari, the Chair of AP2HI, said: Getting these eight fisheries to this crucial point has required a huge collective effort and I am very proud of the manner in which all parties involved continue to pull together “ to build healthier fisheries and healthier oceans “ now and for future generations. Our hope is that these fisheries will soon be able to supply consumers with sustainable one-by-one caught tuna. This initiative will not only help improve the livelihoods of our traditional one-by-one fishermen, but will also ensure a sustainable industry.

The global demand for sustainably caught tuna that includes social and economic benefits is steadily increasing. While industrial (purse seine) boats operating in the Indonesian economic zone are responsible for the largest catches, their environmental impact is much greater than those of one-by-one fisheries. International markets, where consumers demand ethical sourcing of their seafood choices, have supported the implementation of improvement projects, expressing their commitment to source from these fisheries in a special joint agreement in June 2018, signed between MMAF, IPNLF and 14 buyers, brands and retailers.

In their commitment, these buyers undertook to preferentially source MSC-certified one-by-one tuna from Indonesia’s tuna fisheries over non-certified tuna, once these products become available. Promises such as these, provide further validation of the critical role played by fisheries that put the three pillars of sustainability “environmental, social and economic benefits “ at the forefront of their operations. It is the only way to ensure that these vulnerable communities retain access to food security and economic wellbeing in the long-term, says Jeremy Crawford, Southeast Asia Director of IPNLF.

An additional eight pole-and-line and handline fisheries in AP2HI supply chains are involved in Fisheries Improvement Projects (FIPs) supported by IPNLF. These FIPs which are all A-rated by Fishery Progress and should deliver a further 10,000 tonnes of certified skipjack and yellowfin tuna to markets in the future.

20by2020 improves the lives of thousands of fishermen and their families in Indonesia

<https://www.businesswire.com/news/home/20201228005112/en/20by2020-Improves-the-Lives-of-Thousands-of-Fishermen-and-Their-Families-in-Indonesia>

The United Arab Emirates-led humanitarian initiative, 20by2020, continues to extend sustainable solutions to various parts of the world with the latest deployment in Pulau Laut Selatan - South Kalimantan, Indonesia. The objective of this deployment is to provide 20,700 people from a large fishermen community with improved energy access through off-grid solar lighting.

Pulau Laut Selatan is in the Kota Baru Regency (Borneo), where a quarter of the population still live in the dark, and most households earn their living by fishing. 3,600 solar lanterns and 1,000 mobile-charging solar lanterns will be distributed to fishermen living without access to electricity to assist them and their families with household lighting and income generation, enabling greater economic activities by fishing early in the morning and at night.

Additionally, the lanterns will improve health conditions by replacing kerosene lamps, a basic indoor power source for most households in unelectrified areas, along with candles and diesel generators that can adversely affect people's safety, the environment, and levels of productivity.

This deployment represents a unique collaboration between two leading Zayed Sustainability Prize winners. D.light is a 2013 Prize winner and a US-based pioneer in delivering affordable solar-powered solutions for households and small businesses that have been commissioned to provide the technology for 20by2020. Kopernik, is an Indonesian non-profit organisation and the 2016 Zayed Sustainability Prize winner which specialises in sustainable energy. Its mandate is to reduce poverty in last mile communities.

Kopernik was in charge of implementing the project in the field. H.E Ahmed Ali Al Sayegh, UAE Minister of State and Chairman of Abu Dhabi Global Market (ADGM), a founding partner of the 20by2020 initiative said: “The UAE and Indonesia are aligned with the UN 2030 agenda and share a common focus on building sustainable cities and communities and supporting vital growth sectors. H.E Al Sayegh added, “Over the years, both countries have embarked on several joint sustainability projects that are designed to build resilient societies and economies. The latest 20by2020 deployment of environmentally friendly solar solutions in Indonesia's South Kalimantan region aims to enhance the quality of life for local residents and will also help to connect unelectrified populations to the grid. We are glad to be part of this meaningful initiative and outreach.

H.E. Mr. Arifin Tasrif, Minister for Energy and Mineral Resources of Indonesia, said: “We welcome and appreciate the support extended by the 20by2020 initiative and its partners to the people of South Kalimantan. The leadership of the United Arab Emirates Government, showcased through the Zayed Sustainability Prize, complements our Ministry's programmes of accelerating the deployment of solar energy since 2017. “We strongly believe that this donation

will effectively support the Indonesian Government to achieve our target of 23% new and renewable energy in the energy mix and help lead the country's transition to a cleaner energy future.

We would like to extend our appreciation to the United Arab Emirates and we hope that we can continue to work closely together in the field of new and renewable energy to achieve our shared vision of a sustainable future, he added. Established in December 2019, 20by2020 is a natural extension of the Zayed Sustainability Prize's commitment to work with its winners and finalists by continuing to support their goals and allowing their solutions to reach a much wider number of people around the globe. 20by2020 is led by the Zayed Sustainability Prize in partnership with Abu Dhabi Global Market, Abu Dhabi Fund for Development, Mubadala Petroleum, the UAE Ministry of Tolerance and Coexistence, Masdar, and BNPP Paribas; the most recent partner to join the initiative and the first international private company.

The initiative exemplifies the commitment of its partners to enable sustainable development at home in the UAE, and abroad, and is complemented by the inspiring work powered by some of these partners in parallel on the ground. In Indonesia, since 2015 Mubadala Petroleum has provided over 174 scholarships to students from fishing communities in Kotabaru, South Kalimantan to pursue higher education at the Kotabaru Polytechnic, while funding has also been provided for soft skills and safety training for students.

Mubadala Petroleum has also been engaging with local fishermen in West Sulawesi since 2014 to support the deployment of artificial fish aggregating devices (rumpon) in the Makassar Strait and fishing lighting technology opening new fishing grounds and additional income sources. In 2018, Mubadala Petroleum funded a skills empowerment training programme for fishermen's wives in this coastal area, in addition to implementing a Waste Management project which saw the introduction of a waste bank and reuse-recycle waste activities.

The project not only improved the village's environment but also empowered women in the community to generate additional income by producing recycled products and marine-based goods that they could then sell at the local market. Dr Bakheet Al Katheeri, CEO of Mubadala Petroleum, a founding partner of the initiative, commented: "As a partner in the 20by2020 initiative, we are proud of all the work to date to support disadvantaged communities around the world.

This deployment in South Kalimantan in Indonesia will harness the power of innovative technologies to enable sustainable solutions for the local fishing community. Since 2014, we have been involved in empowering this community through a range of well-established projects designed to enhance education, environmental and development goals. Our involvement in the 20by2020 initiative complements these efforts and we look forward to seeing the real-world impact on local communities as these schemes progress.

Eight deployments have been rolled out to date, including energy, health, water and food solutions in Cambodia, Madagascar, Egypt, Jordan, Nepal, Tanzania, and Uganda. 20by2020 will conclude its 1st phase with a project in Costa Rica and additional solutions will be deployed in another 10 countries as part of phase two.

Indonesia allows use of destructive seine and trawl nets in its waters again

<https://news.mongabay.com/2020/12/indonesia-allows-use-of-destructive-seine-and-trawl-nets-in-its-waters-again/>

"The Indonesian government will reopen some of its waters to fishing with seine and trawl nets, drawing criticism over the destruction wrought by this practice. The fisheries ministry recently published a list of approved fishing equipment that had previously been banned for contributing to depleted fish stocks in Indonesian waters. The list was signed Nov. 18 by the minister, Edhy Prabowo a week before his arrest on corruption charges in a separate case. Among the equipment approved for use are seine nets, known locally as dogol and cantrang, midwater trawl nets (pukat ikan), and bottom otter trawl nets (pukat hela dasar). Seines and trawls are highly effective equipment for sweeping up large amounts of fish, but they are also highly non-discriminative.

A 2010 study by the Bogor Institute of Agriculture (IPB) showed that nearly 50% of cantrang catches were bycatch and discards. The fisheries ministry has previously justified wanting to lift the ban on these types of nets to boost catches and thereby attract greater investment in the fisheries sector. Now, though, it says the ban is effectively useless, with fishers continuing to use these nets. "Let's just legalize it, said Muhammad Zaini Hanafi, the interim director-general for capture fisheries. He added that operating permits under the new rule will only be issued to boats that already use these nets effectively whitewashing the once-banned practice. There will be other restrictions on the use of these nets. Cantrang, for instance, will only be allowed on boats of 10 to 20 gross tonnage (GT) in size, and operating in the Java Sea and Natuna Sea. Fishing in the Java Sea, off the north coast of Indonesia's most populous island, has traditionally been done with cantrang. Fishers here and their communities represent a sizeable voting bloc, so banning cantrang became a loaded issue.

When the initial ban was imposed in 2015, by then-minister Susi Pudjiastuti, the Java Sea fishers were exempted and given a three-year grace period to give up their cantrang nets. In late 2019 and early 2020, they were enlisted as an unofficial navy, sent by the government to fish with their cantrang in the waters around the Natuna Islands between Sumatra and Borneo. The move was meant to establish a heavy Indonesian presence there to counter incursions into the area by Chinese fishing boats; while China hasn't explicitly laid claim to the Natuna waters, its controversial "nine-dash line includes the area, which is acknowledged by the rest of the world as Indonesian waters. But the stunt also sparked tensions between the Java cantrang fishers and local artisanal fishers.

The Java Sea fishers and their supporters say the nets aren't as destructive as critics contend, because they keep them away from coastal reefs. But critics say many fishers typically modify the nets to work like a bottom trawl, and that they deploy them near the coast. A 2015 survey by the fisheries ministry also found that many cantrang fishers had understated the size of their boats to get around a restriction on vessels larger than 5 GT using this type of net. The fisheries sector in Indonesia, the world's largest archipelagic country, plays an important role in supporting national and global food security. The country's waters support some of the highest levels of marine biodiversity in the world, and the fisheries industry employs about 12 million Indonesians, making it the second-largest fish producer in the world.

Susan Herawati, secretary-general of the NGO Coalition for Fisheries Justice (KIARA), said in a statement that the lifting of the seine and trawl ban will once again put pressure on already overexploited fishing grounds. She said it also disadvantages smaller fishers using less destructive equipment, who contribute a far greater combined catch than the Java Sea cantrang fishers. "The decree signals that the fisheries ministry doesn't take into account the 470,020 small-scale fishers along the northern coast of Java Island whose livelihoods are highly reliant on the fish resources, Susan said. She added that the ministry in 2018 published a scientific report linking cantrang to ineffective and exploitative fishing, damage to coral reefs, and socioeconomic conflict between fishers.

"It's very strange that the same office issued this decree two years after the publication of that scientific report. So what's the scientific basis for this new policy?" she said. Observers have called on President Joko Widodo to evaluate the new policy, given that it flouts a 1980 presidential decree banning the use of all trawl nets in Indonesia. The new policy will lead to legal uncertainty for fisheries inspectors and law enforcers. "Such inconsistent policymaking will result in poor fisheries management because a regulation can flip 180 degrees depending on who is the minister and with whom the minister has connections, said Mohammad Abdi Suhufan, national coordinator for the NGO Destructive Fishing Watch (DFW) Indonesia.

Lobster export policy that landed Indonesian minister in jail could resume

<https://news.mongabay.com/2020/11/indonesia-fisheries-lobster-exports-edhy-prabowo-luhut-pandjaitan-corruption-kpk/>

"The arrest of Indonesia's fisheries minister on bribery charges has prompted a freeze on exports of lobster larvae, but a top official has indicated this is unlikely to be permanent, despite being at the heart of the ongoing corruption investigation. Minister Edhy Prabowo was one of 17 people detained on Nov. 25 by agents from the Corruption Eradication Commission (KPK) on allegations of bribery related to the issuance of export permits.

The fisheries ministry announced a suspension of lobster larvae exports as of Nov. 26, and the following day it announced that Edhy had resigned as minister. Edhy was minister for about a

year, and the lobster export policy was the only meaningful regulation issued during this time. His replacement in the interim is Luhut Binsar Panjaitan, the coordinating minister for maritime affairs and investment. In a statement published Nov. 28, Luhut said he had ordered an evaluation of the lobster export program, but added that fundamentally there was “nothing wrong with the policy.

“If we see everything is good, we'll continue it because this gives benefits to the fishers along the southern coasts, Luhut said. The KPK has charged Edhy and six others, including two of his aides, Andreau Pribadi Misanta and Safri, with various counts of corruption. Two of the four others have been identified as Siswadi, an official with the freight-forwarding company PT Aero Citra Kargo (ACK), and Suharjito, the founder and president of PT Dua Putra Perkasa Pratama (DPPP), one of the companies awarded a permit to export lobster larvae.

The KPK alleges that Andreau was responsible for the decision to appoint ACK as the sole freight forwarder for the lobster exports, a position that the company allegedly exploited to inflate its freight prices. According to the KPK, Ahmad Bahtiar, a co-owner of ACK, wired 3.4 billion rupiah (\$243,000) to Edhy via Ainul Faqih, an assistant to the minister's wife. Ainul has also been charged, while Edhy's wife, Iis Rosita Dewi, and Bahtiar have not. Edhy and his wife allegedly used the money to buy luxury goods during a working visit to Hawaii; they were arrested upon their return at the airport in Jakarta, with KPK agents seizing the items, including a Rolex watch and Louis Vuitton shoes, as evidence.

The KPK also alleges that Suharjito of DPPP bribed the others in exchange for a permit to export lobster larvae. According to the KPK, the company has to date exported 10 shipments of wild-caught lobster larvae via ACK. The lobster export issue is a hugely controversial one. Susi Pudjiastuti, the former fisheries minister, instated a ban on larvae exports in 2016 to prevent the overfishing of wild lobster stocks in Indonesian waters.

Edhy, who has feuded publicly with Susi on several issues since taking office last year, first touted a plan to end the ban in December 2019, saying he wanted to cater to small fishers who depended on export markets. He also said Susi's ban had failed to tackle the illegal lobster market. In May this year, he lifted the ban, allowing exports to resume. But conservationists warned the new policy would undo efforts to replenish Indonesia's wild lobster stocks, while fisheries industry watchers and investigative reporting found the selection of approved exporters was rife with nepotism and cronyism.

Migrant workers in Taiwan struggle to save money

<https://www.taipeitimes.com/News/taiwan/archives/2020/11/30/2003747843>

"Wakecot and Buang are two Indonesian fishermen who work long hours on different Taiwanese fishing vessels, hoping to improve their circumstances and the lives of their families back home.

Yet, after 10 years of catching fish and mending nets on Taiwanese boats, Wakecot, 37, has very little to show for it. The bulk of his salary is usually sent home to support his wife and two children in West Java, and he tries to manage on the little money that is left, he said. Buang, also from West Java, told a similar story, saying that he barely has enough left to buy cigarettes after he remits most of his pay to his wife and two children in Cirebon.

“I never learned how to save money, because I am out at sea for most of the time and I have only one day off a week, said Buang, 31, who has been working in Taiwan for seven years. “And I usually do not venture out of the harbor when the boat comes in. Indonesian fishermen in Taiwan reportedly earn NT\$21,100 to NT\$25,000 a month, before deductions, and like many other migrant workers in the nation, they find it difficult to save money. One of the major problems among migrant fishermen is that they suffer from stress, working long rigorous hours at sea, often for weeks at a time, Indonesian migrant rights advocate Dwi Tantri said.

“Can you imagine, after days or weeks of work out at sea, when they come back to port, some of them are required to help their employers sell fish in the market, said Tantri, 50, who has been working as a caregiver in Taiwan for nine years. On their days off, some of the fishermen would get together to drink, each chipping in NT\$500 to buy the alcohol, “to try to unwind and forget about everything for a while, 38-year-old Kasirin said. However, this is the kind of lifestyle that makes it difficult for many of the 700,000 or so migrant workers in Taiwan to realize their dreams of returning home with enough money to start their own business or at least gain some financial security so they would not have to leave their families again to work overseas, Indonesian banker M. Zaky Faishal said. Zaky, a Taiwan-based representative of Bank Negara Indonesia, was invited by Tantri to talk to Indonesian fishermen about saving money.

Zaky advised the fishermen to save 30 percent of their monthly salary in a bank account, send 15 percent to their families, retain 40 percent for daily living costs and set aside 15 percent for any emergencies that might arise. “We hope they can start their own businesses upon their return to Indonesia, and we try to motivate them by telling them that they can one day be small or medium-sized entrepreneurs, he said. In the Filipino community, similar advice is offered regularly by the Taipei Labor Center of the Manila Economic and Cultural Office. Center Deputy Director Dayang Dayang Sittie Kaushar G. Jaafar, has been visiting factory dormitories in Taiwan during the COVID-19 pandemic to hand out health kits and talk to Filipino workers about financial and family responsibilities.

“They should save every penny they can if they have not yet started doing so, Jaafar said.

“Current times are tough because of the pandemic, and many people are out of a job. Savings are very important. The aspiration among many migrant workers to return home and start their own business is not unattainable, Filipino Allan D. Viray said. Viray, 33, who worked in a Taiwanese factory for six years, returned home in April, and four months later, he launched a business to import Taiwanese food products. Since August, he has sold half a shipping container of

Taiwanese beverages 16,800 bottles to distributors and grocery stores on the island of Luzon, he said.

Viray said he is now processing a new order for a full container of Taiwanese products. He is also about to open a vehicle rental company, starting with two vans, one sedan and a jeepney, which he has obtained, he said. He advised his compatriots to keep in mind the primary reason why they left home to work in Taiwan. “Always focus on your goals and be productive, be kind and courteous for no reason at all, because I believe every person you meet may be a potential door opener, Viray said. “Attitude matters.

Tsunami technology worth little without community action: Indonesian agency

<https://www.thejakartapost.com/news/2020/11/16/tsunami-technology-worth-little-without-community-action-bmkg.html>

"The authorities should boost efforts to raise local communities' preparedness in the face of disaster warnings and weather signals so as to improve the country's tsunami-mitigation measures, in addition to improving technology for an effective early warning system, the Meteorology, Climatology and Geophysics Agency (BMKG) of Indonesia has said. BMKG head Dwikorita Karnawati said cultural competence with regard to crisis response, especially among residents and administrators in tsunami-prone areas, was a critical component in easing the impact of natural disasters in the future.

“Supercomputers, internet of things and artificial intelligence in support of an early-warning system will be useless if the cultural aspects are not in place, Dwikorita said in a webinar on Friday, held to mark World Tsunami Awareness Day, which falls on Nov. 5.

Local communities and administrations must have the capacity to operate and maintain the early-warning tools installed throughout the country by regional disaster mitigation agencies (BPBDs) and emergency operation centers (Pusdalops), she said. Authorities should ensure sufficient evacuation sites, routes and maps, among other measures, while also preparing the locals with adequate knowledge of disaster mitigation, including evacuation procedures, Dwikorita said. The BMKG, together with local BPBDs and administrations across the archipelago, has created disaster-mitigation education programs focusing on earthquakes and tsunamis to raise local communities' awareness and preparation in anticipating the dangers of the two major disaster threats in the country.

Disaster risk-reduction expert Ardito M. Kodijat from UNESCO Indonesia said that learning from past tsunamis in Indonesia, a sophisticated early-warning system would not save many lives if people lacked sufficient knowledge to respond to the warnings. “If the system issues an early warning less than four minutes [before the disaster occurs], but the communities don't know what

to do, the system won't guarantee safety, Ardito said, specifically referring to coastal communities that are at high risk.

Home to more than 260 million people living on 17,000 islands across 34 provinces, Indonesia sits along the Pacific Ring of Fire, making the archipelago particularly prone to natural disasters, including earthquakes, tsunamis and volcanic eruptions. Indonesia recorded one of the world's deadliest natural disasters when a massive earthquake struck Aceh in 2004, followed by a devastating tsunami that left more than 220,000 dead across the Indian Ocean. The country's early-warning system came under fire following a series of deadly tsunamis in 2018, which killed at least 437 people in Banten and South Lampung, and 2,045 others in Palu and Donggala, Central Sulawesi, in separate incidents.

Criticisms mounted following reports of nonfunctioning alert equipment at the time of the disasters. Many residents were reportedly still on the beach in the coastal city of Palu when the tsunami struck. The government established the Indonesia Tsunami Early Warning System (InaTEWS) in 2008, but local administrations have limited budgets for the maintenance of the alert system. About 100 out of 158 sirens installed by the National Disaster Mitigation Agency (BNPB) are now unserviceable.

The BMKG is currently installing sirens with simpler technology at a much cheaper price, a version of which was successfully tested in the prime tourist destination of Labuan Bajo in East Nusa Tenggara on Nov. 12. Due to a lack of operational funding, some BPBDs and Pusdalops do not operate around the clock, with the result that early warnings about potential tsunamis issued by the BMKG are disconnected from the communities in vulnerable areas at several times, according to the BMKG.

Last year, President Joko "Jokowi Widodo issued Presidential Regulation (Perpres) No. 93/2019 on strengthening and developing earthquake information and tsunami early-warning systems, mandating the relevant institutions to move in synergy to improve disaster-risk reduction. The BMKG called on all stakeholders to learn from past natural disasters, hoping that a better synergy would lead to fewer victims in the future.

Building back better: how Lampung, Indonesia is innovating for a brighter future

<http://blogs.edf.org/edfish/2020/11/16/building-back-better-how-lampung-indonesia-is-innovating-for-a-brighter-future/>

"COVID-19 impacts are far-reaching, and one important factor to keep in mind is the effect this pandemic has had on food and nutrition security and the growing need for solutions. The COVID-19 pandemic has crashed supply chains around the world, and in turn, has severely impacted livelihoods and access to nutritious foods for communities. For Environmental Defense Fund, we have seen this impact on our Indonesian fisher partners and communities. When

international seafood markets dried up, this threw their main source of income and livelihoods into jeopardy.

Yet, a province on the Indonesian island of Sumatra is looking to the future, and is building back better to ensure sustainability and to enhance food and nutrition security for their community. COVID-19 threatened the livelihoods of the Lampung community and the ability for families to put food on the table. In this province, the fishery for blue swimming crab commonly called BSC is critical to the local Lampung economy. In the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, economic disruptions and the global shutdown sharply decreased the demand for blue swimming crab, which in turn stopped the supply chain and crashed BSC prices.

With the majority of the coastal population involved in the BSC economy, ranging from fishers, middlemen and pickers (mostly women), many lost their main occupation and a significant portion of their income. The BSC fishery in Lampung contributes 10-15% to the national BSC production worth \$35.6 million USD annually. In this province, the fishery supports more than 4,000 fishers and 2,000 workers employed by 30 miniplants and five processing plants. With limited opportunities for alternative employment in the region, this chain of events raised significant food security concerns at the household level.

In the face of COVID-19, Lampung is building back better to enhance their resiliency for the future through diversification and building opportunities for sustainable ocean-based food systems. With the unexpected and drastic impacts of COVID-19, Lampung's fishers are looking to expanding opportunities to support their livelihoods and to ensure a stable and affordable source of food for their families and communities.

Previously seen as a secondary option due to lower price, the domestic market has grown considerably, which has increased income for the fishing community while providing a relatively stable food supply. Additionally, affordability of BSC in the domestic market has allowed small and medium enterprises to diversify by offering raw BSC product to the local population. By growing the domestic market and diversifying available products, this has ensured the access and availability of a local protein source for surrounding communities, especially during such a difficult time.

Disruptions in the BSC global market have also incentivized fishers to change their livelihood strategies through diversifying their catch to include other species for management, which will enhance food access to local communities and minimize fisheries waste. Fishers are also exploring the opportunity for implementation of clam aquaculture in designated nearshore areas.

The unprecedented nature of the pandemic has thrown the world into chaos, yet communities remain resilient, and are intent on rebuilding better for a future that benefits people and the environment. In Lampung, Indonesia, we are seeing the beginning of what is possible when communities work together for more sustainable, equitable and healthy fisheries and ecosystems.

Blue economy not as sustainable as previously promoted: Researchers

<https://www.thejakartapost.com/news/2020/11/05/blue-economy-not-as-sustainable-as-previously-promoted-researchers.html>

"Despite being hailed as a sustainable way of reaping benefits from the ocean ecosystem, implementation of the "blue economy in Indonesia still runs the risk of displacing local communities and livelihoods, researchers have warned. As an expansion of the green economy, the blue economy concept introduced in 2012 emphasizes conservation and the sustainable management of oceans. It promotes the use of marine resources for economic growth, improvement of people's welfare and sustainable use of the sea.

The troubles of implementing the blue economy in Indonesia are part of findings by Indian activists and scholars under the Social Need Education and Human Awareness (SNEHA) group, which conducted field studies nearly a year ago in various parts of Indonesia. They visited at least five coastal communities across the archipelago between Nov. 11 and Nov. 18 last year to gauge the implementation of blue economy strategies in the country and their impact on local populations. These include Pari Island in Jakarta's Thousand Islands regency and the Muara Angke fishing community in North Jakarta; Central Java coastal communities in Bandungharjo subdistrict in Jepara regency and Sayung district in Demak regency, as well as those living on the Karimunjawa and Parang islands; and the Demak-Based Indonesian Fisherwomen's Association (PPNI).

One of the researchers, A. Gandimathi, noted that while Indonesia had promoted the Global Maritime Fulcrum as one of its key policies since 2014, problems with implementation could prove disastrous for the environment and the coastal communities that rely on it. Questions arose, for instance, over the Giant Seawall Project on Jakarta's coast, which claims to prevent the capital from sinking any further. "What could be the implications of this project? It would be a development-induced disaster, Gandimathi said during an online discussion last week.

The seawall project has triggered its fair share of controversy, with experts saying that the government should instead focus on preventing Jakarta from sinking further by stopping groundwater extraction. After long discussions between water management experts from Indonesia and abroad, most experts agreed that groundwater extraction was the main cause of the sinking. "Indonesia is already prone to tsunamis, being [situated] in a volcanic region as well as on tectonic plates. It is a disaster-prone zone [that could be made worse by] the project, she said. Should the project continue, it could increase marine pollution causing biodiversity loss, as well as erosion and inundation.

As a result, fishing communities living on the coast would be forced to migrate inland, losing their homes and livelihoods at the same time, the researcher said. Meanwhile, when locals tried to resist, the state responded with repression. "People who have enjoyed their right to depend on coastal resources are being displaced because of land grabbing in the name of tourism, she said.

One example is Pari Island, which is included as part of a wider state tourism project in the Thousand Islands, where there is an ongoing dispute between locals and PT Bumi Pari Asri on the privatization of the island. Responding to the study, People's Coalition for Fisheries Justice (KIARA) secretary-general Susan Herawati complained that Indonesia was merely following trends pushed by the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD).

The OECD said that by 2030, the ocean would become central to economic growth. “The problem is that this economic [bias] doesn't consider the people's [livelihoods], especially fishing communities as holders of the right to maintain and manage ocean resources, Susan said, noting that the government still promoted economic growth based on extractive activities. The KIARA executive said there were three aspects of the blue economy recognized by the OECD – tourism, mining and port development – that could prove detrimental to the environment and fishing communities.

“We see this more as a carbon threat that doesn't consider the needs of the traditional and social aspects managed by local communities, she said. Meanwhile, Indonesia Forum for the Environment (Walhi) director Nur Hidayati said the implementation of the blue economy proved that the government put too much emphasis on economic growth as a marker for success in development. “Many critics have already stressed that economic growth is a flawed indicator – it fails to pick up on the nuances of real situations by exacerbating inequality, violence and discrimination, she said.

As such, Nur called on the government to follow internationally accepted and ratified standards and obligations on environmental and community protections. President Joko “Jokowi Widodo launched the Global Maritime Fulcrum vision of Indonesia at the East Asia Summit in 2014, which promotes the development of its marine and coastal areas, among other measures.

Indonesia's ocean ecosystems have tremendous economic potential that has yet to be fully harnessed, according to the 2019 World Bank report, “Oceans of Opportunity. Its fisheries sector is the second-largest in the world and plays a critical role providing food security and employment. Indonesia's tourist sector benefits heavily from the country's world-class marine and coastal (MAC) assets, with MAC tourism being a key driver of visitor growth. However, poor management and marine debris threaten these priceless national assets, the report said.

New initiative to improve sustainability of Indonesia's fisheries

<https://moderndiplomacy.eu/2020/11/02/new-initiative-to-improve-sustainability-of-indonesias-fisheries/>

"The World Bank, in partnership with the Government of Indonesia, has launched the Coastal Fisheries Initiative Challenge Fund. With financing of USD\$1 million from the Global Environment Facility, the Challenge Fund will support sustainable investments into Indonesia's

coastal fisheries sector. The new initiative, part of the World Bank's Indonesia Sustainable Oceans Program (ISOP), will work with potential investors on developing business plans for sustainable fisheries, promote private-sector investment opportunities in sustainable fisheries, share lessons learned from past investment successes, and build partnerships between fishing communities and sustainability-minded businesses.

Indonesia is the world's second largest fisheries producer. The sector generates approximately US\$4.1 billion in annual export earnings, supports more than 7 million jobs, and provides over 50% of Indonesia's animal-based dietary protein. The industry is facing uncertainty, however, with some coastal fisheries stocks at risk from overfishing and management challenges, including limitations to effective management plans, insufficient data and research, and limited opportunities for investment in socially and environmentally responsible fishing.

“The goal of the Challenge Fund is to increase the economic and social value of the sector and support the well-being and livelihoods of people reliant on coastal fisheries, said Ann Jeannette Glauber, Practice Manager for Environment, Natural Resources and the Blue Economy at the World Bank. Socially and environmentally responsible seafood not only supports healthy fish populations and marine habitats, but is also considered higher-value on the international market thus increasing revenue for coastal communities involved in the industry and supporting profitable businesses over the long term.

The primary focus of the initiative will be on snapper and tuna fisheries in the Arafura and Savu Seas and surrounding archipelagic waters. This work is guided by an advisory committee comprising the Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries, the Ministry of National Development Planning and the Coordinating Ministry of Maritime Affairs and Investment.

Green mussel culture using longlines and traditional stake methods in Indonesia

<https://www.aquaculturealliance.org/advocate/green-mussel-culture-using-longlines-and-traditional-stake-methods-in-indonesia/>

"The green mussel (*Perna viridis*) is an excellent source of protein, fat and carbohydrates and a popular source of food for local communities throughout Southeast Asia, including Indonesia. Because the mussel reproduces throughout the year, requires no supplemental food input, grows to harvestable size in about six months and requires no mangrove removal for pond construction, it is particularly promising as a sustainable aquaculture product for culture in erosion-sensitive mangrove coasts. Additionally, mussel culture does not require highly sophisticated techniques, knowledge or equipment, which makes it particularly suitable for use in small-scale artisanal settings. Indonesia lags far behind in the culture of molluscs and little recent work has been done on mussel culture in Indonesia.

Green mussel culture in the country takes place in sheltered marine mangrove waters and traditionally only involves the use of bamboo stakes. In the Demak Regency, northeast of Semarang on the northern coast of central Java, negative impacts from shrimp farming have promoted interest in mangrove-friendly alternatives. This article – adapted and summarized from the original publication [Rejeki, S. et al. 2020. Increased production of green mussels (*Perna viridis*) using longline culture and an economic comparison with stake culture on the north coast of Java, Indonesia.

Aquaculture Research, 2020; 00:1-8.] – reports on feasibility trials to develop green mussel culture as an alternative livelihood for the impoverished coastal fishing communities of Demak, Java. The green mussel is already being harvested from man-made structures in the surrounding areas and, as is the case with several other bivalves, is a well-established local food. The study was carried out in Morosari Village, on the northern coast of Central Java, Indonesia, just 2 km northeast of Semarang in the coastal zone of the Demak Regency. The area was selected based on its physical suitability for aquaculture and the absence of potential interference from other fishing activities.

The experimental site had an average depth of 0.77 meters, temperature of 29.8 to 30.2 degrees-C, salinity 27.7 to 38.4 ppt and current speed of 8.0 to 15.0 cm per second. Dissolved oxygen was 5.4 to 6.2 mg/L and pH was 7.1 to 7.8, while average ammonia and phosphate concentrations were 0.105 ppm and 0.590 ppm, respectively. The site was connected to the open sea through several canals of about 20 meters in width. Our results show that mussel culture using longlines for both spat collection and grow-out at densities of 50 mussel seeds per stocking is a simple, low-cost and easily adopted source of income for households in areas where other means of income generation have been lost or are limited.

Culture of the species in other countries in the region has proven profitable and has developed into important sources of income and food for coastal communities. As an aquaculture practice, longlines are a mangrove-friendly alternative livelihood as it does not require mangroves to be removed for pond construction. They can be placed alongside mangrove channels, in lagoons, inside abandoned ponds and in shallow marine areas seawards from the mangrove forests without any need to cut mangroves or excavate ponds. In fact, longline culture is even considered ideal for unprotected open-sea culture conditions.

Thus, mussel culture can serve as an economic incentive to preserve mangroves so the latter can be left intact to fulfil their many other important ecosystem functions. Environmental contamination is known to be a problem for shellfish in heavily populated areas along the north coast of Java. For Semarang and the area of concern, the situation is less clear, but at least two studies suggest that contamination levels are low enough for safe consumption. However, even though the coastal area of Demak is still largely rural and probably less contaminated, the issue of contamination deserves close attention.

World Bank and Indonesia launch Coastal Fisheries Initiative Challenge Fund

<https://www.devdiscourse.com/article/business/1290339-world-bank-and-indonesia-launch-coastal-fisheries-initiative-challenge-fund>

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Indonesian watchdog urges authorities to intensify patrols in Natuna amid rampant illegal fishing

<https://www.thejakartapost.com/news/2020/10/28/watchdog-urges-authorities-to-intensify-patrols-in-natuna-amid-rampant-illegal-fishing.html>

"The Destructive Fishing Watch (DFW) has called on the Indonesian government to increase patrols around the country's outermost islands in the North Natuna Sea of Riau, following reports

of rampant illegal fishing by foreign fishers over the past few months. The fisheries watchdog reported on Wednesday that authorities had seized at least 31 foreign fishing vessels from June to October this year for illegal and unreported fishing within Indonesia's exclusive economic zone in the Natuna waters.

“Twenty-one among them are Vietnamese-flagged fishing vessels, DFW Indonesia coordinator M. Abdi Suhufan said in a statement obtained by The Jakarta Post. In addition to unlawful overexploitation of fish stocks in Natuna waters, Abdi said, the foreign vessels also violated Indonesia's sovereignty. He demanded that the government respond to the issue carefully but assertively. Abdi further said that Indonesian authorities' efforts to crack down on illegal fishing at sea had often been met with strong resistance that led to high-seas brawls, including with Vietnamese-flagged vessels.

“This is dangerous and it needs to be handled with great care, he said. Echoing Abdi's concern, DFW researcher Muh. Arifuddin suggested that Indonesian authorities conduct joint sea and air patrols on a regular basis. “Indonesia cannot passively stand by as rampant illegal fishing and violations of sovereignty take place in Natuna waters, he said, pointing to the lack of surveillance in the area by the current administration.

Despite promising greater military deployment in Natuna waters, Maritime Affairs and Fisheries Minister Edhy Prabowo had only detained 71 illegal foreign fishing vessels up until August this year. He began his role as minister in October last year. Meanwhile, during the five-year term of former minister Susi Pudjiastuti from 2014 until 2019, more than 500 foreign vessels were seized or sunk for operating illegally in Indonesian waters. Many deemed this policy successful in tackling illegal cross-border fishing activities.

Indonesia’s new deregulation law to hurt small fishers, coastal communities

<https://news.mongabay.com/2020/10/indonesias-new-deregulation-law-to-hurt-small-fishers-coastal-communities/>

"When Indonesian lawmakers passed a hugely controversial deregulation bill on the evening of Oct. 5, Sulaiman was with his fellow fishermen who had just returned home from the Java Sea. Sulaiman was dreading the decision that could change his life and those of 800,000 small fishers across Indonesia. Before the passage of the new legislation known as the omnibus law but formally the Job Creation Act small fishers were defined by the state as being those with boats of smaller than 10 gross tonnage (GT).

That came with certain benefits, including being allowed to operate without a permit, free enrollment in the national health care program, access to fishing gear, and fuel subsidies. With the passage of the omnibus law, however, the definition of small fishers has been discarded one of more than 1,100 articles from 75 existing laws that have been overhauled in the government's

deregulation drive. For Sulaiman and his peers, that means the benefits and subsidies channeled toward poor often artisanal fishers will now be open to all, including the operators of large fleets. “With the implementation of the Job Creation Act in Indonesia, small and traditional fishers will be the first that stand to lose, Sulaiman told Mongabay on Oct. 13.

Mongabay has reviewed the changes in the Job Creation Act, comparing them with the existing laws they overwrite, and consulted with legal, fisheries and environmental experts. All agree that these changes will hurt the livelihoods of small and traditional fishers and potentially clear the way to overfishing of Indonesia's waters, with foreign fishing fleets standing to benefit the most. The experts say the new law also threatens the degradation of Indonesia's coastal and marine ecosystems for the sake of infrastructure development and tourism.

Sulaiman, now 38, has been a fisherman since 1998, right after graduating from middle school. He learned the skills from his parents. They live together on Pari Island, part of a clutch of islets off the coast of Jakarta, Indonesia's capital.

Sulaiman fishes for mackerel tuna every day, selling most of what he catches at the local market and bringing the rest home. Small and tradition fishers like Sulaiman today account for the majority of Indonesia's fishing fleet, operating a combined 650,000 boats across the archipelago. But they also constitute one of the poorest professions in the country. “Only a few voice the interests of small fishers. Meanwhile, we catch the fish that feeds the workers and laborers, Sulaiman said.

Under the new law, small fishers are no longer defined by the size of their boat. Experts say this is problematic because fishers with bigger boats and more capital can now claim to be a small fisher to obtain the associated benefits.

“The definition of small fisher is very important because it's connected to exemptions for several requirements and for punishments, and to giving incentives and facilities from the government, said Stephanie Juwana, a co-founder and director of international engagement and policy reform at the think tank Indonesia Ocean Justice and Initiative (IOJI). “At the end, such an opaque formula will create riders that cause injustice for the real small fishers, she added.

Indonesia’s new intelligence hub wields data in the war on illegal fishing

<https://news.mongabay.com/2020/09/indonesias-new-intelligence-hub-wields-data-in-the-war-on-illegal-fishing/>

"In late July, a high-speed chase stirred the waters northeast of Indonesia's Natuna Islands, as patrol officers pursued a Vietnamese vessel suspected of illegal fishing. Having fled when authorities approached it for questioning, the Vietnamese crew tossed a fishing net to purge implicating evidence, burned tires to cloud their sight, and zigzagged across the water to evade

capture, according to the Indonesian side's account of the incident. Indonesian officers ordered the sailors to stop. Instead, they tried to ram into the patrol boat.

A visit, board, search and seizure team fired a warning shot into the air, but the Vietnamese attempted to escape. It was only after the team shot the fishing vessel's platform that it slowed down and yielded to inspection, which uncovered two tons of fish. The Indonesian Maritime Information Center (IMIC), launched days earlier, on July 22, had helped detect the Vietnamese boat by pooling high-quality surveillance data from several government bodies, according to Demo Putra from the Indonesian Coast Guard (Bakamla), which oversees this initiative.

Bakamla says it hopes this intelligence hub, the first of its kind, will curb illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing and other security incidents around Indonesian waters by enhancing and expediting coordination among the many agencies involved in regulating them and by offering a public-facing data-sharing outlet. “We don't have a comprehensive picture of the maritime situation because the information is separated depending on the agencies and incident type, Putra told Mongabay. “We established IMIC to integrate all information in Indonesia and create operational planning based on data from every agency.

Planning will be better because the data is more comprehensive, more accurate because it's analyzed by a lot of agencies. Despite the ramp-up of regulation and enforcement spearheaded by Susi Pudjiastuti, Indonesia's fisheries minister from 2014-2019, IUU fishing remains rife in Indonesia, authorities say. Locals disregard designated fishing zones and use ecologically harmful equipment. Vietnamese, Malaysian, Filipino and Chinese operators routinely exploit Indonesia's territorial waters, including in the “North Natuna Sea. This is Jakarta's name for the waters near the Natuna Islands stretching up to the edge of Indonesia's exclusive economic zone, and part of which China includes inside its contentious “nine-dash line that it uses to lay claim to the entire South China Sea.

“Indonesia is attractive to IUU fishing activities because of its rich fisheries resources, said Reniel Cabral, assistant researcher with the Sustainable Fisheries Group at the University of California, Santa Barbara. “Its people are also victims of human trafficking and forced labor in the fisheries industry. IMIC fills the void left by a task force on illegal fishing that was formed in 2015 but dissolved when Susi left office last year. Its disbandment “caused high fragmentation of law enforcement authorities, which weakens control and surveillance efforts to ensure the use of Indonesian marine resources sustainably, said Muhammad Arifuddin, program manager for Destructive Fishing Watch Indonesia. IMIC seeks to strengthen interagency communication and cooperation.

Besides Bakamla, it involves the Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries (KKP), the Coordinating Ministry of Maritime and Investment Affairs, the Water and Air Police Corps, the Ministry of Transportation's Directorate General of Sea Transportation, the Ministry of Finance's Directorate General of Customs and Excise, the National Institute of Aeronautics and Space, and

the National Search and Rescue Agency. The data analysts, maritime security analysts and IT professionals working for IMIC collect and verify daily maritime intelligence from these agencies, the public and some other countries.

The governmental data comes from a range of sources, including satellite imagery, aerial surveillance, and ships' automatic identification systems (AIS), which broadcast their identity, course and speed. IMIC publishes the updates on its website, categorized by case type. It also visualizes occurrences each month and gives pertinent analyses and recommendations for seafarers. For example, Putra said, when “a lot of Indonesian fishermen are arrested by [foreign officials] in disputed areas, we advise them to make sure they're within Indonesian waters.

IMIC releases more in-depth bi-weekly, monthly and longer-term reports, too, disseminating them through fishers' outreach programs and associations as well as posting them online. People can provide tips and receive information by contacting the IMIC support center. “By having this information [disseminated] comprehensively and freely, we hope maritime stakeholders' concern will increase and illegal activities will decrease, Putra said.

Meanwhile, the government can gain extensive insight into the prevalence, hotspots and trends of maritime threats like IUU fishing by using IMIC, which could promote faster, more effective responses. “Decision-making will be better because the information is comprehensive, Putra said. “We can say that because this area has higher IUU fishing, our plan should focus here. For instance, the first month's data revealed that the Arafura Sea, south of Papua, teemed with IUU fishing activity, he said.

Arifuddin said IMIC had made Bakamla the nation's “pioneer in pinpointing fishing violations with heat maps. “With web-GIS technology, the data become interactive and easier for policymakers to determine policies, budgeting and focus locations and to advocate for international relations to countries that become IUUF actors in Indonesia, he said. “If these things are utilized optimally, then Indonesia's marine ecosystem will be better managed and have a bright future.

Centuries of tradition: Why Indonesian fishermen rescue Rohingya

<https://www.trtworld.com/magazine/centuries-of-tradition-why-indonesian-fishermen-rescue-rohingya-39992>

"In the last week of June, a boat full of 94 Rohingya refugees was rescued by Indonesian fishermen off the Lancok beach in Aceh, the country's western province. The captainless boat was full of women and children, who were stranded at sea for days. Local boatman Faisal Afrizal, who had just caught a 200 kg fish, spotted the broken boat wallowing in the water. As the people inside it cried for help and made gestures that seemed as though they were requesting

to drink water, his saviour instinct, nourished by centuries of Indonesian sea tradition that the dead or alive must be brought to the shore kicked in."

"My crew found in the front part of the boat there were around 15 bodies, most of them children and women," Afrizal said. "'I heard them (some of the survivors) say 'Assalamualaikum', but could not understand the rest of the words said by them,'" said Faisal. Afrizal, a Muslim, figured from the Arabic greeting that the survivors on the boat were of the same faith. He transferred the refugees on his boat and gave them water and instant noodles. He asked from where they had come. "'Rohingya,'" said one.

The day turned out to be rough for Afrizal. The engine of his boat broke down and he too found himself stranded at sea. Luck was on his side, though. A fishing vessel passed by, and its captain agreed to help. As the friendly vessel towed his boat and brought it toward the shore, he served them grilled fish for lunch. Seeing the refugees, the Indonesian authorities were in a fix as to whether to let the refugees come onto land or push them back to the sea a common tactic applied by European countries to keep refugee boats away from their shores.

The police blocked their entry onto land. As per local reports, the government asked the travellers to return to the water, all the while offering gas and other logistical practical help for their stranded boat. But Afrizal and his fellow fishermen dug their heels in and refused to let that happen. A standoff ensued. In the meantime, the people of Aceh province gathered around the boat in large numbers. Enraged by the unwillingness of the authorities to let them in, they lodged their protests, demanding the police to deem the refugees a safe passage. Iswadi, a 40-year-old resident of Aceh, began collecting money from locals to buy food and other essentials for the refugees. "'We raised 1,000,000 rupiah (\$67),'" said Iswadi.

With that money, he and his fellow villagers bought rice, bread and water. The supply was sent to Afrizal's boat. The locals continued with their efforts to persuade the presiding authorities to allow the stranded group to enter the country. It was in vain - by late afternoon, the police began to evacuate them. Around the same time, Indonesia's Foreign Affairs Ministry released a statement saying they would investigate the possibility of people smuggling. The police tried to transfer the refugees onto a government vessel but the villagers were quick to counter the move. They sent two boats out to sea and dragged Faisal's boat towards the beach. The police couldn't reverse the move as the villagers were swift in moving them to the shore, quickly housing them in their fish auction hall.

The onlookers and protesters cheered in unison as the sight of the Rohingya stepping onto the land complemented their sea tradition. They knew the refugees wouldn't have survived another day if Afrizal hadn't come to their rescue. The efforts of Afrizal and his fellow fishermen were praised across the country as their story soon became national news. Many politicians applauded them for standing up for humanity. The following day, the UNHCR arrived at the auction hall to take the refugees to the camp. The event brought to the fore the Indonesian government's

conflicting perspective towards sea tradition, even though it has been preserved as a maritime law by a customary body called Panglima Laot (Sea Commander).

The Panglima Laot has been the guardian of the sea in Aceh since the 17th century. It is now regulated under Aceh's Islamic law. Miftah Cut Adek, the Secretary of Panglima Laot, said that the custom was based on the value of honouring human life and environment. "Everybody who is stranded at the sea should be evacuated. No matter the religion, no matter the ethnicity. Including rescuing the Rohingya. It has become an obligation. Even if it is a dead body, it has to be rescued," Adek told TRT World. "We don't care if it's a dead body, or alive, that's why we are obliged to rescue them".

Adek said that according to the custom, fishermen who ignore distress calls in the sea are sanctioned. Some fishermen who were found guilty of not following the custom's norms have been banned from fishing. "The ban period depends on the decision made by the customary court," Adek said. Three months have passed since Arizal saved the refugees, but he can't stop thinking about the event. He's haunted by what he witnessed on that day.

The scene of dead bodies in the stranded boat still plays on his mind, not least because to this day, he does not know how they had died. His voice trembles as he narrates the sequence of events. However, when he thinks about the other surviving members, his thoughts settle down. His efforts have been appreciated countrywide and he also later received an award from a local Islamic fund-raising body.

Southeast Asian countries challenge China over maritime claims

<https://ge.usembassy.gov/southeast-asian-countries-challenge-china-over-maritime-claims/>

"Southeast Asian countries are pushing back against the Chinese government's aggression in the South China Sea. A recent example of this aggression occurred in early April when the People's Republic of China (PRC) sank a Vietnamese fishing vessel in the vicinity of the Paracel Islands. "This incident is the latest in a long string of PRC actions to assert unlawful maritime claims and disadvantage its Southeast Asian neighbors in the South China Sea, the U.S. Department of State said in an April 6 statement.

The South China Sea is the subject of more than a dozen overlapping and interconnected disputes over who is in charge of the various islands, rocks, shoals and reefs scattered throughout the South China Sea waters. China has asserted a maritime claim to a large majority of the South China Sea that is not consistent with international law. In 2016, an international arbitration tribunal issued a decision finding that China's maritime claims in the South China Sea are inconsistent with the Law of the Sea Convention.

China has tried to control the waters of the South China Sea, including those claimed by other countries, by using fishing vessels that are part of the Chinese maritime militia, coast guard ships and naval vessels to harass other countries' boats. Since December 2019, Vietnam, the Philippines and Indonesia have each publicly protested China's unlawful maritime claims in the South China Sea.

Independence Day takes on new meaning for Indonesian fishermen

<https://international.thenewslens.com/article/139915>

"Around 200 Indonesian fishermen celebrated the 75th Anniversary of the Republic of Indonesia at the Donggang fishing port earlier this month. As the abuse and violations of fishermen who work on Taiwanese vessels that depart from Donggang are more likely to make the news, the festivities and fishermen's joyous cheers were a rarely seen positive vibe at the port. One activity was a race to capture a coin lodged in a paint-smearred papaya. Other traditional games were sack racing, tug of war, orange-dance competition, and Balap Kelereng, which required participants to carry a marble on a spoon in their mouth and race to the finish line. Around 20 to 30 Indonesian caregivers also participated in the event. Some caregivers were accompanied by their employers watching on the sidelines from their wheelchairs. While massive parades and celebrations usually take place in all corners of Indonesia on Independence Day, fishermen living in a foreign country find a sense of belonging by celebrating with one another. "I feel so happy and relieved. This kind of event is very important for me.

Every game is so interesting. I feel I have many friends here, Suroyo, a fisherman who has worked on a Taiwanese fishing boat for seven years, said after he completed the orange-dance contest. His supervisor permitted him to leave the vessel on the holiday. Casting a dark pall on the celebrations was the recent death of an Indonesian fisherman. His body was found in the Donggang port this July after disappearing for three days. The death is still under investigation. Donggang port, located in southern Taiwan and famous for its tuna exports, is in fact one of the world's top ten ports which is visited by fishing vessels using forced labor, according to a C4ADS dataset. Taiwanese-owned ships comprise the world's second largest distant water fishing fleet, with some among the top tuna traders globally.

The labor practices on these ships are often criticized by international organizations for lacking protections of the fishers' rights. Recently, the U.S. Customs and Border Protection's Office of Trade placed a Withhold Release Order (WRO) on all seafood harvested by the Taiwan-owned, Vanuatu-flagged fishing vessel due to reasonable suspicion of forced labor. About 4,000 foreign fishermen in Donggang, including those employed domestically and overseas, are mainly from Indonesia and the Philippines.

The number of fishermen who stay at the port at the same time is usually about 200 to 400. The event organizer, Ahmad Muzakir and a member of Indonesian Seafarers Gathering Forum

(FOSPI), said the Indonesian fishermen volunteered to participate in the Independence Day celebrations. “It's about solidarity. We're Indonesian migrants. We want to create the relationship of brotherhood among the migrant community, he said.

Established in 2008, FOSPI is a self-organized group of Indonesian fishers in Donggang. The group has more than 2,000 members and is active in organizing social and cultural activities for fishermen. Members also raise funds to expand the organization and provide a temporary shelter near the port for fishermen in need. With years of experience on the ground, FOSPI also became a bridge between fishermen and local authorities, NGOs, and recruitment agencies. Agents, NGOs and the Indonesian stores in Donggang have sponsored the group financially or provided prizes for the games, such as bicycles, backpacks, fans, and jackets.

A dozen NGO workers and agents, some of whom were Indonesian immigrants, also joined the celebration to show their support. But portside social activities are almost a luxury for the fishermen, especially for those who work on distant-water fishing vessels. They often have to sail at sea for at least three to four months, sometimes longer, under horrific conditions. Even during their stay in the port, most fishermen are not allowed to be idle. They live on the boat and are in charge of its upkeep. Domestically employed fishermen are allowed to go around the town whenever their ships are docked, but they return to the boat to sleep.

For fishermen who are employed overseas, they have to stay on their vessel as they often do not hold a visa for entry. “Some can't join us today. They have to work, Muzahir said. “We just have to find a way to enjoy it. Muzakir is also a fisherman who has been working on a Taiwanese longline vessel for 10 years. He also has to work during his stay at port. Fishermen employed in Taiwan are supposed to be paid at least the minimum wage (NT\$23,100) according to the Labor Standards Act. But overseas crew members, that is, who do not hold any Taiwanese residency, are excluded from the Act.

Employers are required by the government to pay them not less than US\$450 per month but a report found some fishermen receive US\$100-US\$200 less than that amount. In the face of an intense workload and severe financial pressure, fishermen sometimes have arguments or even fights with each other. The mental health issues they bear are an often overlooked aspect of the fishermen's exploitation. Muzakir and the team still find time to hold a series of events for the fishers. “We keep enthusiasm to celebrate happiness

They (fishermen) told me they feel recharged, said Muzakir. With limited time and resources, the fishermen in Donggang have succeeded in running abundant social activities in the last decade, including Eid's celebrations and other Indonesian-traditional festivals. “Holding migrant's social and cultural events is a way of negotiation with various actors in the field and to create an opportunity to be seen, said Ting Kuan Wu, a Taiwanese volunteer who has organized fishermen events with FOSPI.

He added, "Compared to the other migrant's activities in Taiwan, their events are grassroots and less commercial, and it's independently organized by fishermen themselves. After celebrating off the boats for a day, most fishermen gradually went back to their ships, either to work or to rest. Some stayed for the day's final activity a lucky draw. But other fishermen, having arrived to port that morning in an exhausted state, left early to return to work on their boats.

Time is running out for Indonesian fishing village as it battles coastal erosion

<https://borneobulletin.com.bn/2020/08/time-is-running-out-for-indonesian-fishing-village-as-it-battles-coastal-erosion/>

"With a watchful eye, Sanusi scanned the water in front of him as he drove his wooden boat along an unnamed narrow offshoot of West Java's Citarum River. The tide is low, revealing mangrove tree roots jutting out of the water, binding themselves to the loose and slowly eroding mud along the riverbank. Sanusi slowed his boat as he neared his village Beting, not wanting the propellers attached to his boat to catch the many tree trunks and garbage in the water. As the boat crawled further downstream, houses in various stages of decay started to reveal themselves. Although some remained occupied, the majority of the houses were abandoned, with their walls infested by mould and fungi while their wooden doors rotted away. Some stood lopsided while others were reduced to rubble.

The houses were surrounded by pools of mud and water left behind by a recent tidal flood which completely inundated Sanusi's Beting village in the northern coast of Java, some 40km northeast of Jakarta. The tidal flood hits Beting twice a month, at full and new moons. During those periods, the sea swells because of the gravitational force of the moon and drowns the entire village in water up to 1m deep. The water, Sanusi said, sometimes lingers for seven days. "I fear that one day this village will become one with the sea, the 50-year-old fisherman told CNA.

It has not always been like this, Sanusi said. The village was once a productive fish farming area and home to 600 families. But for the past 11 years, the sea encroached more than 6,000ha of fish ponds and residential areas in Beting and climate change, which resulted in rising sea level, stronger winds and bigger waves, has exacerbated the problem. Waves lapping on the shores carry away with them soils along the coast. Today, only 100 families remain in Beting village, battling the fortnightly tidal floods which also inundate schools, mosques and the potholed road which serves as the village's only land access to the outside world.

The erosion has become so severe that tidal floods have reached houses which sit as far away as 4km from where the coastline used to be. And the habitable area is confined to a strip of land along a small river, sandwiched by eroding fish ponds on either sides. In Central Java's Demak regency, coastal abrasion has turned 3,200ha of residential and farming areas into a wasteland for the last 20 years, displacing thousands of people and leaving at least three villages under water.

In fact, throughout the northern coast of Java, there are numerous areas with alarming coastal abrasion rates dotting the 1,100km coastline, although none are as bad as Demak and Beting.

Scientists said the northern coast of Java is more prone to erosion than other areas in Indonesia. The land there is low lying and made up of mostly compacted mud formed through millenniums of sediment pile up, scientists told CNA, making it more susceptible to erosion. The coastline also sits directly in the path of the west monsoon winds, which travels from mainland Asia to Australia between November and March, bringing with it big and strong waves as it enters the shallow Java Sea. While coastal abrasion is a natural phenomenon which has been going on for millions of years in Java, today the process is aggravated because of climate change.

South China Sea: Fisherman shot amid increased competition for fishing rights

https://www.nzherald.co.nz/world/news/article.cfm?c_id=2&objectid=12358747

"A Vietnamese sailor has been shot dead this week in a clash with Malaysian authorities as competition for increasingly scarce fishing resources heats up in the South China Sea. A Vietnamese fishing boat reportedly attempted to ram a Malaysian coastguard vessel on Monday. "The coastguard crew had earlier fired warning shots in the air. But after they rammed and threw a bottle of petrol, my men had no choice but to open fire in self-defence," said Malaysia's coastguard chief Mohamad Zubil Mat Som. One Vietnamese fisherman was shot. He was pronounced dead after being rushed ashore for treatment. "

"We are saddened by this deadly incident. But I can guarantee ... my men took this action to protect their lives and to protect our national sovereignty," Zubil added. The fishing boat was one of a pair intruding on Malaysian waters. Vietnam's government does not dispute ownership of that region. Both boats and their crews have been detained. Vietnamese fishers complain they are being driven further afield in an attempt to sustain their livelihoods. Their boats have been rammed, boarded and crews interrogated, they say, as Beijing attempts to assert its arbitrary claim to the exclusive control of the South China Sea's resources.

China's fishing militia – replete with political officers and military training – has become increasingly aggressive in recent years. The actions of its squid trawlers in the Sea of Japan appear to be linked to a spate of North Korean 'ghost boats' – some with dead crew aboard – washing ashore throughout the region. China's fishing fleet is now active again in the East and South China Seas after a four-month ban. Beijing imposed the seasonal prohibition in 1999 in what it says is an effort to allow fish stocks to recover. It is also enforced on Vietnamese and Filipino fishers operating in the Scarborough Shoal, Paracel Islands and Gulf of Tonkin.

Neither nation recognises Beijing's claim of ownership over these waters. But that hasn't stopped Chinese state-controlled media from boasting that 1691 "illegal" fishing boats were seized this season, along with 630,000sq m of fishing nets. Vietnam's fishing industry, however, has been

increasingly accused of rampant illegal behaviour by its neighbours. There have been previous violent showdowns between its boats and Malaysia's coast guard. Since June 24, 43 Vietnamese boats and 487 crew have been detained. Thailand has also been apprehending intruding vessels. Singapore-based School of International Studies researcher Collin Koh told the South China Morning Post that ""Vietnam does need to keep a tighter rein on its fishing community"".

""It might be more helpful for such intra-Asean problems to be first properly addressed in order to foster co-operation on the South China Sea front in future."" But Malaysian think-tank analyst Thomas Daniel says Vietnamese vessels are being ""pushed south by Chinese fishing fleets and enforcement vessels"".

""There's been speculation that we're seeing more Vietnamese fishing ships here, and even afar as Indonesia and Papua New Guinea,"" he said. Lecturer of International Relations at Vietnam National University Trang Pham told RadioFreeAsia: ""This puts Vietnamese fishermen in a difficult position as they need to (move their) equipment to protect themselves from the aggressive behaviour of Chinese coast guards, which escort Chinese fishermen, and at the same time compete with a much larger number of Chinese fishermen in the area. ""Those fishermen are not rich, they just barely survive each day, so when they become desperate, they may react awfully.""

"Chinese fishing vessels operating on the edges of the world heritage listed Galapagos Islands in the South Pacific have ""gone dark"", according to Ecuador. And Japan's defence forces have been placed on alert as boats begin to gather about the disputed Senkaku Islands in the East China Sea. China operates the largest fishing fleet in the world. But it has stripped home waters bare, and the destruction of spawning grounds by the construction of artificial island fortresses may have done irreparable damage to the local ecology. So the fleet and Beijing – are looking further afield for vital food stocks.

Ecuador raised an international alarm earlier this month after a fleet of some 340 Chinese fishing boats appeared off the Galapagos marine reserve. Beijing insisted its fishing militia would remain outside the protected waters. But this week Ecuador warned much of the fleet had turned off their location-tracking beacons. ""In this period, 149 ships have turned off their satellite systems ... we know the name of the ships,"" Rear Admiral Darwin Jarrin told reporters. ""It is a breach (of protocol) on the high seas because they do not want us to know what they are doing and the activities they carry out,"" Defence Minister Oswaldo Jarrin added.

Meanwhile, Japan has again expressed deep concern at the constant presence of Chinese-government vessels about the Senkaku Islands during the past 18 months. Okinawa administers the uninhabited rocks. But Beijing claims them as its own." "The repeated activities are extremely serious,"" Japan's Chief Cabinet Secretary Yoshihide Suga said earlier this year. ""Coastguard patrol ships have issued warnings, and we have protested to the Chinese side through diplomatic channels over and over again."

"Now dozens of Chinese fishing boats are nosing about the area. Beijing insists Japan has no authority over the islands, and regularly sends coastguard vessels to escort its fishing boats. But Japan's Defence Minister Taro Kono said earlier this month that his forces were ""ready to respond"" – but refused to detail how. The Japanese Maritime Defence Force has since deployed more than 20 ships to patrol the islands.

Indonesian crew go without pay as Chinese fishing vessel case drags on

<https://www.straitstimes.com/asia/se-asia/indonesian-crew-go-without-pay-as-chinese-fishing-vessel-case-drags-on>

"Indonesian crew members repatriated in May after working on a Chinese fishing vessel are still without pay, 18 months after they first boarded the ill-fated Long Xing 629 in Busan, South Korea, for a two-year contract. The contract was cut short in December as four crew members started falling ill and dying after complaining of severe swelling and breathing difficulties. On Friday (Aug 9), lawyers for six of 14 surviving crew members repatriated from Busan said they rejected an offer from their recruiting agency Alfira Perdana Jaya to pay out a little more than half of their contract - US\$4,300 (S\$5,900).

The other eight have been paid through their recruiting agencies, according to the crew's lawyer, Mr Pahrur Dalimunthe, managing partner of Jakarta firm DNT Lawyers. So far this year, 18 Indonesian crew members have died on foreign fishing vessels, according to an official with Indonesia's foreign ministry. But the Long Xing 629 stands out for its many deaths that occurred outside of a serious accident. Four died out of a 21-man Indonesian crew. Three were dropped off on Samoa with plane tickets back to Jakarta and were not represented in the lawsuit.

Videos taken of the burial at sea in March were widely shared in Indonesia's news outlets. Three of the men were buried at sea. Remains of the fourth crew member were repatriated to Indonesia from Busan, where he had died shortly after the crew had returned from sea in April. Indonesia is pressing China to make witnesses from Dalian Ocean Fishing Company, which owns the fishing vessel, available for questioning. The company sells tuna and other deep-sea species to its domestic market and to Japan.

Indonesian police have charged six managers from the three agencies, including Alfira, which supplied crew to Dalian to work on the Long Xing 629 and other ships, with human trafficking. The offence carries a maximum sentence of 15 years in prison and fines of 600 million rupiah (S\$56,000). The difficulty in getting full payment - roughly US\$7,000 each - from the recruiting agency underscores the vulnerabilities faced by workers aboard foreign vessels which can spend months at sea far from cellular service or consular protection.

With no recourse to lawyers and often desperate for cash, returning crew settle for partial payments, said Mr Pahrur. ""This happens again and again,"" Mr Pahrur said. ""This time they have legal representation."" Crew members of the Long Xing 629 interviewed by The Straits

Times said they were contracted for monthly amounts of up to US\$400 - triple what they could hope to earn at home, though a fraction of the value of their catch of yellowfin tuna and allegedly shark. On a single day, the Long Xing 629 would haul about 500kg of tuna - worth US\$4,300 at market prices, according to Mr Rizky Fauzan Alvian, 27, a senior crew member.

Crew members hired through Alfira contacted by The Straits Times said they had received no money or only tiny amounts while they were at sea. Mr Nur Adiwijaya, 20, employed by Alfira, said he received only US\$120 from his recruiter. The crew worked 18 hours a day, were fed expired food, had only salty water to drink and were at times physically attacked by the Chinese senior crew, the crew members said. "If I disobey, the contract says I would be in violation," Mr Rizky said. "

"I just obey and work and not think of running away. I was afraid I wouldn't get paid." Dalian Ocean Fishing has so far failed to respond to two e-mailed requests for comment sent since Monday. Alfira, which also recruits Indonesians as housekeepers and factory workers abroad, did not immediately respond to requests for comment sent through e-mail or through its Facebook home page.

Mr Nur had hoped the money earned from two gruelling years would give him a leg-up in life. He had planned to use his US\$7,000 to enter a polytechnic in his home town in Makassar, South Sulawesi, to study how to operate a fishing boat and open a side business distributing clothing. He still hopes to go back to sea, but in Indonesia. "The work situation was very bad," Mr Nur said, recalling his time on the Long Xing. "I want to go back to school and work on an Indonesian boat."

Indonesian fishers who fought off tin miners prepare to battle all over again

<https://news.mongabay.com/2020/08/indonesian-fishers-who-fought-off-tin-miners-prepare-to-battle-all-over-again/>

"Fishers in Sumatra have joined forces in opposition to a government plan to allow coastal mining that they say will destroy their fisheries. The government of Bangka Belitung province, a group of islands off the southeastern coast of Sumatra, recently approved a zoning plan that designates the southern subdistrict of Toboali as open to tourism, capture fisheries, and tin mining. "How could tourism and fisheries stand together in one area with tin mining? Joni Juhri, chief of the Batu Perahu Fishers Association, told Mongabay in late July. "It'd be a sore sight if a tourist site had tin mining as a view.

In addition, imagine the impacts to the fishers. We've opposed this for a long time. Mining for tin has long been the leading industry in Bangka Belitung province, which produces 90% of Indonesia's tin. (The company that would go on to become BHP Billiton, the world's second-

biggest miner, started out mining tin in Belitung and was named after it.) The province is a key hub in the global trade of tin, which is used in alloys, conductors and, recently, as solder in consumer electronics, such as smartphones.

But the mining has proven deadly to the workers and the marine ecosystem. The Indonesian Forum for the Environment (Walhi), the country's biggest green NGO, recorded 40 deaths linked to the tin mines between 2017 and 2020, more than half of them in 2019 alone. In 2014, a BBC documentary traced the solder used in Apple's iPhones to tin mined by children in Bangka. Walhi also found that tin mining had degraded 5,270 hectares (13,022 acres) of coral reef and 400 hectares (988 acres) of mangrove forest.

“Mining in the marine ecosystem is strengthened by the approval of Bangka Belitung's zoning plan, said Jessix Amundian, who heads the Bangka Belitung chapter of Walhi. “This means there's a complacency toward ecological destruction. This isn't the Toboali fishers' first fight against mining. In 2018, they won a years-long battle against artisanal tin mining that had significantly reduced their catch. Since the small-scale mines were shut down, fishers haven't had to go as far out to sea as before, and their catches have increased, they say.

“The livelihoods of many people here depend on marine resources, Joni said. “That's why we strongly oppose all tin mining activities. The Bangka Belitung government says the zoning plan was approved by all parties, and the interests of fishing communities had been considered. Fishers will still be able to freely access the marine ecosystem, said Arief Febrianto, the secretary of the provincial marine affairs and fisheries agency.

“It will streamline the process of permit issuance for any activities that take place in the coastal area, he added. But fishers like Joni say they will continue to stand against mining in Toboali to prevent the environmental damage associated with the activity. They say they have received support from fishers in other parts of Bangka Belitung who are concerned that similar zoning plans will be introduced across the rest of the province. “We've just been free from tin mining, Joni said, “and now there's this zoning plan that threatens the sustainability of our ocean and the source of income for local people.

Arrests in Indonesian probe into latest case of labor abuses on Chinese fishing boats

<https://news.mongabay.com/2020/07/arrests-in-indonesian-probe-into-latest-case-of-labor-abuses-on-chinese-fishing-boats/>

"Authorities in Indonesia have arrested and charged five executives from local recruitment agencies linked to the forced labor endured by 22 Indonesians on board two Chinese fishing boats. Those charged are accused of the human trafficking of the migrant workers, one of whom died on board one of the boats and was stored in a freezer. The workers were recruited in

Indonesia and left the country for Singapore in late December 2019 to work on the Chinese-owned boats Lu Huang Yuan Yu 117 and Lu Huang Yuan Yu 118.

The boats were scheduled to sail to Argentina to fish for squid. When the boats arrived back in Indonesian waters in early July, they were stopped by authorities who had been tipped off about alleged crew abuse and human trafficking. Police discovered the body of one of the workers, Hasan Afriandi, 20, inside the freezer on the Lu Huang Yuan Yu 118. Arie Dharmanto, the police officer overseeing the investigation from the province of Riau Islands, said at a July 26 press conference that the recruitment of the workers by the local agencies did not comply with labor laws.

He added his office was working with Interpol on the investigation, as they suspect that a recruitment company based in Singapore was also involved. Police in the Riau Islands have impounded both boats as part of the investigation. The arrests mark the latest crackdown in recent months by Indonesian authorities against placement agencies that recruit workers for foreign fishing vessels. Investigations into three separate cases have been opened up since May, including into the deaths of four Indonesian workers on board vessels owned by China's Dalian Ocean Fishing Ltd. The bodies of three of the workers were dumped at sea.

Fisheries and human rights experts say forced labor at sea, particularly on distant-water fishing vessels, is frequently linked to illegal, unregulated and undocumented (IUU) fishing. The conditions that the crews experience range from withholding of wages and debt bondage, to physical and sexual violence. With coastal fisheries being depleted due to overfishing, fishing fleets are heading farther out into open waters and high seas, in turn racking up higher operating costs. Companies look for cheap labor to reduce costs and stay profitable and much of that cheap labor comes from Southeast Asian countries, such as Indonesia, Thailand and the Philippines.

In the case of the Lu Huang Yuan Yu vessels, police have brought charges against executives from recruitment agencies PT Mandiri Tunggal Bahari (which recruited 12 of the workers, including Hasan), PT Gigar Marine Internasional (five workers), PT Novarica Agatha Mandiri (four workers) and PT MJM Abdi Baruna (one worker). None of the four companies has a license to recruit Indonesian citizens for work placement on board a fishing boat vessel, whether domestically or abroad, according to data from the country's labor ministry and the migrant worker protection agency. None of the agencies could be reached for comment.

PT Mandiri Tunggal Bahari has been implicated in previous human trafficking cases on Chinese vessels, namely Ocean Star 96, Fu Yuan Yu 054, Fu Yuan Yu 059 and Ocean Star 88. Both of the agency's listed owners, Mohamad Hoji and Sustriyono, were arrested this May by police in connection with crew abuse on board another boat, the Lu Qing Yuan Yu 623, where an Indonesian worker died and was dumped into the sea off Somalia in January. The Indonesian government has asked China to turn over a witness to help in the investigation and also called for a probe into the owners of the two Lu Huang Yuan Yu boats.

The Chinese captain of the Lu Huang Yuan Yu 118, Song Chuanyuan, has already been charged. Both the Lu Huang Yuan Yu 117 and the Lu Huang Yuan Yu 118 are registered with the regional fisheries management agency, the North Pacific Fisheries Commission. The vessels are owned by Qingdao Zhongtai Oceanic Fishery Co. Ltd., based in the city of Qingdao. The company is 90% owned by a Shuke Liang and the rest by a Jingming Liang.

The firm is authorized to export seafood products to the European Union. Shuke Liang is also listed as the vice chairman of Qingdao Gaolilai Food Co. Ltd., a subsidiary of Taiwanese corporation Go Rising, which operates a number of fishing companies in Taiwan and abroad as well as bunkering and carrier vessels. Some of the markets supplied by Qingdao Gaolilai include Brazil, the U.S., the EU and Australia.

Indonesian fishers face livelihood threat from ‘beautiful’ tourism project

<https://news.mongabay.com/2020/07/indonesian-fishers-face-livelihood-threat-from-beautiful-tourism-project/>

"On a breezy afternoon, fishermen are preparing to set sail from a beach on the western coast of Indonesia's Sulawesi Island. Not far off, two excavators dredge earth from the coast as part of land reclamation project for a municipal development. For the past two years, the government of Majene district in West Sulawesi province has been developing the Waterfront City project on 18 hectares (44 acres) of land here. District head Fahmi Massiara has spoken of the need to turn the area into a modern coastal city featuring tourist attractions.

Environmentalists and fishers are largely opposed to the project, saying it will destroy the coastal ecosystem and deprive fishing households of their main source of livelihood. "Many oppose, but are afraid to speak out. Afraid of being intimidated, said Ridwan Tajuddin, 32, a fisherman from Cilallang, one of the villages that will be subsumed by the Waterfront City project. Ridwan lives in a shack with his wife, two children, and the rest of his side of the family. From his door, he can see part of the reclaimed land.

Ridwan is one of the fishermen who has been vocal in his public opposition to the project, even though others have warned him that his stance could lead to him losing access to government aid for low-income households. As villages go, Cilallang is relatively new, established in the 1990s by impoverished migrants moving to the area for the fishing. Most still depend on fishing and related activities to buy food, send their kids to school, and patch up their houses.

Those homes shacks of wood and corrugated tin don't fit into the plan for the Waterfront City project, which will have a museum, park, floating mosque, hotel and tourist attractions. The project has also been designated part of the City Without Slums (Kotaku) initiative by the administration of President Joko Widodo, hich means it gets funding from both the district and

national governments. While much of the project is about reclaiming new land on the coast, the plan also includes building dikes.

Ridwan said it's this aspect of the project that will create problems for fishermen: the dikes, he said, will amplify the power of the waves crashing on their small stretch of beach. "Kids can't play by the beach anymore, Ridwan said. In the neighboring village of Parappe, fellow fisherman Abdul Rifai is also against the project. "We've gone against it, but what can we do when the government wants it? he said. The fishers of Parappe say they're already experiencing the impact of stronger waves, deflected to their area by the ongoing construction of one of the dikes.

In response to calls to stop the project, the government said it would build a wave breaker instead. "We could die. Our boat already broke. It's deep here, about 3 meters [10 feet]. Plus, the waves in this area are very choppy, Rifai said. Environmental activists have also called for an end to the reclamation activities for the Waterfront City project. Part of the plan calls for new land to be created over a 4.5-hectare (11-acre) area that currently hosts a coral reef and seagrass meadow. A study led by the Alliance to Save Coastal Fishers (ASNP), a local NGO, found environmental degradation at the reclamation site, including increased sedimentation in the seagrass meadow, during observations in August and September 2019.

The group concluded the reality of what was happening on the ground was far different from what the project developers' environmental impact analysis (EIA) had predicted. "We think [the EIA] was a supporting reason why the location [was considered] reasonable for land reclamation, said Dicky Zulkarnain, a researcher at the ASNP. Last August, environmentalists and fishers staged a protest demanding the Majene district government stop the Waterfront City project. They also demanded compensation for the losses incurred by the fishers throughout the ongoing development. The district head and his deputy were out of town that day, and the protesters went on to shut down activities at the reclamation site in Cilallang.

The government responded by sending police to protect the construction workers. In October, ASNP filed a formal complaint alleging maladministration in the development of the Waterfront City project to the office of West Sulawesi's ombudsperson. In March this year, the office presented its findings of maladministration to the Majene administration, but the government has yet to respond. Opposition to the project hasn't waned. Activists and fishers continue calling on the Majene government to stop the project and prioritize the interests of local fishers and environmental protection.

"We think the WFC is only positive in one aspect: aesthetics. Nothing more than that, said Yusri, a coordinator at the Sulawesi chapter of the NGO People's Coalition for Justice in Fisheries (KIARA). "The planner, the developer and the government may not understand that fishing isn't just a profession, but it's a heritage, he said. For its part, the Majene government says the opposition is "only from one side. District head Fahmi says the project is a solution to

the district's high population density. He says he also consulted with the ministry of public works, which he said advised him to promote the project's goals of tourism, urban planning, and protection. “When this is completed, it'll be very beautiful, Fahmi said.

Indonesia launches Maritime Information Center to tackle crimes at sea

<https://www.benarnews.org/english/news/indonesian/Maritime-Information-Center-07232020184427.html>

"A new maritime information center under Indonesia's coast guard is expected to improve and speed up coordination in fighting smuggling, illegal fishing and other crimes at sea, officials said Thursday. The Maritime Security Agency (Bakamla) launched the Indonesian Maritime Information Center (IMIC) on Wednesday as part of efforts to support law enforcement at sea through exchanges of information, said Vice Adm. Aan Kurnia, the coast guard's chief. “Indonesia's maritime information system has been inadequate, Aan told BenarNews.

“At IMIC, all information on incidents such as accidents, smuggling, fish theft will be available ... so coordination on the ground can be improved. The center will issue weekly, monthly and annual reports and other publications for public use, he said. The center will also complement international maritime agencies operating in neighboring countries, such as the Information Fusion Center (IFC) in Singapore and the International Maritime Bureau (IMB) in Malaysia, Aan added. The opening of IMIC comes six months after Chief Marshal Hadi Tjahjanto, the head of Indonesia's armed forces, launched the military's Maritime Information Center (Pusinfomar).

Hadi said Pusinfomar was established to back the military in safeguarding the country's territorial waters and work with other government agencies in addressing maritime issues. Aan said the IMIC would not overlap with the military's maritime center. “The division is clear, the Navy is in the realm of defense, while Bakamla is tasked with maintaining security. We work hand-in-hand with good coordination, he said. The new information center should allow security authorities to respond quickly to reports on incidents at sea, according to Siswanto Rusdi, director of the National Maritime Institute (Namarin).

Rusdi said people working at sea had been more comfortable providing incident reports to international institutions such as the IFC in Singapore or IMB in Malaysia. “The reason is they respond quickly. Here, if a crew reports a piracy, their ship can be held for months. It's a hassle, Rusdi told BenarNews on Thursday. There were 13 attempted or actual incidents of piracy and armed robbery within Indonesia's waters from January to June this year – nearly a two-fold increase in such incidents since the same time last year – according to the ReCAAP Information Sharing Center, based in Singapore.

Overall, a similar trend was observed across Southeast Asia during the same period, according to information from the center. Bakamla's chief, Vice Adm. Aan, has expressed frustration with

how regional information centers like ReCAAP and the International Maritime Bureau (IMB) produce their data on maritime crime. He described their information about incidents in Indonesia as “disproportionate. “A lot of information is in fact only a case of petty theft on a ship, but it was reported as if there had been a piracy, Aan said during a July 15 meeting with Indonesia's security minister.

According to the coast guard chief, this is partly why the IMIC was brought online at this time. Victims of crimes at sea often do not know where to report because there are too many institutions tasked with security in Indonesian waters, said Mohammad Abdi Suhufan, the coordinator of Destructive Fishing Watch (DFW) Indonesia, a local NGO. “There should be a mechanism that allows authorities to respond quickly and conduct an intercept if there are reports of human trafficking in Indonesian waters, he told BenarNews.

DFW Indonesia works to defend the rights of workers at sea and operates 24-hour hotlines called Fisher Centers. The NGO has been providing information about the deaths of at least eight Indonesian sailors on Chinese fishing boats since late last year. In the latest case, Indonesian police have charged the supervisor of a Chinese fishing boat over the death of an Indonesian crew member whose corpse was discovered earlier this month. Meanwhile, Bakamla and its counterpart agency in Malaysia – the Malaysian Maritime Enforcement Agency (MMEA) – agreed during an online meeting earlier this week to strengthen law enforcement cooperation in their respective territorial waters.

“We talked about joint patrols in border areas with Malaysia, Aan said. “If any Malaysian fishing vessels are caught in Indonesia, they will contact us for a settlement, Aan told BenarNews. Aan said he would also hold a virtual meeting with officials in the Philippines in the near future to discuss trilateral patrol arrangements. “We want to strengthen the synergy through trilateral patrols to tackle human smuggling and illegal fishing he said. In June 2017, Indonesia, Malaysia and the Philippines launched trilateral maritime patrols following a spate of kidnappings carried out in waters bordering the three countries that were largely blamed on Abu Sayyaf, a militant group based in the southern Philippines.

Maj. Arvin Encinas, spokesman for the Philippine military's Western Mindanao Command, said in January that kidnappings in Malaysian waters bordering Indonesia and the Philippines were still happening despite the joint patrols. Although the patrols had some effect in reducing lawlessness along the sea boundaries between the three countries, pirates and militants were still operating in the vast maritime region, Encinas told BenarNews at the time. Indonesia formed Bakamla in 2014 in an effort to merge myriad maritime law enforcement agencies into one coordinating body responsible for combatting illegal fishing, territorial violations, smuggling, crime, and for search-and-rescue missions.

However, it faces steep challenges in managing Indonesia's vast territory. Most of Bakamla's personnel are drawn from the Indonesian Navy, and the agency relies on the military's radar

coverage and intelligence, said Gilang Kembara, a researcher at the Jakarta-based Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS). “In short, Bakamla's biggest challenge is still assets and manpower. It will be years until they're able to independently establish dedicated facilities that span throughout the archipelago, he told BenarNews.

What can Indonesian fishers and happiness data teach us about the COVID-19 economy?

<https://www.aseantoday.com/2020/07/what-can-indonesian-fishers-and-happiness-data-teach-us-about-the-covid-19-economy/>

"A new study suggests fishers in Indonesia report relatively high levels of happiness and well-being, despite facing poverty, risks and instability. As COVID-19 hits workers around the world, the findings show how governments might look to data on happiness to help build new economic and labor policies. As COVID-19 hammers the Indonesian economy, new research suggests that fishers in the country are happier than other workers in similar socioeconomic situations. Though the findings are based on data from before the pandemic, they point to how well-being and happiness are vital indicators that can help governments shape policies to protect workers and keep their economies afloat.

A recent study by researchers at Padjadjaran University in Bandung shows that despite very low incomes, fishers are largely “more optimistic in life than other workers and that working as a fisher is tied to higher levels of happiness. Workers in Indonesia's fishing industry are among the lowest-paid in the country: 11.34% of them are classified as “poor, according to the 2017 National Socioeconomic Survey (SUSENAS), compared to 9.86% in construction or 5.56% in the service portion of the restaurant industry.

The industry is hazardous and unpredictable independent fishers have reported that their earnings are down to as little as US\$65 per month this year, compared to \$355 before the pandemic. But in a study published in Marine Policy, Professors Zuzy Anna and Arief Anshory Yusuf of Padjadjaran University compared the life satisfaction of Indonesian fishers to other workers with similar incomes, educational backgrounds and other variables. They found that fishers who are self-employed and receive help from others in their community enjoy a “happiness bonus compared to workers in other professions.

Fishers that work for other people or who only fish alone don't report the same levels of happiness, but they were happier than expected given their very low incomes and highly unstable livelihoods. The researchers' findings present the Indonesian government with an opportunity to support fishers in their livelihoods, and to develop policies that could increase levels of happiness in other professions. The study points to how focusing on workers' well-being and happiness offers a new framework for labor policy: rather than pitting workers' rights against economic productivity, pro-worker policies could be based on data about workers' happiness and well-being.

Fishers face a complex list of challenges: from uncertain catches, to competitors operating illegally, to depleted fish stocks from over-fishing. The Indonesian government is already struggling to help fishers deal with these challenges, and the first step is to provide them with social support and financing options, and take steps to increase their income. Zuzy Anna and Arief Anshory Yusuf's findings showed that fishers' well-being and life outlook was highly dependent on their economic situation.

Lower incomes correlated with lower well-being, as in many professions, and fishers in more self-directed work situations reported higher rates of life satisfaction. As Iwan, a fisherman in the Natuna islands, recently told Channel News Asia, "If the government wants to give aid, it has to be in line with our needs. And please increase the value of our products so the livelihoods of all fishermen will improve. To succeed, the government's fishing industry policies with all labor policies need to be based on the voices of workers themselves. The new research from the team at Padjadjaran University highlights the kind of data that will show what's working and what isn't as far as improving workers' quality of life.

For example, as self-employed fishers reported higher levels of happiness, the government could adopt policies and programs to support entrepreneurship and to further study its impact on happiness. A second study from the team at Padjadjaran, published in April in the Malaysian Journal of Applied Sciences, also found fishers in the Indramayu regency of West Java reporting high levels of well-being and life satisfaction. But the study also showed that the active participation of women usually fishermen's wives in livelihoods was highly correlated with subjective well-being.

Further research might look into how gender equity is a factor in well-being and be used to shape policy. Government and labor advocates alike can integrate these subjective factors, like happiness and well-being, into existing human rights and economic justice approaches to labor policy. Government policy can support fishers, for the sake of the economy and the country's food supply, by strengthening the factors that make fishing a desirable livelihood while addressing the poverty-level incomes and dangerous work environment.

The working conditions and livelihoods of fishers are vital in Indonesia, as the country has one of the largest fishing industries in the world, worth US\$1.34 billion annually, by one estimate. But fishing is a declining profession in the country. Data from the Indonesian Statistics Bureau shows that the number of families dependent on fishing for income has dropped by more than half since 2000.

Despite this, the study in Marine Policy found that "being a fisherman is associated with a positive attitude toward future change in economic status. As the pandemic has uprooted the livelihoods of workers around the world, labor and economic policymakers need more data like this on people's economic prospect and worker happiness in order to find effective solutions.

Virtual gathering gives coastal communities chance to discuss global challenges

<https://www.miragenews.com/virtual-gathering-gives-coastal-communities-chance-to-discuss-global-challenges/>

"Researchers and local representatives from across the world will gather virtually this week to discuss some of the major challenges facing coastal communities. The third GCRF Blue Communities Annual Meeting had been due to take place in Hoi An, Vietnam, but had to be cancelled as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. Instead, partners in the UK and Southeast Asia will be meeting online to discuss the various aspects of policy, planning and management required to support sustainable marine ecosystems.

The annual meeting – with an adapted agenda of talks, workshops and debates – will take place from July 15-22 and is being hosted by the University of Plymouth, from which Professor Mel Austen of the School of Biological and Marine Sciences leads the Blue Communities programme. It will be attended by up to 100 people and include presentations by academics at the University and the nine project partners, including Plymouth Marine Laboratory.

This will also be the first annual meeting to feature stakeholders in Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines and Vietnam, where the programme's research projects are taking place, and the schedule has been adapted accordingly to take account of time differences with Southeast Asia.

Blue Communities is a four-year programme launched in 2017 with £6.7 million of funding from UK Research and Innovation's Global Challenges Research Fund (GCRF). It seeks to create new ways of helping coastal communities in Southeast Asia to maintain and enhance their marine-based ecosystems, with an emphasis on improving health, wellbeing, and economic and food sustainability.

Twelve underpinning and interrelated research projects are underway and, in conjunction with coastal community stakeholders, are helping to provide an understanding of the impacts and opportunities of overfishing/sustainable fishing, rising tourism, renewable energy, climate change, coastal area management, rising populations, economic improvement and transport.

A key emphasis of the programme is to build research capability that will support and underpin stakeholders and their decisions on marine spatial planning for the sustainable management of marine ecosystems. All projects across the region will share data and findings, and it is hoped they will also be able to roll out the projects to other communities that suffer from similar challenges. Representing 3000 staff, researchers and students, the University of Plymouth's Marine Institute is the first and largest such institute in the UK.

IORA's new working group to support fisheries' revival post-COVID-19

<https://www.seafoodsource.com/news/supply-trade/iora-s-new-working-group-to-support-fisheries-revival-post-covid-19>

"Four African countries are among nine Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) members that have formed a new working group to explore options for supporting the seafood industry, and the wider marine fisheries and aquaculture industry in and around the Indian Ocean as the COVID-19 pandemic continues to take its toll on the regional economy.

During a virtual meeting on 23 June of the IORA Cluster Group on Fisheries Management, Kenya, Madagascar, Mauritius, and Tanzania joined Indonesia, Oman, Bangladesh, and Thailand in launching the working group to explore and recommend specific and viable initiatives for supporting the region's economic recovery during the post-COVID-19 pandemic period, The Jakarta Post reported.

“We are facing COVID-19 as a common enemy. As an organization comprising countries in the Indian Ocean, the IORA must renavigate its focus toward marine cooperation, including in the fisheries sector, Indonesian Foreign Ministry Asia-Pacific and African Affairs Director General Desra Percaya said during the meeting, according to the Jakarta Post. With the COVID-19 pandemic having set back years of progress on advancing the region's fisheries economy, the working group has been tasked with generating new proposals to support the sector, from small-scale fisherfolk to larger commercial enterprises, through and after the pandemic.

Furthermore, the working group is expected to provide a framework for the recovery and growth of Indian Ocean marine tourism, in addition to suggesting better ways of enhancing seafood trade among IORA members, and between members and the rest of world. The group, which will provide regular updates on its progress to members, is expected to build on the 2017 Jakarta Concord, in which IORA members resolved to promote maritime safety and security while enhancing trade and investment cooperation in the region.

Moreover, the IORA members pledged to promote sustainable and responsible fisheries management and development, enhance disaster risk management, and strengthen academic, scientific, and technological cooperation in the region – among other commitments. The COVID-19 outbreak comes at a time when IORA members are still battling against persistent overfishing; illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) fishing; marine pollution; and a tendency by both public private sectors to over-exploit the Indian Ocean's marine resources.

In the short- and medium-term, IORA is placing emphasis on proper post-harvest processing, promotion of storage and preservation facilities to enable fishing communities reduce losses, and building up adequate seafood stocks to meet increasing demand for a surging population of seafood consumers.

Indonesia’s Fisheries Ministry issues licenses to 26 baby lobster exporters

<https://en.antaranews.com/news/151906/fisheries-ministry-issues-licenses-to-26-baby-lobster-exporters>

"Indonesia's Maritime Affairs and Fisheries (KKP) Ministry has issued licenses to 26 companies for exporting baby lobsters, with the number of licenses likely to increase since several entries are currently associated with licensing applications. "We have issued 26 permits (for baby lobster exports) and will also increase the figure to up to 31 permits," KKP Minister Edhy Prabowo stated here on the night of Monday (July 6).

Prabowo remarked that one of the lobster export permits were aimed at boosting the income of fishermen, as they had always relied on baby lobster catches. However, the fishermen's income automatically dipped following the ban, and they also had to face the legal process while catching baby lobsters. The minister also responded to reports that levelled accusations of him favoring certain people in his close circle while granting lobster export licenses. "

"Some people accused of being close to me, include Gerindra members. I do not even know when they registered it. However, remember, the reports mentioned only two or three people, and we have, in fact, issued 26 permits," he stated.

Prabowo claimed to be unaware of whom the permits were given while clarifying that he personally did not issue the permits, but a team from the KKP Ministry was in charge of the permit issuance. The minister made assurance that none of his family members were involved in the business.

Indonesian fishermen held by Malaysia for encroaching Sarawak waters

<https://www.malaymail.com/news/malaysia/2020/06/28/mmea-indonesian-fishermen-held-for-encroaching-sarawak-waters/1879659>

"The Malaysian Maritime Enforcement Agency (MMEA) today announced its first arrest, involving five Indonesian fishermen for encroaching Sarawak waters in Mukah, since it ceased using the 'turn back' approach on encroachers.

MMEA Sarawak director, Maritime First Admiral Robert Teoh Geok Chuan in a statement today said the fishing boat was detected about 119 nautical miles from Tanjung Sirik on Friday. "Upon inspection, the five fishermen aged between 25 and 37 years failed to provide their identity documents and approval to conduct fishing activities in Sarawak waters, he said.

He added that the boat was then towed to the Tanjung Manis jetty and the fishermen were screened for Covid-19. "The case is investigated under Fisheries Act 1985 and Immigration Act 1959, he said. The MMEA has once again started detaining foreign fishermen encroaching the country's waters since June 24, this after using the force back approach during the Movement

Control Order and Conditional Movement Control Order periods.

Indonesian fishermen praised for rescuing Rohingya travellers as pressure grows on ASEAN states to assist

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2020-06-27/aceh-fishermen-praised-rohingya-refugees-indonesia-australia/12400268>

"Calls are growing for South-East Asian countries not to push boatloads of Rohingya asylum seekers back to sea, as Indonesian authorities say people rescued off the coast this week want to go to Australia. Almost 100 Rohingya people were helped ashore by locals from fishing villages on the northern tip of the Indonesian province of Aceh before officials had decided to allow the people to disembark. At least 79 of the rescued Rohingya are women and children, who have temporarily been sheltered in an abandoned Indonesian Immigration facility.

A coalition of Indonesia-based NGOs released a statement calling for the member states of the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN) to renew pressure on Myanmar to "put an end to the crimes against humanity undergoing in the country". "ASEAN member states must open their arms to Rohingya refugees instead of rejecting those whose lives are at risk at sea," the statement read.

However, discussions at the 36th ASEAN Summit on Friday, held virtually due to coronavirus, were dominated by regional economic recovery in the wake of the pandemic. Malaysia's Prime Minister Muhyiddin Yassin told the Summit that: "We can no longer take more as our resources and capacity are already stretched, compounded by the COVID-19 pandemic." Rima Shah Putra, director of the Aceh-based Geutanyoe Foundation, told the ABC that locals had provided food and other charity to the rescued Rohingya.

Authorities undertook rapid COVID-19 testing among the asylum seekers with no positive cases. But Mr Putra said some of the women were facing other medical issues: "They are suffering due to this long journey feeling itchy, hygienic issues the boat has been for five months at sea." He said the fishermen had acted to rescue the asylum seekers due to local customary law, which dictates they must assist anybody experiencing distress at sea.

The UN refugee agency's country representative Anne Maymann applauded Indonesian authorities for allowing the people to disembark. "Indonesia has several times been a country that has set an example to others in the region," she said. Amnesty International Indonesia's executive director Usman Hamid said in a statement that the local community in Aceh had demonstrated the "best of humanity".

"[The] disembarkation of Rohingya refugees is a moment of optimism and solidarity. It's a credit to the community in Aceh who pushed hard and took risks so that these children, women

and men could be brought to shore," he said. Acehese fishermen also provided assistance in May 2015 when almost 1,000 Rohingya refugees arrived in the province. The mostly-Muslim Rohingya people are the largest stateless population on earth, having fled brutal persecution in Myanmar for decades.

Indonesia, 8 IORA countries form working group to protect fisheries sector

<https://www.thejakartapost.com/news/2020/06/24/indonesia-8-iora-countries-form-working-group-to-protect-fisheries-sector.html>

"Indonesia and eight other countries grouped under the Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) established on Tuesday a regional working group on fisheries management that aims to sustain marine welfare around the world's third-largest ocean amid and post COVID-19 pandemic. The initiative came from Indonesia, Bangladesh, Iran, Kenya, Madagascar, Mauritius, Oman, Tanzania and Thailand; nine country members of IORA -- an international organization comprising 22 states bordering the Indian Ocean -- as well as from the IORA Fisheries Support Unit (FSU), a think-tank under the organization that focuses on fishery issues.

It was inaugurated on Tuesday through the 1st Meeting of IORA Cluster Group on Fisheries Management (CFGM) held virtually, in which the Indonesian delegation was represented by the Foreign Ministry and the Maritime Affairs and Fisheries Ministry. According to a statement published on the Foreign Ministry's website, the cluster group will perform duties related to discussion over the fisheries sector in the Indian Ocean.

Through this initiative, Indonesia hopes to manifest its leadership on marine and fisheries within the IORA forum, through which it also aims to strengthen its efforts in performing economic diplomacy, preventing illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing, as well as improving fishermen's welfare. "We are facing COVID-19 as a common enemy. As an organization comprising countries in the Indian Ocean, the IORA must renavigate its focus toward marine cooperation, including in the fisheries sector, said the Foreign Ministry's Asia-Pacific and African affairs director general, Desra Percaya, during the meeting.

The newly established working group is expected to roll out concrete programs to support economic recovery after the pandemic, particularly in improving fishermen's welfare, promoting marine tourism around the Indian Ocean and increasing trade and investment in the fisheries sector. Separately, the Maritime Affairs and Fisheries Ministry's capture fishery director general, Zulficar Mochtar, revealed that more than 3.5 million Indonesian fishermen had been impacted by the pandemic, which presented a major challenge for the fishermen in addition to illegal fishing, climate change, plastic waste and fish scarcity.

“With this collective effort [the initiative] through the IORA forum, we hope to see an improvement in food sustainability and poverty reduction within the marine communities, he said. According to the statement, the delegations produced several strategic documents in the meeting, including a draft on work programs that would be implemented in the short, medium and long term under the IORA mechanism.

Indonesia has been actively involved in IORA, including as the chair in 2015 to 2017, during which the country hosted the first IORA Summit in 2017 in Jakarta and produced the Jakarta Concord – an agreement to reinforce the commitment of IORA member countries to uphold the 1982 UN Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) as the main norm in maintaining peace and stability in the Indian Ocean region. The establishment of this new working group is also a follow up of the Jakarta Concord and the IORA Action Plan for 2017 to 2021.

Indonesia’s Fisheries Ministry develops aquaculture micro insurance for fish farmers

<https://en.antaranews.com/news/151084/ministry-develops-aquaculture-micro-insurance-for-fish-farmers>

"Indonesia's Marine Affairs and Fisheries Ministry has developed aquaculture micro insurance for fish farmers to minimize the risk of aquaculture businesses. ""The protection scheme for fish farming under the aquaculture micro insurance in Indonesia will be expanded next year, not only for fresh water and brackish water fish farming, but also for ocean fish farming,"" the ministry's Director General of Aquaculture Slamet Soebjaktjo said in a statement here on Sunday.

Some commodities are recommended to be covered by aquaculture insurance in 2021, including sea weeds, grouper fish, star pomfret, and white snapper. The government has taken measures to improve fish farmers' welfare, among others by minimizing the risk of aquaculture business due to natural disaster and fish diseases, provision of insurance for aquaculture. Soebjaktjo said, aquaculture insurance has become the ministry's concrete action to protect fish farmers, as stipulated in the law no. 7/2016 on the protection and empowerment of fishermen, fish and salt farmers. "

"With this aquaculture insurance, farmers would run their business more comfortably and easier to get access to funding for business expansion, hence fish farmers could increase productivity,"" he added. Since 2017 the government has disbursed aid for small-scale fish farmers through payment of premium for small-scale fish farmers insurance (APPIK), to ensure continuity of the business when it was hit by natural disaster or fish disease.

As of 2019, the government has paid the insurance premium for 15,026 fish farmers in 25 provinces, covering some 20,836 hectares of ponds for shrimp, milkfish, tilapia, and catfish, using simple technology of monoculture and polyculture. The APPIK program is targeted to

cover five thousand hectares of land in 2020 with more farmers could enjoy the benefit.

Experts see environmental, social fallout in Indonesia's infrastructure push

<https://news.mongabay.com/2020/06/indonesia-national-strategic-project-infrastructure-road-railway-dam-smelter-nickel-peatland/>

"As Indonesia struggles to contain one of the deadliest coronavirus outbreaks in Asia, the country's president has quietly issued a new regulation on eminent domain. Signed in May, the regulation expands the types of land that can be unilaterally acquired by the state for purposes deemed to be in the public interest. Limited under a 2016 regulation to land held by state-owned companies, areas that may be subject to eminent domain under the new presidential regulation now include forests, villages, and land bequeathed for religious and charitable use.

The regulation is just one in a series of steps the government is taking to ramp up dozens of major infrastructure projects billed as key to jump-starting the economy out of the current pandemic-induced slowdown. But for conservationists, environmental activists and indigenous rights defenders, this push comes at the expense of the country's biodiversity, its climate commitments, and its most vulnerable communities. On the government's docket are 89 projects, most of them newly proposed and the rest expansions of existing projects.

They include roads and railways, ports and airports, dams and power plants, industrial estates and plantations. The common hurdle, says President Joko Widodo, is land acquisition. In a May 29 conference call to announce the slate of projects, tagged at a combined \$100 billion, Widodo called them a national priority and said they "have to continue. Airlangga Hartarto, the coordinating minister for the economy, said it was in light of this urgency that the eminent domain regulation was issued: "To speed up projects, because usually the roadblock, based on experience, is land procurement.

But the real impact will be to make it easier for the state to take over community lands, including those of indigenous groups, and degazette forests to allow them to be cleared, according to Siti Rakhma Mary Herwati of the Indonesian Legal Aid Institute (YLBHI). "This article makes it easier to shift villages' assets and indigenous peoples' customary lands for strategic projects or infrastructure projects, she said.

"It also speeds up the changing of the function of forest areas for those projects. The regulation is bolstered by another from 2017 that allows projects of national priority to override local governments' zoning plans. In practice, that means that projects can proceed in areas that would otherwise be off-limits, including forests and conservation areas.

Reynaldo Sembiring, executive director of the Indonesian Center for Environmental Law (ICEL) said zoning plans should only be revised if there's a change in the landscape, adding that the

plans should conform to the environment, not the other way around. “That theory is being thrown out of the window, because it all now depends on the national strategic projects, Reynaldo said. “Regulations for the sake of national strategic projects have been revised since a few years ago, he added.

Asian Development Bank calls for sustainable “Blue Economy to save our oceans

<https://www.greenqueen.com.hk/asian-development-bank-sustainable-blue-economy-to-save-our-oceans/>

"The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has called on Asia to begin focusing on building a new sustainable “blue economy. The region's development bank says that in order to preserve livelihoods and the planet, the continent must begin preserving the marine ecosystem and move away from the current “ocean economy that exploits natural resources. It has proposed several financial initiatives to assist with the transition.

ADB says that immediate action must be taken against the current “ocean economy that relies on destructive fishing and pollution practices. Instead, a new “blue economy must be built, defined by the bank as the sustainable use of ocean resources for economic growth. It is characterised by a balance between livelihoods and marine ecosystem health. Billions of people in Asia-Pacific – particularly poorer nations and vulnerable coastline communities – depend on healthy ocean ecosystems for their incomes, food and health.

Due to climate change, pollution, destructive fishing and rapid coastal urbanisation, the productivity of our oceans has become increasingly threatened. According to ADB's 2019 ocean report, over 60% of the 8 million tonnes of ocean plastic waste comes from Asia, along with agricultural toxic pollutants and untreated wastewater. Meanwhile, global heating is causing rising sea levels, flooding and acidification, and unless immediate action is taken, we are looking at 90% of coral reefs disappearing and loss of all fish stocks within decades time.

In order to transition to a more sustainable “blue economy, ADB announced several financial initiatives amounting to US\$5 billion over the next five years. These include “blue bonds that will invest in coastal pollution projects, circular economy, green ports and marine renewable energy in order to generate new jobs and stimulate sustainable economic growth in ocean-dependent Asian communities.

ADB will also launch sustainability-linked loans to provide finance with the achievement of environmental targets, ocean risk insurance, and payments for ecosystem services (PES), which monetises the benefits of marine management and protection. “The action plan is also to ensure that the United Nations Sustainable Development Goal 14 – Ensuring the livelihoods, health, resiliency, and food security – of billions of people in the region, are met, said the bank in a statement.

Earlier this year, ADB launched a new venture platform to support and invest in startups in Asia offering tech-forward impact solutions to contribute to ocean protection and other Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Called ADB Ventures, the US\$50 million inaugural investment fund under ADB Ventures has a 17-year fund life, and will specifically target early stage and growth stage cleantech, agriculture technology and health technology businesses that are working on climate and gender innovations.

With sustainability and awareness about ocean pollution reaching all-time highs in Asia, other funds are too looking to divert finances to address environmental crises. In December 2019, the Circulate Capital Ocean Fund (CCOF) was launched by Singapore-based Circulate Capital and is dedicated to alleviate the net financing gap of between US\$28 to US\$40 for each tonne of plastic waste to be collected and recycled across the five biggest ocean polluters in the world – China, Indonesia, Philippines, Thailand and Vietnam.

Indonesia to allow back destructive seine and trawl nets in its waters

<https://news.mongabay.com/2020/06/indonesia-to-allow-back-destructive-seine-and-trawl-nets-in-its-waters/>

"Indonesia plans to lift a ban on the use of seine and trawl nets, which were outlawed under the country's previous fisheries minister for threatening the sustainability of the country's fish stocks. The ministry, led by Edhy Prabowo, said earlier this week a revision to the 2016 ban would allow fishers to once again use two-boat purse seine net (known locally as pukat cincin), one-boat seine nets (payang), Danish seine nets (cantrang), and shrimp bottom trawl nets (pukat hela dasar udang). Edhie, who took office last year, has argued for the use of these nets to boost catches and in turn attract greater investment in Indonesia's marine capture fishery, the world's second biggest.

“Certainly, there will be national standards applied, including environmentally friendly standards. We'll also be able to control the use through regulations, quota and monitoring, Trian Yunanda, the director of fish resources management at the ministry, said in a public discussion June 9. Edhie's predecessor, Susi Pudjiastuti, banned the use of these types of nets because of their high potential for overexploitation, bycatch and damage to the marine ecosystem.

Her decision was largely praised abroad by marine scientists and conservation biologists, but was opposed domestically by fishers, particularly those operating in the Pantura region off northern Java, who had invested heavily in the gear. Susi eventually allowed an exemption for these fishers to keep using cantrang while gradually transitioning to more sustainable fishing nets by February 2020. With the lifting of the ban, however, fishers will be free to go back to using seine and trawl nets. Conservationists have slammed the decision, calling it a step backward in efforts to develop a sustainable fishing sector in the country.

“The ‘new’ direction of this policy is certainly a step back. Legalizing fishing gear that has been banned poses an alarming threat to the sustainability of fish stocks in the ocean, Arifsyah Nasution, oceans campaigner for Greenpeace Southeast Asia, told Mongabay in an interview. Seines and trawls are highly effective equipment for sweeping up large amounts of fish, but they are known to be extremely non-discriminative. A 2010 study by the Bogor Institute of Agriculture (IPB) showed that nearly 50% of cantrang catches were bycatch and discards.

A 2015 survey by the fisheries ministry found that many cantrang boat operators had marked down their size. This practice alone is estimated to have cost the country as much as 10.44 trillion rupiah (\$878 million) in lost revenue. “The government, in this case the fisheries ministry, is currently putting the future of a healthy fish stock and marine ecosystem in Indonesia on the line, Arifsyah said. The use of cantrang is a politically contentious issue in Indonesia.

By far the biggest users of this type of net are the Pantura fishers, who represent a significant voting bloc. The fishers and their supporters say the nets aren't as destructive as others make them out to be because fishers use them further away from coastal reefs. But critics say many fishers typically modify the nets to work like a bottom trawl, and that they deploy them near the coast. Critics of the rollback have suggested it was made under pressure from the companies that own and operate large fishing boats.

While these fleets account for a small percentage of catch volume compared to the millions of small-scale fishers throughout Indonesia, they carry heavy political clout. “They've got connections to political parties, business associations, parliament and other government institutions, such as the coordinating ministry of maritime affairs, Mohammad Abdi Suhufan, national coordinator of the NGO Destructive Fishing Watch (DFW) Indonesia, told Mongabay. Abdi added these owners and operators of large vessels stood to benefit the most from the resumption of seine and trawl fishing. He said his organization had not been asked by the fisheries ministry to consult on the reversal of the ban.

“This plan is one of the many inconsistencies from the fisheries ministry in managing the country's fish resources, Abdi said. Experts say allowing the use of seine and trawl nets once again will exacerbate tensions between large-scale fishers and their more poorly equipped small-scale counterparts. There's already a long-running hostility between the two because many of the larger vessels operate close to the coast, competing directly for fishing grounds with small and traditional fishers.

“This is a gateway for IUU fishing practices and exploitation of marine and fisheries resources in Indonesia, said Susan Herawati, secretary-general of the NGO Coalition for Fisheries Justice (KIARA), referring to the practice of illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing. “The impact is clear: small-scale and traditional fishers will lose their maritime space.

Experts have called on the fisheries ministry not to push through with lifting the ban, and instead focus on efforts to promote the use of sustainable fishing gears, empower small-scale fishers, and

combat IUU fishing practices. "If the fisheries ministry is no longer siding with traditional and small-scale fishers, then it's better to disband the ministry altogether, Susan said.

China continues investigation into sea burials of Indonesian fishermen: Foreign Affairs Ministry

<https://jakartaglobe.id/news/china-continues-investigation-into-sea-burials-of-indonesian-fishermen-foreign-affairs-ministry>

"The Foreign Affairs Ministry said Chinese authorities are continuing investigation into the sea burials of Indonesian crew workers on Chinese fishing vessels last month. "Our embassy in Beijing sent a diplomatic note to the Chinese Foreign Ministry on May 19. They informed us the investigation was still ongoing," the ministry's citizen protection director Judha Nugraha said on Wednesday.

A video posted on Facebook by Suwarno Cano Swe on May 15 showed the dead body of another Indonesian fisherman, identified by his initial H., being dumped into the sea from a different Chinese fishing boat. H. died after allegedly being physically abused on the boat, where the working condition was described as slave-like. Suwarno said H. was repeatedly hit with wood planks, steel rods, glass bottles and electrocuted. "He died on Jan. 16 and was dumped overboard in Somali territorial waters," Judha said.

At least three other Indonesian crew workers had died on Chinese fishing vessels after receiving inhuman treatment and had their bodies thrown into the sea. Around 50 other Indonesian crew workers have been forced to work in slave-like conditions on other Chinese fishing vessels. Judha said the ministry is having trouble tracking Indonesian crew workers on foreign fishing boats since many of them are undocumented. "Many of these migrant workers are not documented in our database.

They don't know how to register in the system when they work abroad," he said. Migrant Care Executive Director Wahyu Susilo said many agencies send these crew workers to work on boats all over the world without going through the official red tapes. The procedure to earn a permit to work abroad from the Indonesian government is complicated.

Applicants must submit multiple documents to the Workforce Ministry, the Indonesian Migrant Worker Protection Agency (BP2MI) and the Transportation Ministry. "The bureaucracy is complicated and many workers don't have the required documents. They look for a shortcut and often fall prey to human trafficking," Wahyu said.

Wahyu said Indonesia should issue a government regulation to protect migrant workers in the maritime sector. Currently, a total of 2.9 million Indonesians work abroad, of which 9,404 are documented ship crew workers.

Indonesia considers allocating USD 69 million for fisheries, aquaculture amid COVID-19 pandemic

<https://www.seafoodsource.com/news/supply-trade/indonesia-considers-allocating-usd-69-million-for-fisheries-aquaculture-amid-covid-19-pandemic>

"Indonesia's government is considering stimulus package proposal to support local fishermen, aquaculture farmers, and seafood processors hit by the outbreak of COVID-19. The package, proposed by the Maritime Affairs and Fisheries Ministry, will be worth IDR 1.02 trillion (USD 69.5 million, EUR 62.6 million) and will be comprised of social aid for fishermen and farmers. The ministry also plans to fund surveillance activities against illegal fishing in Indonesia's waters, The Jakarta Post reported on 29 May, quoting fisheries minister Edhy Prabowo.

“We will optimize the budget to help enable fishermen to go on fishing while also providing the farmers with seeds, broodfish and infrastructure, Prabowo said after a cabinet meeting on 28 May with President Joko “Jokowi Widodo. Fishermen are expected to be allocated IDR 413.27 billion (USD 28.2 million, EUR 25.4 million), while aquaculture farmers may receive a fund of IDR 406.55 billion (USD 27.7 million, EUR 25 million).

Meanwhile, a fund of IDR 36.07 billion (USD 2.5 million, EUR 2.2 million) would be used to assist fish processors and marketeers, and IDR 106.48 billion (USD 7.3 million, EUR 6.5 million) would be allocated to combat poaching. According to the Office of the Coordinating Minister of Maritime Affairs and Investment's Human Resource Development, Science, and Maritime Culture Deputy Safri Burhanuddin, the government plans to provide IDR 600,000 (USD 41, EUR 36.8) in cash per month for three months for fishermen and others working in the fisheries sector.

Burhanuddin said many other support measures are underway, the results of which will be seen clearer in a few months. Minister Prabowo said more cold-storage facilities will be needed as demand may fall due to lockdowns in many important regions. State-owned fishery companies PT Perikanan Nusantara (Perinus) and PT Perikanan Indonesia (Perindo) would likely receive IDR 500 billion (USD 34.1 million, EUR 30.7 million) each from the state budget to buy more seafood products with the aim to increase demand.

Prabowo also called on banks to join the government's efforts to support aquaculture farmers with loans. The government, through its various programs, has provided IDR 34 trillion (USD 2.32 billion, EUR 2.1 billion) to subsidize loan interests and relax loan payments for local farmers and fishermen, according to the newspaper. As many as 3.78 million Indonesian people are expected to be pushed into poverty because of the pandemic, driving the total number people living in poverty in the country to around 30 million.

Fishermen, for example, have seen their average income go down to IDR 1.5 million (USD 102, EUR 92) per month, from IDR 3 million to IDR 5 million (USD 204 to USD 341, EUR 184 to EUR 307), Burhanuddin said. Indonesia had nearly 30,000 cases of the coronavirus as of 1 June, with more than 1,600 deaths, according to updates from The Jakarta Post.

Indonesian ministry proposes US\$69m stimulus for fisheries, aquaculture

<https://www.thestar.com.my/aseanplus/aseanplus-news/2020/05/29/indonesian-ministry-proposes-us69m-stimulus-for-fisheries-aquaculture>

"The Maritime Affairs and Fisheries Ministry has proposed a Rp1.02 trillion (US\$69 million) stimulus package to aid small scale fishermen and aquaculture farmers affected by the Covid-19 pandemic. Minister Edhy Prabowo said the stimulus would include social aid for fishermen, fish farmers and salt farmers and funds to strengthen surveillance efforts against poaching. "We will optimise the budget to help enable fishermen to go on fishing while also providing the farmers with seeds, broodfish and infrastructure, the minister said in an online press conference after attending a limited Cabinet meeting with President Joko "Jokowi Widodo on Thursday (May 28).

The stimulus package, which was proposed during the meeting, will provide Rp 413.27 billion in funds for fishermen and Rp 406.55 billion to aid aquaculture farmers. It also includes Rp 36.07 billion for fish processors and marketeers, Rp 54.1 billion for salt farmers, Rp 106.48 billion to strengthen poaching surveillance and Rp 8 billion for internal audits. "We also would like to have more cold storage facilities to anticipate the possibilities of slow demand as several regions are still implementing the large-scale social restrictions [PSBB], the minister said. The government has been working to ensure a secure supply of staple food across the country amid disruptions in production and logistics as a result of the pandemic.

The government data presented by President Jokowi on April 28 showed that over 20 provinces faced shortages of staple foods, such as garlic, sugar, chili and eggs. Jokowi, when opening the meeting on Thursday, stressed the requirement to provide incentives for farmers and fishermen to ensure the country's food security. Statistics Indonesia (BPS) data show the agriculture, forestry and fishery sector contributed 12.84 percent of the country's gross domestic product (GDP) in the first quarter, the third-largest contributor after manufacturing industry and trade. Edhy also said state-owned fishery companies PT Perikanan Nusantara (Perinus) and PT Perikanan Indonesia (Perindo) were preparing proposals for around Rp 500 billion each in state capital injections (PMN).

The two companies are tasked with buying fishery and aquaculture products to boost demand. Furthermore, the minister also urged state-owned banks and financial institutions to provide loans for aquaculture farmers. The government has allocated Rp 34 trillion in loan interest subsidies and loan-payment relaxations for farmers and fishermen through the microcredit

program (KUR) and the government's UMi and Mekaar programs, among others. “I’ve sent out instructions to relax the access and procedures to get the stimulus so that our farmers and fishermen can secure funds and capital, Jokowi said on Thursday. Separately, United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UN-ESCAP) environment and development director Stefanos Fotiou said on Thursday that countries should focus on helping poor coastal communities affected by the negative impact of the pandemic.

“In the case of the Covid-19 pandemic, the people left behind were people that did not have access to proper health care, they did not have access to proper facilities, Stefanos said in an online discussion. The government has projected that up to 3.78 million Indonesians will fall into poverty amid the pandemic, according to its worst-case scenario. That adds to the 24.79 million people who already lived in poverty last year. Fishermen's average income have fallen sharply to a range of Rp 1 million to Rp 1.5 million per month from Rp 3 million to Rp 5 million as a result of the pandemic, according to the Office of the Coordinating Minister of Maritime Affairs and Investment's human resource development, science and maritime culture deputy, Safri Burhanuddin.

The pandemic is also expected to result in a decline of around 8 percent in production and prices, undoing an upward trend in the previous two years. The government, he said during the discussion, would disburse Rp 600,000 in cash assistance per month for three months to fishermen and salt farmers, among other workers in the fisheries sector. “We have done many things now, but of course it takes time and we will see the results after June or September, Safri said. “The blue economy is very important for Indonesia as an archipelago so it is our ultimate goal to make it the primary driver of the economy, he added, referring to the concept of the sustainable use of marine resources to improve economic growth and livelihoods.

Blockchain traceability of seafood ‘risks being undermined by hype’: FAO report

<https://www.securindustry.com/food-and-beverage/blockchain-traceability-of-seafood-risks-being-undermined-by-hype-/s104/a11730/#.Xs4MtP8zbIU>

"Blockchain has a role to play in securing the seafood supply chain, but risks being undermined by “hyperinflated claims perpetuated by the media, says a new report. The review by the United Nations' Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO) says that at the moment blockchain projects tend to be led by private enterprise, only cover part of the supply chain and generally only include a single jurisdiction, and that means the true role of the technology remains largely untested. There's a clear role for blockchain in improving efficiencies and accountability when used for seafood traceability, say the authors, but it has limitations too.

The tech won't stop illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing, overfishing and discarding, for example, but could make the supply chain more transparent, and potentially help prevent food fraud and poor-quality products entering the market if deployed effectively. The

current media discourse that it is a magic bullet – solving a multiple of issues like IUU fishing, seafood safety, species fraud, and labour issues – “risks hyperinflating expectations on what this technology can offer, with potential operators then walking away because it does not deliver on the hype built around it.

Deployed correctly, blockchain-driven traceability could however become the “substrate over which digital solutions need to operate, says the FAO. Blockchain traceability may work best in fisheries that voluntarily intend to demonstrate their compliance to transparency – either to meet laws, policy or consumer demands - or in those that are looking for a self-controlling mechanism to foster trust among competitors, according to the report.

Permissioned consortium blockchains – where the network is governed by a group rather than a single entity and is only accessible by named participants – have the greatest potential in the current state of the technology to be scaled to address seafood traceability, according to the FAO. This type of network allows data-sharing without making commercially-sensitive information publicly available, and could allow partners to get workflow efficiencies, share information and resources, as well as improve accountability and transparency.

This type of network sidesteps “concerns of high energy use and slow transaction times that public permissionless blockchains have, says the report. There have been several examples of blockchain-based traceability projects in the last few years, tending to focus on high-value fish species like tuna and Patagonian toothfish, and in all cases have tried to create a link between the physical and digital spheres through the use of anchors like QR codes.

One example is Project Provenance in Indonesia, which concerned pole-and-line and handline fishing for yellowfin tuna loins and skipjack tuna intended for canning. The pilot project relied on fishers and suppliers sending a text message to register their entire catch, which was physically tagged with a QR code or other tech such as radiofrequency identification (RFID) chips.

The catch was then transferred to suppliers both physically and digitally using the Provenance app when landed, tracked through the processing stage. In the final stage, the retailer applied a near-field communication (NFC) smart label to the can that could be read using a smartphone to get the provenance. The Provenance project exemplifies some limitations common to many of the projects covered in the report, including reliance on human input of fish data that could be open to tampering and the use of physical tags that could be lost, damaged or interfered with.

Last year, a report from Juniper Research suggested widespread adoption of blockchain across the food industry could save \$31bn lost to fraud such as mislabelling, dilution or substitution, as well as from slashing the cost of complying with regulations. In 2018, another FAO report said an effective science-based fish traceability system is needed in order to combat the “widespread and “serious problem of food fraud in the fisheries sector.

Indonesian handline tuna fishery recognized as sustainable by MSC, Fair Trade

<https://www.seafoodsource.com/news/environment-sustainability/indonesian-handline-tuna-fishery-recognized-as-sustainable-by-msc-fair-trade>

"A small-scale Indonesian fishery has become the first in the world to achieve certification from both the Marine Stewardship Council and Fair Trade. The North Buru and Maluku Fair Trade Fishing Association tuna fishery, which operates using one- or two-man boats to catch yellowfin tuna using hooks and lines, is now certified to MSC's Fisheries Standard. It is the first handline yellowfin tuna fishery in the world to be recognized under the MSC program, and the second fishery in Indonesia to earn such a certification distinction.

The Buru, Maluku Province-based fishery has been involved in a fishery improvement project (FIP) since April 2013. In October 2014, the fishery was certified under the Fair Trade USA Capture Fisheries Standard, and its crew of 123 fishers were organized in nine Fair Trade associations. The Fair Trade associations created a custom fisheries management system that helped the fishery meet MSC Standard requirements, showing "how Fair Trade can be an effective way for small-scale fisheries to achieve MSC certification, MSC said.

"We're extremely proud of seeing the first Indonesian handline yellowfin tuna fishery meet the highest standard for sustainability, Minister of Marine Affairs and Fisheries Republic of Indonesia Edhy Prabowo said in a press release. "Indonesia commits to support its small-scale fishers and sustainable tuna fisheries, and this MSC certification sets an example for other small-scale fisheries in Indonesia and around the world. "We congratulate Indonesia Handline Yellowfin tuna fishery and their partners for becoming MSC-certified. They are demonstrating true leadership in sustainable fishing.

To maintain their certification, the fishery will need to work with other fishing organizations and the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission to agree to important management measures to safeguard yellowfin tuna stocks, MSC Asia Pacific Director Patrick Caleo added. Independent conformity assessment body SCS Global Services conducted the fishery's assessment for the MSC standard. The North Buru and Maluku Fair Trade Fishing Associations, Anova Food LLC, Coral Triangle Processors LCC, PT Harta Samudra, and MDPI all supported the fishery's certification bid.

Yayasan Masyarakat dan Perikanan Indonesia (MDPI), an independent foundation focused on achieving responsible and sustainable fisheries activities, has backed the fishery and provided support to local community development, environment projects, safety-at-sea training, and fisheries management capacity-building. The certification process that the North Buru and Maluku Fair Trade Fishing Association fishery has undergone over the years has been a collective effort, provincially and nationally, according to Blane Olson from Anova Food LLC.

“The journey towards MSC certification has been a true collaboration between all parties of the client group as well as Yayasan Masyarakat dan Perikanan Indonesia and MMAF both provincially and nationally. Together we were able to implement fisheries improvement project activities such as data collection, vessel registration and co-management committees, in order to meet both the Fair Trade and MSC standard, Olson said.

Yellowfin tuna, distinct with their dark, metallic blue backs, yellow fins/finlets, and yellow to silver bellies, can live up to seven years. Dedicated to rewarding sustainable fishing practices globally and helping to create a more sustainable seafood market, MSC has currently certified 15 percent of global marine catch.

Fair Trade certifies some 30 different categories, including coffee, tea, and other agricultural products. Five years ago, the organization started certifying wild-capture fisheries, and has certified about 10 fisheries as of 2019, including producers of Alaska salmon, New England scallops, yellowfin tuna, and Mexican shrimp.

How to improve Indonesia’s plastic waste management

<https://jakartaglobe.id/news/how-to-improve-indonesias-plastic-waste-management>

"The Pacific Ocean is the world's most polluted ocean, a veritable ""seafill"" for marine debris flowing in from all over the globe. While the global community is actively trying to address marine pollution through conventions and targets, local implementation is still running behind the ambitious goals. Indonesia is second in a list of countries with the most-mismanaged plastic waste in the world. The truth is, across Southeast Asia, marine waste management and reduction policies have come up short.

The executive secretary of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UN Escap), Armida Alisjahbana, told the Jakarta Globe that waste management – especially for plastic waste – is still a significant challenge in the region. ""Strengthening national capacities and infrastructure for waste management should be a priority in the region. It is critical for emerging economies to promote sustainable consumption as their economies develop,"" Armida said on Thursday.

Indonesia's National Policy and Strategy on Solid Waste Management and its National Action Plan on Marine Debris are promising signs. However, Armida said their implementation needs to be more consistent. ""We are beginning to see positive signs as several countries adopt policies to curb plastic waste, but implementation is slow. Governments must enforce policies like single-use plastic bags, as well as economic incentives and disincentives to reduce the demand for plastic products,"" she said. ""Twenty-three cities in Indonesia have implemented a levy on plastic bags [at less than 1 cent per bag] on customers at selected retailers.

However, the challenge is to secure widespread effective implementation and compliance,"" she said. Indonesia should employ more technology to manage waste effectively. The government could also partner up with a third-party or informal waste collector. The country also needs to have a second-life market for recycled plastic. ""[Waste management] requires context-specific regulatory, economic and social initiatives, including technologies for waste treatment, adequate recycling and disposal and a market for recycled plastics.

Financing new technologies can also advance sustainable alternatives to plastic,"" Armida said. Other than that, Indonesia also needs to develop a greener fisheries sector and adopt sustainable fishing methods. The lack of data on the fishing industry for sustainable development goals record proves the issue is often overlooked. ""The understanding of fish stocks and fishery activities in the Asia Pacific, including Indonesia, remains quite fragmented and incomplete. This needs improvement as fisheries are important to local economies,"" Armida said.

She added that Indonesia should make a stronger commitment to stop relying on single-use plastic. There are concerns consumption of single-use plastic has been increasing during the Covid-19 pandemic, which means the government needs to come up with the right response to manage the extra waste. Armida also suggested that countries should prepare for a bigger demand on transportation when the pandemic is over, which will increase pollution and carbon dioxide emittance. "

"Past experience in similar crises suggests that transport demand and associated emissions tend to rebound and then rise to higher levels if not mitigated by dedicated policy measures,"" Armida said. Meanwhile, if the region does not improve its waste management, global plastic waste in the ocean could triple by 2050. ""Overproduction and overconsumption of plastics is the carbon dioxide footprint linked to their lifecycle.

This was calculated at 1.7 gigatons of carbon dioxide-equivalent (CO-e) in 2015 and expected to grow to 6.5 gigatons CO-e by 2050 under the current business-as-usual trajectory,"" she said. Managing the ocean is challenging, and there are many obstacles to overcome, especially data availability, according to Armida. She said one of the challenges in tracking a country's progress in protecting its ocean is the lack of oceanic data, which means that oceans are transboundary.

Pollution can get swept from one country to another. ""Insufficient or missing data have resulted in large information gaps about ocean acidification, fishing and fisheries, economic benefits and so on,"" she said. She applauded Indonesia's Centra Statistics Agency for providing in-depth data for the 2030 sustainable development goals' agenda. ""They use big data, supplementary indicators and also adapt to existing and new statistical models,"" Armida said.

Fair Trade tuna fishery in Indonesia achieves certificate for sustainability

<https://www.eco-business.com/press-releases/fairtrade-tuna-fishery-in-indonesia-achieves-certificate-for-sustainability/>

"A small-scale Indonesian fishery operating on small one or two-man boats using hooks and lines has successfully demonstrated its sustainability to the globally recognised standard set by the Marine Stewardship Council (MSC). The North Buru and Maluku Fair Trade Fishing Association tuna fishery is the first handline yellowfin tuna fishery in the world and the second in Indonesia to be certified to the MSC Fisheries Standard.

The fishery in Buru, Maluku Province has been in a Fishery Improvement Project since April 2013. It was certified under the FairTrade USA Capture Fisheries Standard in October 2014. The Buru handline tuna fishery consists of 123 fishers who are organized in 9 FairTrade associations. The Minister of Marine Affairs and Fisheries Republic of Indonesia, Edhy Prabowo said: "We're extremely proud of seeing the first Indonesian handline yellowfin tuna fishery meet the highest standard for sustainability.

"Indonesia commits to support its small-scale fishers and sustainable tuna fisheries, and this MSC certification sets an example for other small-scale fisheries in Indonesia and around the world. Asia Pacific Director at the Marine Stewardship Council, Patrick Caleo said: "We congratulate Indonesia Handline Yellowfin tuna fishery and their partners for becoming MSC certified. They are demonstrating true leadership in sustainable fishing. To maintain their certification, the fishery will need to work with other fishing organisations and the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission to agree to important management measures to safeguard yellowfin tuna stocks.

Blane Olson from Anova Food LLC said: "The journey towards MSC certification has been a true collaboration between all parties of the client group as well as Yayasan Masyarakat dan Perikanan Indonesia and MMAF both provincially and nationally. Together we were able to implement fisheries improvement project activities such as data collection, vessel registration and co-management committees, in order to meet both the Fair Trade and MSC standard.

The customary fisheries management system created through the FairTrade associations helped to meet the MSC Standard requirements and shows how FairTrade can be an effective way for small-scale fisheries to achieve MSC certification. Yayasan Masyarakat dan Perikanan Indonesia (MDPI), an independent foundation focused on achieving responsible and sustainable fisheries activities, has supported the fishery and provided support to local community development, environment projects, safety-at-sea training and fisheries management capacity building.

The assessment of the fishery to the MSC Standard was conducted by independent conformity assessment body, SCS Global Services and supported by the North Buru and Maluku Fair Trade Fishing Associations, Anova Food LLC, Coral Triangle Processors LCC, PT Harta Samudra and MDPI. An MSC assessment covers three core principles: fishery stock health, impact on marine environment and management of the fishery.

Yellowfin tuna have a dark metallic blue back, yellow fins and finlets and a yellow to silver belly and can live up to seven years. Tuna are a nomadic species found throughout the world's oceans and are some of the fastest swimmers in the ocean. MSC recognizes and rewards sustainable fishing practices and is helping create a more sustainable seafood market. Currently, 15% of global marine catch is MSC certified.

China commits to probe alleged exploitation of Indonesian sailors: Foreign Ministry

<https://www.thejakartapost.com/news/2020/05/13/china-commits-to-probe-alleged-exploitation-of-indonesian-sailors-foreign-ministry.html>

"Indonesia and China are working together closely to investigate alleged human rights abuses against dozens of Indonesian crewmen aboard Chinese fishing vessels. The allegations emerged recently with the report of four Indonesian sailors registered to Chinese fishing ship Long Xing 629, who died after reportedly enduring poor working conditions aboard the ship. A viral report by South Korea's Munhwa Broadcasting Corporation (MBC) on the alleged exploitation has sparked an outcry in Indonesia, with members of the public questioning the conditions faced by Indonesian sailors while working on board.

The Foreign Ministry said Jakarta and Beijing had discussed the case and the Chinese government had expressed its commitment to embark on further investigation based on the preliminary information and investigation by Indonesian authorities. "China is open for any follow-up and findings from the investigation carried out by Indonesia, Foreign Ministry spokesman Teuku Faizasyah said in a virtual press briefing on Wednesday, adding that authorities of the two countries would coordinate.

Faizasyah said the Indonesian ambassador in Beijing had met with consular officials from the Chinese Foreign Ministry and had been informed about the commitment for an investigation, including to communicate directly with the ship operator, Dalian Ocean Fishing Co. The South China Morning Post (SCMP) cited crewmen of the Long Xing 629 as saying that they were sometimes forced to work for up to two days without rest, had been subjected to violence and discrimination and faced hunger and dehydration.

The Chinese foreign ministry said on Monday it was investigating the matter but added that some of the allegations were "inconsistent with information it had gathered, though it did not elaborate, SCMP reports. The Indonesian crewmen who have returned to Indonesia are reportedly still waiting for thousands of dollars in unpaid wages. Foreign Ministry director for citizen protection Judha Nugraha said Wednesday that 14 crew members who had returned were undergoing questioning by the National Police's Criminal Investigation Department.

The investigation was aimed at shedding light on conditions aboard the vessels during months at sea, and the results would be consolidated with the findings of the Chinese authorities. Judha said the families of the deceased had received compensation from the operator of the vessels. “However, we are still trying to conclude the payment of [unpaid] wages and insurance.

It involves various parties, including the [ship operator], Dalian Ocean Fishing, and manning agencies in Indonesia and China, Judha said during the briefing. Jakarta is expediting the process so that their rights can be fulfilled according to their seafarer's employment agreement.

Indonesia lifts export ban on baby lobsters aimed to protect wild population

<https://news.mongabay.com/2020/05/indonesia-lifts-export-ban-on-baby-lobsters-aimed-to-protect-wild-population/>

"Indonesia will start exporting baby lobsters after a previous ban aimed at conserving the wild population of the crustacean was lifted by the fisheries ministry. Minister Edhy Prabowo on May 4 signed a decree allowing the resumption of exports of non-pigmented post-larval lobsters of the genus *Puerulus* (commonly known as whip lobsters) and of baby lobsters of the genus *Panulirus*. Edhy's predecessor, Susi Pudjiastuti, had imposed the export ban in 2016 in an effort to replenish Indonesia's lobster stocks.

Edhy, who has feuded publicly with Susi on several issues since taking office last year, first touted the plan to end the ban last December, saying he wanted to cater to small fishermen who depended on export markets. He also said Susi's ban had failed to tackle the illegal lobster market. Between January and October 2016, authorities reported smuggling cases involving 800,000 lobster larvae valued at 124.8 billion rupiah (\$8.3 million). The larvae are typically sold to buyers in Vietnam, Singapore and China, where they can be raised and sold at much higher prices.

Experts and observers, including Susi, have criticized Edhy's decision, saying the lack of monitoring and law enforcement in the export chain, coupled with inadequate infrastructure to develop a viable lobster aquaculture in an aquaculture industry domestically, threatens to deplete the wild population. A key topic of debate is the survival rate of these wild baby lobsters which, according to the fisheries ministry, is less than 1%. Proponents of resuming exports say harvesting these larvae may increase their odds of survival. But opponents say it's important to keep the lobsters in the wild to prevent them from going extinct. Some observers suggest the decision to resume exports was influenced by business interests affiliated with foreign enterprises looking for a massive supply of lobster larvae.

To address those concerns, the fisheries ministry says it has laid out requirements for exports, including setting an annual quota and limiting the sites from where the lobsters can be harvested by small-scale and traditional fishermen using “passive gear. Juvenile lobsters that are either

spawning or smaller than 8 centimeters (3 inches) or weigh less than 200 grams (7 ounces) may not be exported. Exporting companies will have to develop the infrastructure to raise lobsters and release at least 2% of the captive-born population back into the wild, and will only be allowed to export them through selected airports.

But despite these new requirements and the economic argument for resuming exports, experts say the new decision appears to abandon the conservation aspect of the issue. They also say that resuming exports will not contribute much to the economy as long as the illegal market for lobster exports persists. “The new decree has shifted from what used to be aiming for the conservation of the commodity of lobsters and crabs, to something that's emphasizing the business development of exporting and farming lobster larva, Dani Setiawan, the managing director of the Indonesian Traditional Fishermen's Union (KNTI), told Mongabay in an interview. Dani said the new decree failed to address the lack of domestic infrastructure for lobster aquaculture. If done properly, he said, such an industry would employ small-scale and traditional fishermen and have direct economic benefits for these communities.

The northern coasts of Indonesia's Java and Lombok islands are the heart of the country's lobster larvae production. In Lombok, sand lobsters make up 90% of the annual catch, according to a study. The lobsters are grown in floating cages and fed small fish until harvested after six months, as they near maturity. In 2012, the industry was valued at \$2 million.

A major obstacle to economically viable lobster aquaculture is the high mortality rate during the nursery stage, more than 50%, which has been widely reported in Vietnam and Indonesia. Dani said small fishermen had the potential and technical skills to build up the lobster aquaculture industry, but lacked the financial capital and access to both local and international markets. “This should have been seen as an opportunity for the government to prioritize the use of lobster larvae for aquaculture in the country rather than for exports, he said. Conservationists say the government should prioritize environmentally sustainable economic activities. “Otherwise, only the big businesses will get the benefits from this opportunity, Dani said.

Global Marine Commodities publishes guidelines for an inclusive gender approach in communication products

https://globalmarinecommodities.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/Gender-toolkit_GMC-Project.pdf

"The Global Sustainable Supply Chains for Marine Commodities Project (GMC) is an interregional initiative implemented by the Ministries and Bureaus of Fisheries and Planning of Costa Rica, Ecuador, Indonesia and the Philippines, with technical support by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), facilitated by Sustainable Fisheries Partnership (SFP) and funded by the Global Environment Facility (GEF).

The GMC Project objective is to contribute to the transformation of the seafood market by mainstreaming sustainability in the value chain of important seafood commodities from developing countries, improving emerging tools such as corporate sustainable purchasing policies and Fishery Improvement Projects (FIPs), driving changes in national fisheries policy for improved fisheries administration, and generating learnings to be shared worldwide.

As part of the gender strategy developed for the GMC project, a need to formulate an easy tool that serves as a starting point for the design and revision of the project's communication products was identified. This practical and easy to follow “guidelines tool outlines tips for how to apply a gender and inclusion lens while developing and reviewing communications materials specifically related to the GMC project. The intention is to provide basic guidance for thinking more deeply and critically about how gender inclusion and gender equality can be adhered into communications products and the processes to develop them.

Indonesia seeks UN protection after deaths on Chinese fishing ships

<https://asia.nikkei.com/Politics/International-relations/Indonesia-seeks-UN-protection-after-deaths-on-Chinese-fishing-ships>

"Indonesia has urged the United Nations Human Rights Council to be vigilant of abusive practices in the fisheries industry, its U.N. mission said Tuesday, after the bodies of three Indonesian fishermen were thrown overboard from Chinese fishing vessels in recent months. ""Indonesia underlines the urgent need for the council to protect the rights of vulnerable groups, specifically the rights of people working in the fisheries sector,"" said Hasan Kleib, the Indonesian ambassador to the U.N. in Geneva, according to a release issued by the mission.

The Indonesian mission in Geneva raised the issue on Friday with the U.N. council, which is discussing ways to balance the response to the coronavirus pandemic with protecting human rights. Three Indonesian fishermen died aboard Chinese fishing vessels in the Pacific Ocean between December and March. The captain said they died from an infectious disease, and had to be buried at sea to keep the rest of the crew safe. ""China takes that report very seriously and is looking into it,"" Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Zhao Lijian told reporters on Monday.

""The Chinese side is in close communication with the Indonesian side on this and will properly deal with the issue based on facts and law,"" he said. The deaths came to light after some of the Indonesian crew members disembarked at Busan, South Korea, in late April. One of the crew members later died from pneumonia. Lawyers for the fishermen issued a statement Sunday outlining human rights abuses aboard Chinese vessels.

The statement said the Indonesian crew were forced to work 18 hours a day and drink distilled seawater, while the Chinese crew had access to mineral water. Part of their pay had apparently

been withheld as well. Indonesian police plan to launch an investigation into the allegations. The issue has become a diplomatic flashpoint between Indonesia and China as well. Indonesian Foreign Minister Retno Marsudi summoned the Chinese ambassador Thursday to express Jakarta's concern, and to push for a review on what happened. An organization representing Indonesian migrants also issued a statement urging the Indonesian government to recall its ambassador to China and to expel the Chinese ambassador to Indonesia.

Taiwan No. 1 focus of complaints by Indonesian migrant fishermen

<https://focustaiwan.tw/society/202005120019>

"Nearly one third of complaints filed by Indonesian migrant fishermen are employed on Taiwanese ships, the most out of any country, according to recent statistics released by an Indonesian government agency. Of the 389 complaints the Agency for the Protection of Indonesian Migrant Workers (BP2MI) received from 2018 to May 6, 2020, 120 were filed by fishermen who worked on Taiwanese ships, said Benny Rhamdani, who heads the agency. Fishermen working on South Korean ships reported the second highest number of complaints, with 42, followed by Peru (30), China (23) and South Africa (16).

According to Benny, 164 of the complaints involved unpaid wages, while 47 involved deaths, 46 dealt with injuries, 23 with forced deportations and 18 fishermen reported that their passports or other documents were confiscated by brokers. While 213 of the complaints the agency received have been resolved, the rest are still being processed, said Benny. In response to the report, Fisheries Agency Deputy Director-General Lin Kuo-ping said that most of the complaints his agency receives from migrant fishermen concern underpaid wages.

In cases where the complaints are found to be valid, employers are fined and ordered to pay their workers in full, Lin told CNA on Tuesday. There have also been cases where the salary is withheld by brokers in the migrants' home country, which does not concern Taiwanese employers or brokers, Lin said. Other cases the agency has dealt with involve workers who receive inadequate rest between shifts and a small percentage who had their papers confiscated, Lin said.

He added that the agency has received no complaints involving death, injury or deportations in recent years, but noted that the agency only handles complaints from fishermen working on far-sea fishing boats. Other cases are under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Labor, he said. The working conditions of migrant fishermen have been in the spotlight in recent weeks, after three Indonesian fishermen registered to the same Chinese vessel died and their bodies were thrown into the ocean.

Another fisherman who worked on the ship died in South Korea, where the vessel docked after 13 months at sea. The case, which was first reported by South Korean media, is under

investigation by Indonesian and Chinese authorities.

Indonesia condemns abuse of its fishermen on Chinese boats

<https://thediplomat.com/2020/05/indonesia-condemns-abuse-of-its-fishermen-on-chinese-boats/>

"Indonesia's government on Sunday condemned what it called the “inhuman treatment of its nationals by a Chinese fishing company that allegedly kept Indonesian fishermen as virtual slaves, leading to the deaths of at least three of them. Foreign Minister Retno Marsudi told a video conference from the capital, Jakarta, that 49 Indonesian fishermen, ranging from 19 to 24 years old, were forced to work an average of over 18 hours a day on at least four Chinese fishing boats. Marsudi said some of the fishermen were either not paid at all or did not receive the amount they had agreed to.

The endless work and poor conditions on the ship caused illnesses among the crew members, killing at least three Indonesians, whose bodies were cast overboard into the Pacific Ocean, she said. “We condemn the inhuman treatment against our crew members working at the Chinese fishing company, Marsudi said. “Based on the information from the crews, the company has violated human rights. Marsudi said almost all of the fishermen were repatriated to Indonesia from four Chinese fishing vessels after undergoing a mandatory coronavirus quarantine at a hotel in the South Korean city of Busan, where their boats were docked after 13 months at sea.

The move came after videos released by local media in South Korea drew a public outcry. On May 5, an unidentified Indonesian fisherman told the South Korean television station MBC about the unfair treatment the crew members received while working on the Chinese boats. The station also aired a video that showed the dead body of another Indonesian fisherman being thrown overboard one of the vessels.

Two other Indonesian fishermen who had previously died were also cast overboard, the fisherman said, adding that some crew members were sick for over a month but received no medical care. The crew members received less than \$300 for a full year's work as opposed to the \$300 per month that their contract had called for, according to a group of Indonesian lawyers who represented 14 of the 49 fishermen. Marsudi said the Chinese government has paid special attention to the case and authorities from the two countries will set up a joint investigation into the allegations against the Chinese fishing company.

“We will ensure that the company has to fulfill our crews' rights, she said. As the result of an Associated Press investigation in 2015, about 4,000 foreign fishermen, mostly from Myanmar, were rescued and freed after being stranded on several remote eastern Indonesian islands, including some found to have been enslaved for years. The treatment of both the Myanmar and Indonesian fishermen falls under the U.S. government's definition of slavery, which includes forcing people to keep working even if they had signed up for the jobs, or trafficking them into

situations where they are exploited.

Distribution disruption hurts thousands of fishermen in Indonesia's East Nusa Tenggara

<https://www.thejakartapost.com/news/2020/05/08/distribution-disruption-hurts-thousands-of-ntt-fishermen.html>

"Fishermen in East Nusa Tenggara (NTT), Indonesia, have suffered a major decline in their income not only because of smaller fish catches but also as a result of a fall in prices because of distribution disruption caused by emergency measures to curb the spread of COVID-19, a survey says. According to a survey conducted by local NGO Perkumpulan Pikul, the revenue losses could amount to Rp 2 trillion (US\$133.8 million) in 2020. The survey also found that the decline in fish production and the fall in prices have severely affected the livelihoods of about 66,525 fishing households comprising 226,526 people.

"These figures are related to the COVID-19 impact on fishermen and small-scale fisheries in mid-April, the organization's program manager Andry Ratumakin told The Jakarta Post on Wednesday. He said fish production in the province had declined sharply in recent months because of rough seas that hampered fishing activities. Andry estimated that fish production would decline by 50 percent this year to 78,845 tons from about 157,691 tons in the previous year.

Despite the fall in production, the province will still enjoy a surplus, because the fish consumption of the province's 5.4 million population is expected only to reach 12,860 tons a year, he said. "NTT still has a surplus of 65,985 tons of fish. The problem is how we distribute it amid the movement restrictions for COVID-19, Andry said, adding that the distribution problem had caused a fall in fish prices by between 50 and 75 percent.

To maintain the people's purchasing power and provide them with high-protein foods, the NGO urged the government to provide relief funds for local fishermen affected by the distribution disruption. The organization also urged the government to help bridge fish producers with buyers by re-opening the access to market with sufficient health protocols, while also instructing civil servants to purchase fishery products.

"The Maritime Affairs and Fisheries Ministry could also purchase fishery products and distribute them to the people and purchase other products made by local producers to keep the rural area's economic engine running, Andry said. To cushion the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on low-income families, the NTT provincial administration has allocated Rp 957 billion from the central government's village fund program, the province's development planning and research agency head Lecky Koli said.

“Out of the Rp 3 trillion village funds allocated to our province, we took Rp 957 billion to help low-income citizens affected by COVID-19, he said. The funds will be given to low-income families who have not received other social security programs such as the Family Hope Program and noncash staple aid, Lecky added. “We are aiming to provide income for poor people who haven't been registered, who have lost their job because of COVID-19, and those who are terminally ill, he said, adding that the recipients would receive Rp 600,000 in cash for three consecutive months.

Dayak women of Indonesia resist gender inequality exacerbated by palm oil production

<https://news.mongabay.com/2020/05/dayak-women-of-indonesia-resist-gender-inequality-exacerbated-by-palm-oil-production/>

"In the rural Indonesian village of Hongoi, indigenous Dayak Modang women like Lina* have had to come up with creative ways to continue their long-held tradition of weaving. Some Dayak women use their skills to sell or exchange their crafts as a source of income. In the absence of the forest materials necessary for this practice, many women have replaced traditional materials like rattan vines with things like single-use plastic cups and straws.

“Finding the plastic is the hardest part, Lina told Tessa Toumbourou, a researcher from the University of Melbourne, as quoted in a study published in February in Asia Pacific Viewpoint. “Once I have them, weaving them together is easy, it only takes a few nights. The study examines the relationship between palm oil development and increased gender division in Hongoi, East Kalimantan province, where the Modang community resides. The Modang are a subgroup of the Dayak Kayanic group, who have lived in the area dating back to the 16th century.

The palm oil boom that started in the 2000s brought large-scale deforestation to the region and increasingly diminished access to materials and resources that people once gathered from ancestral forest landscapes. Researchers focused on three main factors that influenced how palm oil impacted men and women differently: social inequality, livelihood strategies, and food security.

The basis of this research was formed on feminist political ecology and it emphasized the act of “sustaining livelihoods, despite the pressures of palm oil development, as an act of resistance. Lead author Toumbourou emphasizes the importance of the Modang community's ability to maintain the productivity and cultural significance of their land. “Holding onto their land and continuing to sustain a livelihood in these times is an act of resistance, she said in an interview. “Communities are under intense pressure to be assimilated into the palm oil industry.

In such conditions, many assume that communities would inevitably give up. By choosing to maintain their socioeconomic status on their own terms instead of being absorbed into the palm

oil industry as landless laborers, they are actively resisting the allocation of resources into external markets. Over the past decade, all neighboring villages eventually conceded land to oil palm plantations, and Hongoi became completely surrounded by oil palms. In Hongoi and elsewhere in the region, companies have taken advantage of ambiguity in the precise location of village borders to encroach on ancestral forests and farmland.

“Though there are different views across the village about how and whether to negotiate with palm oil companies, no one wanted to give up their village land entirely, as this would mean the loss of their autonomy as farmers and their cultural practices and knowledge, Toumbourou said. “By sustaining livelihoods, women are also helping to prevent the need for their village to release land to companies and become landless laborers.

Swidden (slash-and-burn) agriculture and cash crops like cocoa, banana and coffee have long been common sources of food and income in the Dayak community. Villagers would also gather food and materials from the forest and nearby river. However, as oil palm plantations have replaced forest landscapes, the loss of resources, as well as the loss of ecosystem services, have threatened main livelihood staples.

Indonesian sailors’ deaths on Chinese fishing vessel raise questions about working conditions

<https://www.thejakartapost.com/news/2020/05/07/indonesian-sailors-deaths-on-chinese-fishing-vessel-raise-questions-about-working-conditions.html>

"The deaths of four Indonesian crew members with links to the same Chinese fishing vessel have raised concerns about working conditions on the vessel and others like it. The case first entered the public eye after a video allegedly showing Chinese sailors throwing the body of a dead Indonesian crew member overboard went viral. The footage was first featured on a news segment on South Korea's Munhwa Broadcasting Corporation (MBC) on Tuesday.

The video shows what appears to be an orange body bag being thrown off a fishing vessel by a group of men. One man can be seen praying in front of the body bag moments before it is thrown overboard. Two unidentified Indonesian sailors who worked on the vessel spoke to MBC about their experience, claiming that those aboard the ship had endured poor living conditions. “We had to [work] for around 30 hours. We were given a meal break every six hours. We would just sit around during the breaks, one of the sailors said.

The other sailor said they were made to drink filtered sea water during work, which eventually took a toll on their health. “We became nauseated. We could no longer drink [sea water]. There was one time when our throats became clogged with phlegm, he said, adding that some even experienced breathing difficulties. In a press briefing on Thursday, Indonesian Foreign Minister

Retno LP Marsudi confirmed that, in the past few months, four Indonesian sailors who had been registered to Chinese fishing vessel Long Xin 629 had died.

One of the sailors, identified only as EP, died at the Busan Medical Center in South Korea on April 27. Another sailor, identified as AR, died on Chinese fishing vessel Tian Yu 8 on March 30. Two other sailors died on Long Xin 629 in December 2019. “On April 26, the Indonesian Embassy [in Seoul] was informed that a citizen with the initials EP was sick. When they contacted him, he said that he had long suffered from difficulty breathing and had coughed up blood, Retno said.

“The Busan Medical Center said that he died from pneumonia. Retno said that, according to a statement from Tian Yu 8, AR had fallen ill on March 26 and was moved from Long Xin 629 to Tian Yu 8 to be taken to port for treatment. However, AR died before the ship reached port and was buried at sea on the morning of March 31. “According to the embassy, the ship had informed AR's family and received approval for a burial at sea on March 30, she said. The two sailors who died in December were said to be buried at sea after dying of an infectious disease.

The Migrant Care advocacy group criticized the treatment of Indonesian crewmen on the Chinese vessels, saying that the harsh work environment infringed on their basic human rights. “What these Indonesian crewmen experienced was a violation of their human rights. They were robbed of their freedom by working in an inappropriate environment. They were deprived of their right to information and, ultimately, they were robbed of their right to live, Migrant Care executive director Wahyu Susilo said in a statement, adding that the case was a form of slavery in modern times.

Retno said the Foreign Ministry had summoned Chinese Ambassador to Indonesia Xiao Qian on Thursday to express concerns about the alleged mistreatment of Indonesian workers aboard Chinese fishing vessels. “In regard to the burial at sea for the three Indonesians, the Indonesian government has again demanded clarification on whether the burials followed the ILO [International Labor Organization] standards.

The Indonesian government also expressed concerns over the poor living conditions on the ships that allegedly caused the death of the four Indonesian crew members, she said. She also demanded that Chinese authorities conduct an investigation on the working conditions of the fishing ships. “If the investigation has found that there's a violation, then we want the Chinese authorities to uphold enforcement that is fair, she said.

Indonesia also asked the Chinese government to help ensure that Chinese companies fulfill the workers' rights, including their salaries, and provide safe working conditions. In his response, the Chinese ambassador assured Indonesian officials that his government would make sure the companies would be accountable to regulations and contracts.

COVID-19 pandemic poses special threat to indigenous health, culture

<https://www.yahoo.com/lifestyle/pandemic-poses-special-threat-indigenous-054337264.html>

"In Indonesia's easternmost province, felled trees are stacked to block a road that leads to Papuan villages. On the Thai-Myanmar border, the Karen people have also made makeshift barricades and marked them with signs warning visitors away. Across the globe, the coronavirus pandemic has left indigenous peoples at particular risk because so many have poorer health and less access to health care than their non-indigenous peers. While there are, of course, vast differences among indigenous groups, including lifestyle and socioeconomic factors, the United Nations estimates that the life expectancy of indigenous people can be up to 20 years lower than that of their counterparts.

A recommendation from the Australian government underscored the disparities. A message sent in March warned: "People over aged 70, ages over 60 with preexisting conditions, or Indigenous people aged over 50 should stay home whenever possible for their own protection. The more stringent recommendation for indigenous people is likely because so many have the kinds of health problems that experts say can result in more serious consequences if they contract the coronavirus.

According to U.N. data, more than half of indigenous adults over 35 worldwide have Type 2 diabetes. Indigenous people also experience "disproportionately high levels" of cardiovascular disease, HIV/AIDS and illnesses such as tuberculosis. For most people, the virus causes mild or moderate symptoms. But for some, especially those with health problems and older people, it can cause more severe illness and lead to death. Genetics may play a part in poorer health among indigenous people, Mason Durie, a professor of Mori Studies at Massey University who is himself M?ori, but social factors are generally considered more important.

Aware of the added risks, many indigenous people especially those living near or in urban centers are seeking isolation, said Rudolph R?ser, an indigenous activist and executive director of the Center for World Indigenous Studies. "Many people that are able to are simply running back into the forest, running back up the mountain, trying to get away from the urban settings to get away from potential vectors, he said. "They simply closed down, put up obstacles, and block the roads going into their territories.

That has raised the possibility that members who don't typically live in traditional villages could bring the disease back with them. And some communities, like aboriginal ones in Australia, may be ill equipped to keep people safe because of poor infrastructure and crowding in homes, said Dr. Mark Wenitong, an aboriginal general practitioner and adviser to aboriginal health councils in Australia.

Some indigenous communities are practicing social distancing that closely resembles what's happening outside them. In Indonesia, groups including Papuans and the Buntao' in South

Sulawesi province are blocking access to their villages. Elsewhere, others, like the Karen people, are also adding in traditional practices, such as performing rituals to remove bad luck or marking village entrances with culturally significant symbols.

How the COVID-19 pandemic is affecting marine ecosystems, Part 1: Fisheries and aquaculture

<https://meam.openchannels.org/news/skimmer-marine-ecosystems-and-management/how-covid-19-pandemic-affecting-marine-ecosystems-part>

"Fisheries and their attendant industries and communities across the globe – ranging from European to UK to South African to Indonesian to North American – are being devastated by problems starting fishing voyages, decreases in demand from large-scale buyers – particularly restaurants, and the shutdown of exports to Asia – particularly China. The head of the Pacific Coast Federation of Fishermen's Associations called the COVID-19 pandemic “the biggest crisis to hit the fishing industry ever.

In some countries, fishing vessels are stuck in port due to measures intended to decrease the spread of COVID-19, while in others countries, lack of demand for product, border closings, and trouble gathering crews and supplies are keeping fishers at home. Satellite data suggest that fishing activity has decreased dramatically – as much as 80 percent – in China and West Africa. Offshore fleets that can spend extended periods of time at sea because they can process and freeze fish at sea and/or offload catch to transshipment vessels seem to be maintaining effort, however.

Sales and prices for premium seafood products that are generally sold to restaurants – such as lobster, crabs, scallops, and wild salmon – have been hit particularly hard. US Maine lobster, which would normally sell for \$10 a pound (boat price) at this time of year, is currently selling for under \$3 a pound. Many grocery stores have shut down their fish counters and are only selling the most popular, prepackaged seafood items to make restocking easier and satisfy demand for less perishable products. Fishing groups are starting to explore ways to increase direct sales of fresh seafood to consumers, but current direct-sale markets and supply lines are insufficient to deal with the mass quantities of fresh seafood that are now available.

Pandemic stories from the fisheries sector highlight the intense globalization and complexity of the seafood trade. Many countries, such as the UK, Canada, and the US export most of the catch from their domestic fisheries while importing most of the seafood that their residents eat. (Some catch is exported to take advantage of lower labor costs for processing fish and then reimported.) These complicated trade patterns are a massive liability to the industry as the pandemic shuts down normal trade routes.

Even as nations start to relax measures to prevent the spread of COVID-19 and open businesses and industries, safety concerns may continue to dog the seafood sector. Fishing vessels and crowded seafood processing facilities do not easily allow for physical distancing, and both commercial and recreational fisheries are potential vectors of COVID-19 to remote communities. As with other environmental issues, the impacts of the pandemic on fisheries depend on local circumstances.

Some Kenyan fishers are experiencing a temporary boost in sales and prices as local buyers switch from frozen Chinese fillet imports to local catch from Lake Victoria. This boom is unlikely to be long-term, however, because Kenya typically only produces a third of the fish that it consumes, relying on China for much of the difference. Restrictions on imports from China may soon lead to more widespread protein shortages for the country. Similar shortages of aquatic foods and increases in prices are likely to occur in many other areas, harming poor consumers who depend on seafood for protein and essential micronutrients.

And, in general, already vulnerable and marginalized small-scale fishers and the industries and communities that depend on them (e.g., fish vendors and fish processors) are likely to be devastated by the pandemic as their access to coastal areas is restricted and fish markets are affected by shutdowns. There is relatively little news coverage of the impact of the pandemic on small-scale fishers, and Too Big To Ignore (a global research partnership) and the Ocean Frontier Institute are currently working to document how the pandemic is affecting small-scale fishers.

The extent of the COVID-19 pandemic on recreational fisheries is not yet clear, but some recreational fisheries, including all recreational fisheries in the Mediterranean, have been closed. For some fisheries, decreases in fishing effort from commercial and recreational fisheries for an extended period of time could allow marine stocks to recover. If fishing effort stopped for a full spawning cycle, the biomass of some species, such as herring, could nearly double. However, the pandemic is also having some negative impacts on fisheries sustainability and management.

In some areas, fishing pressure is increasing on species that are commonly canned or frozen, e.g., small pelagics and tuna. There are currently mass migrations of city dwellers to rural areas in some countries (e.g., in India and Kenya) due to urban shutdowns to slow the spread of COVID-19. These migrations may place further pressure on marine stocks and coastal ecosystems that are already stressed. Fishing is often an “occupation of last resort when other employment opportunities and sources of income and food are limited.

Some countries are extending their fishing seasons, halting stock assessment surveys, and decreasing fisheries monitoring, both from onboard observers and fishing patrols. NOAA Fisheries in the US recently issued an emergency action allowing it to waive requirements for fisheries observers onboard vessels and at fish processing plants for the next six months if it is deemed necessary to protect public health and safety (e.g., of fishers and observers) and maintain fish supply to markets.

Many fisheries science and management meetings are being cancelled. Leading seafood sustainability rating organization Seafood Watch has had to substantially reduce its workforce through layoffs and furloughs. Marine aquaculture is being affected by many of the same factors as fisheries, including lack of demand for fresh seafood and trade restrictions. In addition, fish farmers are incurring expenses to continue feeding stocks that they are not harvesting, and they are running into problems importing brood stock.

The UN Food and Agricultural Organization has a host of recommendations for mitigating the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the fisheries and aquaculture sectors and seafood consumers. Some recommendations include: -- Government purchases of excess seafood supply for institutions such as prisons -- Restricting fishing to levels that match demand to keep prices level -- Direct financial assistance to fishing vessel owners and crews -- Increased access to credit programs and loan forgiveness for seafood industry businesses -- Reducing trade restrictions on food items -- Increasing remote monitoring and surveillance of fishing activity.

Jakarta fishing community forgotten as COVID-19 begins to bite

<https://indonesiaatmelbourne.unimelb.edu.au/jakarta-fishing-community-forgotten-as-covid-19-begins-to-bite/>

"It is now two months since Indonesia announced its first confirmed cases of Covid-19 on 2 March. The number of cases continues to climb, while the "large-scale social restrictions (PSBB) implemented in Jakarta since early April are having profound economic and social consequences for residents of the city, especially its poor and marginalised. One group that has been disproportionately affected is the fishing community of Kali Adem in North Jakarta.

Their homes, built on the banks of Muara Angke, have poor sanitation and no access to running water. Even under normal circumstances, they face the near constant threats of flooding and forced eviction. Despite lacking formal land certificates, the community of Kali Adem have clear legal status and are recognised residents of Jakarta. The community is comprised of 167 families, and 567 individuals, in 18 neighbourhood units (RT). Although they are distributed across several areas, they effectively live in one region: the banks of Muara Angke.

The majority work as fishermen or women, but they earn income in a variety of other ways, for example as laundry workers, day labourers, hawkers, security staff, and construction workers. The combined shocks of Covid-19 and the accompanying social restrictions have had a marked impact on this community. Based on a quick assessment conducted by LBH Masyarakat paralegals, about 85 per cent of 158 Kali Adem residents surveyed said that they had lost income, with most reporting falls of 50 to 75 per cent from normal levels.

The reasons for this are numerous but relate mainly to the closure of the fish market, which has left fishermen and women unable to sell their catch. This has had follow-on effects for local

residents who earn a living selling goods and services to fish market customers. Members of the Kali Adem community in more formal work have mostly been ordered to take leave without pay or have lost their jobs completely.

Under Jakarta's large-scale social restrictions, citizens are required to implement “clean and healthy lifestyle protocols, which range from regular hand washing and eating a healthy diet, to wearing masks when leaving the home. But how are the Kali Adem community supposed to do that when their right to a clean environment has never been fulfilled? If members of the Kali Adem community want clean water they have to buy it.

If they want to bathe or go to the toilet, they have two options: do it directly in the river, or use a public toilet, usually for a fee. The density of their living arrangements makes social distancing almost impossible. And given that so many have lost their sources of income, it is hard for them to purchase masks. Kali Adem fishermen and women are highly dependent on the operation of the fish market. But since the implementation of social restrictions, they have not been able to sell their catch as normal.

Many other sectors have had to adapt their business practices to social restrictions, the fishing industry could do so too. Technology-based trading, for example, would allow markets to continue to operate online, and help Kali Adem fishermen and women continue to sell their catch. Likewise, the provision of cold storage facilities would allow fishers to store small stocks of fish intended for sale to small and medium businesses or consumers for sale at a later date.

Unfortunately, the government's response to the economic impacts of the coronavirus and social distancing has consisted solely of distributing staple goods – it has yet to implement policies like those above, which would go a long way to keeping fishermen and women in work and mitigating the impacts of the pandemic.

COVID-19 no excuse for dropping guard against illegal fishing, Indonesia says

<https://news.mongabay.com/2020/05/covid-19-no-excuse-for-dropping-guard-against-illegal-fishing-indonesia-says/>

"Fishers are taking advantage of a perceived drop in enforcement amid the COVID-19 crisis to operate illegally in Indonesian waters, officials say. Indonesia has since November 2014 banned foreign fishing boats from operating in its waters, home to some of the world's richest fish stocks. Indonesian fisheries law also bans destructive fishing methods, including the use of explosives and cyanide. But travel bans and other restrictions imposed in response to the novel coronavirus pandemic appear to have encouraged some fishers to try their luck.

“In conditions like these, destructive fishing practices are potentially increasing, and this must remain a concern for all authorities and regional governments, Haeru Rahayu, the director-

general of marine and fisheries resources at the Indonesian fisheries ministry, told Mongabay. Authorities have seized at least 19 foreign fishing boats since March 1, a day before the country reported its first confirmed COVID-19 cases. These boats bore the flags of Vietnam, Malaysia and the Philippines, and were caught in separate incidents off North Natuna, in the Sulawesi Sea, and in the Malacca Strait.

At the same time the government has also reported a growing number of cases of destructive fishing by local fishers across the archipelago. Haeru said his team had anticipated the “uptick in illegal fishing by foreign boats trying to operate under the impression that the COVID-19 measures would result in less maritime vigilance by Indonesian authorities. “Amid the COVID-19 pandemic, the fisheries ministry is absolutely not relaxing its operations to protect the sovereignty of fisheries management in the Republic of Indonesia, he said.

“Our monitoring fleets are staying ready in sites that are prone to illegal fishing. Indonesia's former fisheries minister, Susi Pudjiastuti, who enacted the ban on foreign fishing, gained widespread popularity for a policy of seizing these vessels and later sinking them to create deterrent effect and prevent their possible reuse for illegal fishing. The policy, though controversial with some of the flag countries of the capsized vessels, was praised by experts and the public at home and abroad, and was considered to have helped replenish fish stocks in Indonesian waters.

But law enforcement at sea remains a key challenge for the Southeast Asian nation, whose more than 17,000 islands and third-longest coastline in the world makes it difficult to detect illegal and destructive fishers seizing on blind spots in monitoring. The incumbent fisheries minister, Edhy Prabowo, has also been criticized by experts for considering a plan to end the sinking of seized illegal boats. Marine observers have called on the government to beef up efforts to guard the country's waters and fisheries resources from illegal and destructive practices amid the coronavirus crisis. Indonesia has recorded 10,118 infections and 792 deaths from COVID-19 as of April 30.

“Generally, economic crime which is an organized action always looks for that moment when monitoring by state authorities is weak or absent, Mas Achmad Santosa, a former coordinator of Indonesia's anti-illegal fishing task force and current executive director of the think tank Indonesia Ocean Justice Initiative, told Mongabay. Santosa urged the fisheries ministry to maintain or, if possible, increase monitoring days by the coast guard from the current 150 days per year, and optimize the use of satellite tracking systems for vessel monitoring, such as AIS and VMS.

“It is very possible that the budget for maritime monitoring is reduced because the priority is now focused on combating COVID-19, Santosa said. “But I appreciate the fisheries ministry which has seized 19 foreign boats amid the COVID-19 pandemic. It shows that monitoring isn't relaxed. The fisheries ministry reported on April 22 that its budget for this year has been slashed

by 1.8 trillion rupiah (\$119 million), or more than a quarter, to provide funding for tackling the COVID-19 outbreak in the country.

Among the affected programs is a stimulus package to prop up fish sales and provide fishers with financial aid as the health crisis hits seafood sales and demand; the stimulus has been cut by 17% to 362 billion rupiah (\$24 million). Indonesia's total budget for the coronavirus crisis is nearly \$27 billion. Activists say the government must prioritize the social safety net for the 8 million households that depend on fishing for a livelihood.

They've called for, among other things, funds to be reallocated from the 9.93 trillion rupiah (\$657 million) budget for local elections this year. "The government must allocate special funds for fishing households whose incomes have dropped due to the COVID-19 outbreak, said Susan Herawati, the secretary general of the local NGO People's Coalition for Fisheries Justice (KIARA).

Indonesia May Day rallies go online amid COVID-19 restrictions as workers continue to oppose job creation bill

<https://www.thejakartapost.com/news/2020/04/30/may-day-rallies-go-online-amid-covid-19-restrictions-as-workers-continue-to-oppose-job-creation-bill.html>

"A coalition of three major labor unions in Indonesia, calling itself the the Indonesian Labor Workers Assembly (MPBI), is preparing to organize May Day digital strikes, demanding an end to the deliberation of the omnibus bill on job creation. The coalition previously planned to hold the rally on the streets on Thursday. The unions agreed to cancel the street protests after President Joko ""Jokowi"" Widodo announced last Friday that the government had reached a deal with the House of Representatives to delay deliberation of the labor provisions within the bill.

The May Day online protests are to take place on the Twitter, Facebook and Instagram platforms of the coalition members' accounts. As of Thursday, a hashtag, #demodarirumah (rally from home), popped up in several social media platforms, mostly voicing opposition to the omnibus bill. Said Iqbal, president of the Confederation of Indonesian Trade Unions (KSPI) ? one of MPBI's members ? said on Thursday that even without street protests, the coalition would still call on the government to withdraw the omnibus bill from deliberations. "

"We ask the government to issue a Keppres [Presidential Decree] to allow trade unions to join the drafting team so that the bill will accommodate the public's interests, he said. The coalition also demanded job protections amid the COVID-19 pandemic, noting that airlines, hotels, travel agents, restaurants, logistic firms, online transportation services, digital economic firms, as well as micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) had seen the most layoffs. ""The number could reach 80 to 90 percent of the total number of layoffs amid the pandemic.

Manpower Ministry data show that more than 1.9 million workers in both the formal and informal sectors had either been furloughed or laid off as of April 19, as companies temporarily halt operations to comply with large-scale social restrictions (PSBB). However, Iqbal said, not all sectors had been equally hit by the COVID-19 pandemic. ""Don't use the pandemic [as an excuse] not to pay full THR [Idul Fitri holiday bonuses], wages or severance pay [for laid-off workers],"" he said.

The coalition also noted that many workers were forced to continue working as normal amid the pandemic and demanded that the government and employers ensure workers were better protected. ""Many of them have been infected with COVID-19, for example in PT Denso Indonesia, PT Eds Manufacturing Indonesia (PEMI) and PT Yamaha Music. They are giant companies. The workers have been infected [with the virus] and some of them have died,"" Iqbal said. The coalition plans to display banners outside company offices and other strategic places in protest.

Andi Gani Nena Wea, president of the All-Indonesia Workers Union Confederation (KSPSI) ? also a MPBI member ? said the three labor unions would also replace the May Day street rally with social service activities on Friday. ""We will distribute PPE and hand sanitizer to hospitals in Bekasi, Jakarta and Tangerang. Workers will do the same in their respective regions, he said.

Labor groups the Inter-Factory Laborers Federation (FBLP), the All-Indonesia United Workers Confederation (KPBI) and SINDIKASI, a trade union for media and creative industry workers, are also calling for deliberations on the job creation bill to be stopped so the government and the House can focus on COVID-19. ""We don't need them to delay deliberations of part [of the bill]. We demand deliberations of the entire bill be stopped, Ellena Ekarehendy of SINDIKASI said.

COVID-19: Increasing number of undocumented Indonesian migrant workers returning from Malaysia by illegal routes at sea

<https://www.theonlinecitizen.com/2020/04/28/covid-19-increasing-number-of-undocumented-indonesian-migrant-workers-returning-from-msia-by-illegal-routes-at-sea/>

"20 undocumented Indonesian migrant workers returning from Malaysia were caught illegal-border crossing at sea after sneaking past the Indonesian Navy in the early hours on Sunday (26 April). Border authorities caught them aboard a fishing vessel near Asahan, north Sumatera. There were seven women, 13 men, and a toddler on the vessel.

Commander of Tanjung Balai Asahan Naval Base, Com. Dafris Datuk Syahrudin told The Jakarta Post on Sunday that the vessel's passengers are now being tested for COVID-19. He added that the migrant workers appeared healthy on the outset and did not show any symptoms of COVID-19. Belawan I Naval Base commander Adm. Abdul Rasyid said that there has been

an increase in the number of undocumented Indonesian migrant workers returning from Malaysia by sea through illegal routes.

“In recent weeks, we've caught many undocumented Indonesian migrant workers returning from Malaysia through illegal routes. We have tried to catch them so that they don't enter the country without going through medical check-ups. It's important to curb the spread of COVID-19 from overseas, he said. On 20 April, the local authorities also caught 22 undocumented Indonesian migrant workers returning from Malaysia on a fishing vessel in Asahan regency, North Sumatra.

“We don't want to take any chances in this difficult time, as the country is on alert for the COVID-19 pandemic and its transmission – especially from overseas. The Indonesian Navy will increase border patrols, especially in suspected illegal routes, Abdul told The Jakarta Post on Sunday. According to the government data as of 21 April, there are more than 64,000 Indonesian migrant workers who had returned from Malaysia since the country imposed COVID-19 lockdown. Around 46,000 of them are reported to have travelled by sea.

Assessing El Nino's impact on fisheries and aquaculture around the world

<https://phys.org/news/2020-04-el-nio-impact-fisheries-aquaculture.html>

"While considerable resources are invested in seasonal forecasts and early-warning systems for food security, not enough is known about El Nino's impact on the fisheries and aquaculture sectors, even though its name was given in the 1600s by fishers off the coast of Peru. To remedy that, FAO is publishing, in partnership with French National Research Institute for Sustainable Development (IRD France), the report El Nino Southern Oscillation (ENSO) effects on fisheries and aquaculture. This report captures the current state of knowledge on the impacts of ENSO events across sectors, from food security to safety at sea, from fish biology and fishing operation to management measures.

El Nino is widely known as a climate pattern that begins over the Pacific Ocean but wreaks havoc on ecosystems in land and water far away from its origin. Its consequences include droughts and major harvest shortfalls in large swatches of Africa and Indonesia, forest fires in Australia, and serious flooding in South America. ENSOs are often simplified to reflect two main phases: El Nino, an anomalous warming phase in the central and/or eastern equatorial Pacific Ocean, and an opposite cooling phase called La Nina.

In the former phase, a thickened surface layer of warm water prevents cold and nutrient-rich deep ocean water to reach the surface layer where photosynthesis occurs, putting a break on ocean production. This lowers the availability of food to local fish species such as anchoveta, which in turn either migrate southwards or suffer a productivity collapse. While understanding of ENSOs has developed greatly since the 1950s, researchers have also been stymied as its incidences are rarely similar.

Adding to the complexity is that the frequency and intensity of these events appear to have intensified in the past two decades, with some climate models suggesting these trends may continue as the climate changes. "ENSO is not just a binary phenomenon (either warm or cold). Every ENSO event is different in signal, intensity, duration, and so are their consequences," says Arnaud Bertrand, marine ecologist at IRD, who coordinated the report. "

"Understanding the diversity is key to developing predictive and preparatory capacities". International experts based in Chile, France and Peru were recruited to produce this report. It addresses successively the diversity of ENSO events; ENSO forecasting; ENSO in the context of climate change; global overview of ENSO impacts; Assessment of regional ENSO impacts on marine capture fisheries; coral bleaching and damage to reefs and related fisheries; ENSO and aquaculture; ENSO and inland capture fisheries.

How COVID-19 is impacting the global salmon and shrimp sectors

<https://thefishsite.com/articles/how-covid-19-is-impacting-the-global-salmon-and-shrimp-sectors>

"The salmon and shrimp sectors have been affected very differently by the outbreak of the coronavirus pandemic, according to Gorjan Nikolik, senior seafood analyst at Rabobank. "Salmon is the safe haven of the seafood industry and has been impacted less than other sectors, explains Nikolik. "In Norway the forecast was for fairly limited growth – of about 3-4 percent – in the sector during 2020. Prices were very high in Q1, at over NOK 70 per kilo, and producers have benefitted from several strong years of prices, making the sector fairly resilient, he notes. "In Europe, which accounts for 50 percent of salmon consumption globally, most of the business lost from the foodservice sector has been taken up by retail sales.

However, the decline in exports to China and the US from the pandemic has led to an oversupply in Europe and a corresponding drop in prices from almost NOK 80 in January to around NOK 54 last week. But, in historical terms, this is still a reasonable price and, importantly, it still covers the production costs, Nikolik explains.

"While we expect prices to be lower than 2019, in Norway there have been no major disruptions in terms of feed delivery, handling and processing sectors, meaning the sector is comparatively well placed, he adds. "However, the situation in Chile is a bit different as its main markets for fresh salmon are the US and Brazil, while China, Russia and Japan account for the bulk of its frozen salmon sales.

This meant that, during January and February, the Chilean industry was doing very well – exports to the US actually increased in February as the supply from Europe contracted – and it only started to be impacted by COVID at the end of March / early April when the lockdown restrictions hit the US and Brazil, says Nikolik. "More recently, however, US demand has slumped dramatically – 68 percent of the US seafood sector is food service, rather than retail,

and this figure is probably around 60/40 for salmon sales, so the retail sector has not been able to make up for the disappearance of food service sales, he explains.

As a result of this drop in demand, according to Nikolik, Chilean producers are trying to hold onto their fish until the end of this year or early next year – either by delaying harvests and reducing feeding rates to minimise growth, or by freezing those salmon they do harvest. As a result he's expecting a reduction in Chilean salmon exports globally by as much as 30-50 percent during the peak of the crisis, from mid-March. And, as demand drops in Russia and Japan, so the Chileans are looking to sell a higher proportion of their frozen salmon to China.

There have also been considerable disruptions to the supply chain, with some processing plants needing to be closed or modified and the cost of airfreighting salmon to the US increasing by 200-300 percent for several weeks, although that has now normalised, says Nikolik. “Salmon is a well-financed sector, coming from years of strength, so the pandemic is unlikely to have lasting effects, he concludes. Nikolik notes that COVID-19 has had a much harsher impact on both the supply of and demand for shrimp.

“It's been the opposite of salmon, as the shrimp sector has already been suffering from two years characterised by oversupply and falling prices, which means there's not much of a buffer for it, he observes. “The start of the year saw a considerable reduction in demand from China, as the COVID restrictions coincided with Chinese New Year, and this caused producers to look to offload shrimp that had been destined for China to other markets – notably North America and Europe, he adds. In the first two months of the year, according to Nikolik, exports to the US from India, Indonesia and Ecuador rose by 30 percent, 25 percent and 54 percent respectively.

“The drop in Chinese demand also led to producers taking a major hit in terms of prices in January and February and this was compounded by a second price correction in March and April – from below production value, to even further below production value – when demand in Europe and the US slumped due the issues with COVID in these regions, Nikolik explains. He also points to disruptions to the production side caused by the lockdowns – in India, for example, producers have been struggling to source seed stocks and feed, while issues in the ports mean that its harder to fulfil export deals.

“Meanwhile in Ecuador, absenteeism is having a huge effect, with up to 50 percent of the workforce in the processing, and packaging not turning up to work, despite being exempt from the lockdowns, due to fear of the virus, Nikolik reflects. Despite seeding rates increasing year-on-year in January and February in both Vietnam and India, by April seeding rates have dropped across the world – in some countries no seeding has taken place for weeks on end, notes Nikolik. “If producers don't seed soon they will miss the key June-August growing season (when production usually peaks) and we heard predictions by producers that annual shrimp production in SE Asia may be 20-50 percent lower than in 2019, he explains.

In Ecuador, on the other hand, the larger players are planning to seed as normal, in the hope that they'll be able to achieve high prices, despite the risk of low demand continuing should COVID-related restrictions continue in their key markets. "Either way supply will decline quite a lot and so the inventories of (frozen) shrimp that have been stockpiled in markets such as the US, China and Europe will be consumed, Nikolik predicts. "It's even possible that people will be allowed to return to restaurants before the end of the year and find that there's no shrimp available, he adds.

"I think there will be a major price recovery: we have already seen interesting price movements in Vietnam, when China opened its border, but – to put it in perspective – it's still below the cost of production, he concludes. Finally, he notes that China is likely to account for any growth in the markets for farmed whitefish, such as tilapia and pangasius, as its domestic seafood market recovers and it looks for alternatives to the protein previously provided by the pork sector before the outbreak of African swine fever.

"The main international tilapia trade is from China to the US. This was hit by trade war-driven tariffs during 2019, which – combined with African swine fever leaving a gap in China's domestic protein market – led to greater domestic consumption of Chinese tilapia. "The US lifted its tariffs on Chinese tilapia in 2020, which led to an increase in Chinese tilapia exports to the US for the first time since 2014, but when China's domestic market recovers as the lockdown is lifted, sales to the US are likely to decline again, due to an increase in domestic consumption, Nikolik observes.

Impact fund invests in Indonesia processor but COVID-19 adds complexity

<https://www.undercurrentnews.com/2020/04/13/impact-fund-invests-in-indonesia-processor-but-covid-19-adds-complexity/>

"An impact investment fund that's raised more than \$22 million in an effort to improve financing and sustainability for coastal fisheries in Indonesia and the Philippines is pushing ahead to build up its portfolio despite complications imposed by the COVID-19 pandemic. The US-based Meloy Fund announced its third deal to date on April 1, a debt investment in yellowfin tuna processor PT. Sig Asia, which exports fresh and frozen product to the US, China, Japan, Russia and other markets from its facility on the northern coast of the Indonesian island of Sulawesi.

The terms of the investment were not disclosed, but Dale Galvin, the fund's managing director told Undercurrent News that the investment was the fund's largest since it was established in 2017. PT. Sig employs over 200 workers directly and was established in 2008. ""We saw a lot of companies, we really like this one,"" Galvin said. ""And we really to hitch our wagons to companies that we think are going to be the market leaders and have an opportunity to really grow and demonstrate this sustainable approach to dealing with their natural resources."

"The company will use the funds from Meloy to "access new markets, streamline its operations, upgrade its processing facility, and establish a best-in-class seafood traceability system", the fund said in a press release. Galvin said that the financing, as well as technical support from Rare, a non-profit that created the Meloy Fund, will help PT Sig advance goals within a framework known as ESG -- environmental, social, governance goals -- in addition to "creating value" for the company.

This could include the adoption of "responsible sourcing fishing policies that come with gear limits and size limits, things that sustainably-minded buyers look for. "Where are you going to fish? How are you going to ensure that the quality is there, the traceability is there? Doing that opens up new markets for them, Galvin said.

It also means working with the fishers that source its product to ensure there's "transparent, fair pricing" and collecting data, often for the first time, about where the fish are landed, he added. Knowing the state of the fishery, "that's problem number one and then the management and changes that are needed to ensure maximum sustainable yield is achieved, Galvin said.

Water wars: Coronavirus spreads risk of conflict around the South China Sea

<https://www.lawfareblog.com/water-wars-coronavirus-spreads-risk-conflict-around-south-china-sea>

"Washington and Beijing are using their militaries to signal that neither is letting down its guard on Taiwan and the South China Sea during the coronavirus pandemic. Soon after Taiwan's Vice President-elect William Lai Ching-te visited the United States in early February, People's Republic of China (PRC) military aircraft crossed the dividing line in the Taiwan Strait into Taiwan's airspace two days in a row. The incursions included Chinese H-6 bombers, J-11 fighter jets and KJ-500 early warning aircraft. Taiwan responded by scrambling F-16s to shadow the Chinese aircraft out of Taiwan's airspace.

On March 19, both USS Barry (DDG 52) and USS Shiloh (CG 67) launched SM-2 missiles for a live-fire exercise in the Philippine Sea. Some Chinese military analysts deemed the exercise to be an uncommon "warning to the People's Liberation Army [PLA]. Then, on March 25, USS McCampbell (DDG 25) conducted a Taiwan Strait transit the third such transit by a U.S. warship in 2020. In response to McCampbell's transit, the spokesman for China's Ministry of National Defense called U.S. actions "a serious violation of international laws on freedom of navigation.

However, there is little legal grounding for this assertion. The narrowest portion of the Taiwan Strait is over 70 nautical miles wide, well beyond the 12-nautical-mile territorial sea of either coastal state. The U.N. Convention on the Law of the Sea also allows for "continuous and expeditious transit passage through international straits as well as innocent passage of warships through the territorial seas of coastal states. The same week as McCampbell's transit, Taiwan

held large-scale military exercises to simulate repelling an “all-out Chinese aerial invasion, according to Taiwan's Ministry of National Defense.

Taiwan's President Tsai Ing-wen added on March 24 that the Taiwanese “armed forces remain as vigilant as ever. Although the Chinese, U.S. and Taiwanese military actions are individually unremarkable, they collectively signal what one analyst called posturing to prove “combat readiness remain[s] unaffected by the virus. Beyond Taiwan, security analysts have argued that China may be seizing the “COVID-19 advantage in the South China Sea. China has reportedly made gains in both new research facilities and resource extraction in the South China Sea since the start of the pandemic.

On March 20, Chinese media reported that China opened two new research facilities on its occupied features in the Spratlys. The Chinese Academy of Sciences will operate the two facilities on Fiery Cross (Tagalog: Kagitingan; Mandarin: Yongshu) and Subi (Tagalog: Zamora; Mandarin: Zhubi) Reefs for field studies on “deep sea ecology, geology, environment, material sciences and marine energy. The International Business Times emphasized that China's “supposedly civilian scientific purposes come as the rest of the world is “distracted by coronavirus.

Then, on March 26, China's Ministry of Natural Resources announced that it extracted and produced a record amount of natural gas in a single day in the South China Sea. The production process ran from February 17 to March 18, as COVID-19 began its rapid spread around the world. Around the South China Sea, rival Southeast Asian claimants Malaysia and the Philippines are preoccupied with enforcing mandatory quarantine measures.

Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte previously self-quarantined as a precaution, and the Philippine Armed Forces chief of staff recently recovered from a positive case of COVID-19. Vietnam and Indonesia are also enforcing measures to limit the spread of the virus.

Sinking feeling for Indonesian fishers as COVID-19 hits seafood sales

<https://news.mongabay.com/2020/04/sinking-feeling-for-indonesian-fishers-as-covid-19-hits-seafood-sales/>

"At a fishing port in eastern Java, fisherman Muhammad Fauzi was unloading his catch after spending days out at sea. He still goes fishing even though sales have dropped in the past couple of months due to the novel coronavirus outbreak. “If I don't go, what work will I do? If had a farm, I'd rather do that, Fauzi, 34, told Mongabay on March 29 at the port in Lamongan district, in Indonesia's East Java province. Fauzi is one of hundreds of thousands of Indonesians whose livelihood depends on fishing. But a string of measures by authorities to curb the spread of COVID-19, the disease caused by the virus, has been a blow to many local industries, including fisheries.

In Fauzi's case, he said he used to earn up to 5 million rupiah (\$300) for 15 days of fishing. Recently, however, he's been making 1.5 million rupiah (\$90) at most, while his expenses remain the same. "So working at sea is almost a waste, Fauzi said. Siti Aminah, 45, works at the Lamongan fish port sorting the catch that the fishermen bring in. She said she hoped the virus wouldn't hit the area, otherwise authorities would be forced to shut down the port, leaving her out of a job. The ongoing drop in sales has already slashed her daily income by half, she said. "Before the virus outbreak, many tourists came here. But as long as no outsiders enter anymore, it should be safe, Siti told Mongabay.

In the wake of the outbreak, now a global pandemic, Indonesia has followed in the steps of other countries around the world to impose travel and trade restrictions in an effort to slow the spread of the virus. Fish exports to China, in particular, have declined significantly. The move has hit the shrimp-fishing community in Sumatra's Jambi province, which is highly reliant on the Chinese market. Since Indonesia reported its first confirmed COVID-19 infections on March 2, local governments have restricted travel between provinces and cities. Food shipments are exempt from these restrictions, but demand has gone down with the temporary closure of restaurants and shopping malls.

That's had an impact on fishermen in East Java and across the country, said Ibrahim, the head of the Lamongan port authority. He said much of the fish being brought in was now piling up in cold storage. Fish exports from the port have dropped by as much as 70% since February, Ibrahim said. Destination countries include France, Italy, the Netherlands, the U.S., Thailand, Taiwan, and China. Fishermen from the north coast of Java, an area known as Pantura, have raised concerns about the impact to their industry and communities.

Indonesia registered 2,491 COVID-19 infections as of April 6, more than four-fifths of which were in Java. The fisheries ministry has said it will make efforts to prop up fish sales and provide fishermen with financial aid in the meantime. Among the measures, it is requiring that cold storage companies take in all the fish brought to port. It is also overseeing the supply of fish pellets and other aquaculture items to fish farmers.

"The president's message is very clear that amidst the COVID-19 pandemic, the government must sustain productivity, purchasing power and food supply, said Slamet Soebjakto, director of aquaculture at the fisheries ministry. "Stakeholders shouldn't need to worry, the fisheries ministry continues to monitor every event in the field and is prepared to be involved at any time.

China chases Indonesia's fishing fleets, staking claim to sea's riches

<https://www.nytimes.com/2020/03/31/world/asia/Indonesia-south-china-sea-fishing.html>

"Dedi knows where the fish run strongest in Indonesian waters off the Natuna islands. The Chinese know, too. Backed by armed Chinese Coast Guard ships, Chinese fishing fleets have

been raiding the rich waters of the South China Sea that are internationally recognized as exclusively Indonesia's to fish. While Mr. Dedi catches the traditional way, with nets and lines, the steel Chinese trawlers scrape the bottom of the sea, destroying other marine life. So not only does the Chinese trawling breach maritime borders, it also leaves a lifeless seascape in its wake.

“They come into our waters and kill everything, said Mr. Dedi, who like many Indonesians goes by a single name. “I don't understand why our government doesn't protect us. Wary of offending Indonesia's largest trading partner, Indonesian officials have played down incursions by Chinese fishing boats, trying to avoid conflict with Beijing over China's sprawling claims in these waters. But with the Chinese presence growing more aggressive, fishers in the Natunas are feeling vulnerable.

“There was a vacant period, then China came back, said Ngesti Yuni Suprpti, the deputy regent of the Natuna archipelago. “Our fishermen feel scared. The latest episode occurred in February, fishers said, when Chinese fishing boats flanked by Chinese Coast Guard vessels dropped their trawl nets yet again. It seemed as if the coronavirus outbreak peaking in China at the time hadn't diminished the country's global ambitions. The Indonesian fisheries ministry, however, denied any intrusion by the Chinese.

The Indonesian government does not provide data on incursions by foreign fishing boats. China's illegal fishing near the Natunas carries global consequence, reminding regional governments of Beijing's expanding claims to a waterway through which one-third of the world's maritime trade flows. But local leaders in the Natunas don't control what happens near their shores. “We only have authority over our land, said Andes Putra, the head of the Natunas' Parliament. “The provincial and central governments handle the seas.

Yet with multiple agencies responsible for protecting the seas the navy, the coast guard, the marine police and the fisheries ministry, to name a few decision-making is diffuse, analysts said. “There is a lack of a single coherent lead agency or a single coherent policy for maritime security, said Evan Laksmana, a senior researcher at the Center for Strategic and International Studies in Jakarta, the Indonesian capital.

“The Chinese can take advantage of that. Chinese impunity was on full display in January when President Joko Widodo of Indonesia visited the Natunas. “There is no bargaining when it comes to our sovereignty, Mr. Joko said. Earlier, Indonesian fighter jets buzzed the sky, while warships patrolled the seas. But the day after Mr. Joko left the Natunas, the Chinese showed up again. Its fishing fleet, backed by the Chinese Coast Guard, took days to leave the area, local officials and fishers said.

The fisheries ministry denied that any such incident had taken place. On Chinese maps, a line made of nine dashes scoops out most of the South China Sea as China's. One of the dashes slices through waters north of the Natunas. While Beijing recognizes Indonesian sovereignty over the Natunas themselves, the Chinese Foreign Ministry describes the nearby sea as China's

“traditional fishing grounds. “Whether the Indonesian side accepts it or not, nothing will change the objective fact that China has rights and interests over the relevant waters, Geng Shuang, a Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman, said in January.

In 2016, an international tribunal dismissed the nine-dash line as legally baseless. The Chinese government ignored the ruling. Instead, Beijing continued turning contested atolls and islets into military bases from which China can project its power across the South China Sea.

Why marine protected areas are often not where they should be

<https://phys.org/news/2020-03-marine-areas.html>

"There's no denying the grandeur and allure of a nature reserve or marine protected area. The concept is easy to understand: limit human activity there and marine ecosystems will thrive. But while the number of marine protected areas is increasing, so too is the number of threatened species, and the health of marine ecosystems is in decline. Why? Our research shows it's because marine protected areas are often placed where there's already low human activity, rather than in places with high biodiversity that need it most.

Many parts of the world's protected areas, in both terrestrial and marine environments, are placed in locations with no form of manageable human activity or development occurring, such as fishing or infrastructure. These places are often remote, such as in the centres of oceans. And where marine protected areas have been increasing, they're placed where pressures cannot be managed, such as areas where there is increased ocean acidification or dispersed pollution. But biodiversity is often highest in the places with human activity we use these locations in the ocean to generate income and livelihoods, from tourism to fishing.

This includes coastal areas in the tropics, such as the Coral Triangle (across six countries including Indonesia, the Philippines and Malaysia), which has almost 2,000 marine protected areas, yet is also home to one of the largest shipping routes in the world and high fishing activity. What's more, many marine industries are already regulated through licenses and quotas, so it's hard to establish a new marine protected area that adds a different type of management on top of what already exists.

This leaves us with an important paradox: the places where biodiversity is under the most pressure are also the places humanity is most reluctant to relinquish, due to their social or economic value. Because of those values, people and industry resist changes to behavior, leaving governments to try to find solutions that avoid conflict. How can we resolve the paradox of marine protected areas? A strategy used in the fishing industry may show the way.

Fisheries have had experience in going beyond the limits of sustainability and then stepping back, changing their approach to managing species and ecosystems for better sustainability,

while still protecting economic, social and environmental values. In the past, many of the world's fisheries regularly exceeded the sustainable limit of catches, and many species such as southern bluefin tuna declined significantly in number. But strong rules around how a fishery should operate mean declines have since been reversed.

So how did they do it? In recent decades, many of the world's large-scale fisheries implemented formal "harvest strategies." These strategies can flip downward trends of marine species in places not designated a marine protected area. Harvest strategies have three steps. First is pre-agreed monitoring of species and ecosystems by fishers, regulators and other stakeholders. Second, regulators and scientists assess their impact on the species and ecosystems. And last, all stakeholders agree to put management measures in place to improve the status of the monitored species and ecosystems.

These measures may include changing how fishing is done or how much is done. It's a commonsense strategy that's delivered successful results with many fished species either recovering or recovered. In Australia, the federal government introduced a formal harvest strategy policy to manage fisheries in 2007. It was evaluated in 2014, and the report found many (but not all) fish stocks are no longer overfished. This includes species such as orange roughy and southern bluefin tuna in Australia, which were overfished but are no longer so.

But unfortunately, this positive trend has not been replicated for biodiversity hit by the combinations of other human activities such as coastal development, transport, oil and gas extraction and marine debris. We need to adapt the experience from fisheries and apply a single, formal, transparent and agreed biodiversity strategy that outlines sustainable management objectives for the places we can't put marine protected areas.

This would look like a harvest strategy, but be applied more broadly to threatened species and ecosystems. What might be sustainable from a single species point of view as used in the fisheries might not be sustainable for multiple species. This would mean for our threatened species, we would be monitoring their status, assessing whether the total population was changing and agreeing on when and how we would change the way that they are impacted.

Such a strategy would also allow monitoring of whole marine ecosystems, even when information is limited. Information on trends in species and ecosystems often exists, but is hidden as commercial-in-confidence or kept privately within government, research or commercial organizations.

Still, a lack of data shouldn't limit decision making. Experience in fisheries without much data shows even rules of thumb can be effective management tools. Rules of thumb can include simple measures like gear restrictions or spatial or temporal closures that don't change through time. Moving forward, all stakeholders need to agree to implement the key parts of harvest strategies for all marine places with high biodiversity that aren't protected.

This will complement existing marine protected area networks without limiting economic activity, while also delivering social and environmental outcomes that support human well-being. Our marine ecosystems provide fish, enjoyment, resources and simple beauty. They must survive for generations to come.

Indonesian ministry identifies three areas susceptible to illegal fishing

<https://en.antaranews.com/news/143350/ministry-identifies-three-areas-susceptible-to-illegal-fishing>

"Indonesia's Marine Affairs and Fisheries Ministry has identified three areas -- the waters of North Natuna Sea, Malacca Straits, and Sulawesi Sea -- as being prone to illegal fishing practices by foreign vessels. ""We have identified three areas that we should to be aware of as spots susceptible to illegal fishing.

The three areas are the North Natuna Sea, Malacca Straits, and Sulawesi Sea,"" the ministry's Director General of Marine Resource and Fisheries Surveillance Tb Haeru Rahayu noted in a statement here on Wednesday. On Tuesday (March 10), the Directorate General of Marine Resource and Fisheries Surveillance had detained two illegal fishing vessels for poaching in the Malacca Straits.

The authority has also arrested 12 Myanmar crew members that had operated the banned trawl net. Earlier in March, the agency had detained five illegal foreign vessels for poaching in the North Natuna waters and took 68 Vietnamese crew members into detention. The Pontianak immigration office has detained 27 Vietnamese fishermen from three fishing vessels for poaching in the North Natuna waters recently.

Minister of Marine Affairs and Fisheries Edhy Prabowo has reiterated the ministry's commitment to stepping up its surveillance and fortifying its patrolling fleet. During the course of the past four months, the ministry had detained 15 illegal foreign vessels comprising eight Vietnamese ships, four Philippine boats, and three Malaysian boats.

2020: Super year for women in biodiversity?

<https://www.thejakartapost.com/academia/2020/03/09/2020-super-year-for-women-in-biodiversity.html>

"On March 8, International Women's Day, we wanted to celebrate women's achievements and contributions to life but also be reminded of what is still missing in terms of realizing equity and equality for women, including in the realm of natural resources and the governance of nature. ""Each for Equal--an equal world is an enabled world was the theme of this year and 2020 has been called the super-year for biodiversity.

This October at the 15th Convention on Biological Diversity, a new global framework for biodiversity will be discussed and agreed on by 196 governments. Will 2020 also be the super year for women in biodiversity and the recognition of women as biodiversity defenders and custodians in their own right? Women across cultures and places have important roles as farmers, specialists in medicinal plants, fisherfolk, harvesters and collectors, seed keepers and managers of biodiversity.

While they play vital roles in the management of natural resources, women have often been excluded from governance mechanisms and decision making, or poorly represented in budget allocations or even conservation initiatives. Women have developed unique bodies of knowledge, skills and experience related to plants, fish and animals, wild and domesticated, and their habitats. They have conservation and sustainability values.

Yet, this has not always translated into shared power or an equal role in the formal management of such resources, nor in meaningful participation in the development of regulations that might affect women and the biodiversity they use and benefit from. In Indonesia, coastal areas are the living space where indigenous and local women also manage ecological and economic assets for their families and communities.

Women fish and gather shells in tidal and mangrove areas. Those are the resources that their livelihoods depend on. They are also fish traders such as the papalele in Maluku. Through sustainable use and local knowledge, they build their economic resilience and that of their families, and conserve nature. However, how much of this knowledge is documented and valued? How are the role and rights of women in the management of marine and coastal resources recognized and strengthened in Marine Protected Areas?

A few years ago, at a workshop on women's leadership and marine conservation, women from communities and local governments in eastern Indonesia called for a new model of management that is based on economic and cultural rights, adopts customary use and recognizes the role and sovereignty of women as “ecological keepers. In eastern Indonesia bameti is the sustainable use of marine resources by women in coastal areas, which is not just a local subsistence activity.

Sometimes, the way we refer to an activity can result in neglecting its full function and undervaluing its significance. This has often been the case in the context of women and natural resources. Their contribution, pivotal in local farming and agroforestry regimes, and food systems, has either been ignored at the formal decision-making level or disregarded in the development of policies that could promote sustainability and equity by securing tenure rights of women over resources.

Given today's double biodiversity and climate crises, and most recently a global health emergency, we cannot afford to overlook half of the wisdom, practices and innovations in support of the sustainable use of nature. This is as much a practical consideration as a matter of social redress and equality.

We need the full participation of women at all levels of policy-making and implementation. It is time to go beyond a focus on women's vulnerabilities to the recognition of women as agents of change and active participants in caring for the environment, in restoring and recovering biodiversity, and healing our relation with nature.

Indonesian NGO coalition criticizes govt for ignoring poor coastal communities

<https://jakartaglobe.id/news/ngo-coalition-criticizes-govt-for-ignoring-poor-coastal-communities>

"Koral, a coalition of non-governmental organizations in Indonesia advocating for fisheries and ocean sustainability, has criticized the government's policies on fisheries and ocean governance, arguing they potentially harm the ocean ecosystem and create social inequality. The coalition is made up of NGOs Destructive Fishing Watch (DFW), EcoNusa, Greenpeace Indonesia, Indonesia Ocean Justice Initiative (IOJI), Indonesian Center for Environmental Law (ICEL), People's Coalition for Fisheries Justice (Kiara), Archipelago Sea Scout (Pandu Laut Nusantara), Indonesian Forum for the Environment (Walhi) and Terangi Foundation. "

"In the past five years, marine and fisheries policies have improved but today we're seeing a potential setback. The government's commitment to ocean sustainability and alignment to small-scale fishermen has weakened," Greenpeace Indonesia's country director Leonard Simanjuntak said at an event to announce the formation of Koral at Kekini co-working space in Cikini, Central Jakarta, on Tuesday.

The coalition has marked off the policies that have the potential to harm ocean sustainability and the life of small-scale fishermen and coastal communities. Wiro Winardi, the ocean program manager of Eco Nusa, said the Maritime Affairs and Fisheries Minister's decision to allow fishing vessels with seine nets from the north coast of Java to operate in the North Natuna Sea to try to ward off trespassing Chinese fishing vessels was a bad move. "

"What has been happening in the North Natuna Sea is a dispute over sovereignty, it's not a fisheries issue," Wiro said. According to Wiro, the fishing boats from Java could create new conflicts with local fishermen in the North Natuna Sea since the Javanese fishermen use seine nets – which are not eco-friendly – for fishing. Meanwhile, local fishermen in the area still prefer to use traditional and eco-friendly equipment such as fishing rods. "

"The government should empower local fishermen by increasing their capacity and infrastructure instead," Wiro said. The decision has also caused regulation uncertainties since seine nets have been banned since 2015 by a Maritime Affairs and Fisheries ministerial regulation on fishing lane and fishing tool placement." "The government has to pay attention to the environment and local culture in Natuna. We also demand the government [ban the use of] fishing tools that cause harm to the environment," Wiro said.

The coalition also criticized the job creation omnibus bill and its potential impact on ocean sustainability. Fadilla Octaviani, IOJI's enforcement support and stakeholder partnerships director, said the bill concentrates solely on attracting investment without paying attention to the protection of the ecosystem and the interests of marginal community groups in the fisheries sector. ""The bill will get rid of the fish resources assessment commission and replace it effectively with the president.

We're worried fisheries management will no longer be based on scientific evidence if this happens,"" she said. Fadilla said the bill allows foreign fishing vessels to catch fish in Indonesia's oceans. These foreign vessels regularly use destructive and exploitative fishing tools that endanger ocean sustainability. ""This contradicted a 2016 presidential decree that bans foreign fishing vessels from fishing in Indonesian territory,"" she said.

Koral is also demanding that the government prioritize coastal resources and sea area zero to four miles from the shoreline for small-scale fishermen and coastal communities. ""We urge the government to secure the zero-to-four-miles sea area from the threat of the extractive industry and turn it into a strategic fishing area for traditional fishermen,"" Edo Rakhman, the campaign coordinator of Walhi, said.

Edo said coastal areas have to be free from the extractive industry because many marginalized coastal communities depend their life on it. He said development in these communities would be nearly impossible if their source of income is always put at risk. ""According to Central Statistics Bureau data from March 2019, 25.4 million Indonesians live in poverty, and most of them live in coastal areas. The government has to improve their lot,"" he said.

Asia-Pacific region needs better data to assure SDG progress in agriculture and food security systems – UN FAO

<https://reliefweb.int/report/world/asia-pacific-region-needs-better-data-assure-sdg-progress-agriculture-and-food-security>

"The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) today called for an acceleration in improvements to agricultural data gathering and monitoring to ensure the targets set out in the Sustainable Development Goals are accurately reported in the world's biggest region – Asia and the Pacific. As the clock ticks towards 2030, the year when the world's 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) must be achieved, countries are working to improve their systems of statistic-gathering and analyses for better planning in crop, livestock, fisheries and forestry sectors.

However, the capacity to adequately monitor and analyse agricultural statistics varies dramatically country-by-country, and no where in the world is that variance more prevalent than in the Asia-Pacific region. Pietro Gennari, Chief Statistician of FAO, noted the significant data

gaps in Asia-Pacific in monitoring the SDGs, and the slow progress towards achieving its goals. “Slow country commitment to measuring the SDGs, and the poor performance towards achieving the SDGs, are closely connected. We are witnessing an inversion of the familiar axiom whereby “what gets measured gets done.

We are not measuring the SDG indicators, and this is one of the crucial reasons why we are not on track to achieving the SDG targets. FAO today opened the 28th Session of the Asia and Pacific Commission on Agricultural Statistics (APCAS), in Bali, Indonesia. The Commission Session runs from 10-14 February. It is hosted by the Government of Indonesia with more than 100 participants from some 30 countries and 10 international and regional organizations attending. Focusing on the specific needs of food and agricultural statistics of Asia-Pacific, this biennial meeting of agricultural statisticians and experts reviews and support the region's preparedness to produce adequate statistics to monitor progress towards the 2030 SDG targets.

Food insecurity plays an important role as a determinant of many different forms of hunger and malnutrition. The majority of the world's hungry, and children affected by stunting, live in Asia. Hunger has increased in many countries where the economy has slowed down or contracted, mostly in middle-income countries. Furthermore, economic shocks are contributing to prolonging and worsening the severity of food crises caused primarily by conflict and climate shocks.

Even in upper-middle and high-income countries malnutrition is an issue, with obesity evident in school-age children, adolescents, and adults. “Collaboration among internal institutions within the government such as Statistics Indonesia, Ministry of Agriculture, relevant ministries/agencies with the FAO of the United Nations, is needed to produce high quality agricultural statistics that are accurate, timely and relevant to provide SDG's indicators. said Chief Statistician of Statistics Indonesia, Dr. Suhariyanto, in his key note speech.

“Sharing of knowledge and good practices in the regional conference, such as APCAS, is a way to improve and accelerate production of agricultural statistics in Asia Pacific. Adding to that, the discussion at the forum will be effective to monitor the SDGs achievements in the region.

“Agenda 2030 identifies 17 goals, 169 targets and some 232 indicators to monitor progress. This is a huge and daunting task for national statisticians, and the clock is ticking down to 2030.

With only a decade to go, and nearly half a billion hungry people still struggling to survive in our region, we must strengthen partnerships among governments, international organizations and the private sector to meet these data needs, said Stephen Rudgard, FAO Representative to Indonesia. “FAO stands ready to support national efforts through its technical assistance programmes.

The APCAS meeting provides a platform for Asia Pacific countries to directly engage in drawing attention to their unique challenges in development of agricultural statistics such as geographical remoteness, changing cropping patterns and livestock rearing due to climate change and

transboundary diseases, and limited statistical infrastructure and resources.

‘Just like terrorists’: Indonesia boosts vigilance for blast fishers

<https://news.mongabay.com/2020/01/just-like-terrorists-indonesia-boosts-vigilance-for-blast-fishers/>

"In the weeks before last Christmas, marine authorities in eastern Indonesia reported separate arrests of locals using explosives to catch fish. The arrests highlighted what observers say is a routine increase in blast fishing across the archipelago ahead of long public holidays. Officers in East Nusa Tenggara province arrested eight fishermen in two separate cases on Nov. 30 and Dec. 6. They were caught using explosives to catch fish in what are some of Indonesia's most biodiverse marine areas.

Blast fishing is illegal under Indonesian law, and violators face up to five years in prison and 2 billion rupiah (\$147,000) in fines if convicted. While fishermen use the method to target commercially valuable fish, marine animals such as dolphins and turtles both protected species in Indonesia and the fishermen themselves have often fallen victim to the dangerous practice. It typically takes place so close to shore that it also damages coral reefs.

Indonesian authorities have worked for years to end the activity through incentives and deterrents. The combination of financial support to buy more sustainable fishing gear and the threat of arrest has seen many fishing communities abandon the practice. Local governments say they continue to urge fishermen to end blast fishing altogether, while supporting marine patrols by the coast guard, navy, and officials from the fisheries ministry and local authorities.

They have also recruited fishermen to report on blast fishing in their areas. "We group some fishermen for monitoring efforts. They're like our spies, Ganef Wurgiyanto, the head of provincial fisheries agency in East Nusa Tenggara, told Mongabay. He said each district in the province had at least two such groups of fishermen keeping an eye out for blast fishing. But the prospect of an easy catch close to shore, without having to spend money on fuel to go farther out to sea, means blast fishing remains an attractive prospect for many fishermen.

And authorities say their activities end to spike during public holidays, when they sense monitoring by the authorities and by fellow fishermen is more lax. The recently arrested fishermen "must have thought that the patrolling teams had paused their monitoring activities because it was almost the Christmas and New Year holiday, said Apolinardus Y.L. Demoor, head of the fisheries resources monitoring department in East Flores district, East Nusa Tenggara. "So they started blast fishing again.

It's a trend that shows up in other regions of Indonesia. Buyung Radjilun, head of the fisheries agency in North Maluku province, some 1,050 kilometers (650 miles) north of East Flores, said

blast fishers in that region typically operate on Sundays and religious holidays, when much of the population goes to church. “They're sneaky, from their silent operations to where they store their catch, he told Mongabay. “They're extraordinary just like terrorists.

Buyung said blast fishing remained rampant because law enforcement had failed to create much of a deterrent effect, because it tended to be focused on just the fishermen and not the suppliers of the explosives and buyers of their catch. Buyung added that investigations into some reported cases of blast fishing indicated that corrupt local officials were involved. “They enable the blast fishers. It's an open secret, he said.

Ganef, the East Nusa Tenggara fisheries head, said he would continue campaigning against blast fishing, including by discouraging consumers from buying fish caught this way and expanding programs to provide local fishermen with sustainable fishing gear. But given that such community outreach only takes place once a year, campaigning by the authorities won't be enough to end blast fishing, Buyung said. Instead, he called for an expanded law enforcement approach to apprehend all parties involved in supporting blast fishing.

That includes choking off the supply of materials needed to make the explosive devices, which former fisheries minister Susi Pudjiastuti said in 2018 came mostly from Malaysia. “If we're truly committed to eradicating blast fishing and other forms of destructive fishing, we shouldn't just stop at arresting the fishermen, Buyung said. “Otherwise, we won't be able to end this problem.

Indonesia complains as more fishermen are kidnapped in Malaysian territory

<https://jakartaglobe.id/news/indonesia-complains-as-more-fishermen-are-kidnapped-in-malaysian-territory>

"The Abu Sayyaf armed group kidnapped eight Indonesian fishermen in Malaysian territory on Thursday before releasing three of them and taking the other five hostage, the Indonesian Foreign Affairs Ministry said on Tuesday. The fishermen were taken from a Malaysian fishing vessel sailing in the Tambisan Sea near Lahad Datu in Sabah, Malaysia.

The three released fishermen sailed back from the Southern Philippines where the Abu Sayyaf group is based to Tambisan the following day, confirming news of the kidnappings. ""[They] confirmed there were five Indonesian fishermen who were kidnapped [by the Abu Sayyaf group],"" the ministry said in a statement. The ministry did not disclose the names of the fishermen involved in the incident.

Philippine soldiers had rescued the last Indonesian hostage from an earlier kidnapping by another armed group with links to the Abu Sayyaf group on Wednesday, the day before the last kidnapping incident occurred. "

"The government of Indonesia strongly regrets this recurring incident of Indonesian fishermen being kidnapped in Malaysian territory," the ministry said. Indonesia will work together with the Philippine authorities to rescue the five hostages. "In the meantime, our fishermen should avoid sailing in oceans off Sabah since we can't guarantee their safety," the ministry said.

Indonesia's Fishery Ministry eyes 10.99 mn tons seaweed yield in 2020

<https://en.antaranews.com/news/139928/fishery-ministry-eyes-for-1099-million-tons-seaweed-yield-in-2020>

"Indonesia's Ministry of Maritime Affairs and Fisheries increases a seaweed production target in 2020 to 10.99 million tons, from 9.9 million tons in 2019, a director general said in a statement here, on Sunday. The ministry has prepared initiatives and strategies for the next five years to raise seaweed production which covers 60.7 percent of the total fishery yield in the country, Director General of Aquaculture, Slamet Soebjakto stated in Jakarta, Sunday.

The strategy launched by the ministry aims to assure the quality and quantity of the seaweed yield this year, as the it has been part of the country's top export commodity. "

"The Maritime Affairs and Fisheries Ministry has committed to increase seaweed exports as an effort to support Indonesia's economy growth," Soebjakto remarked. According to records of UN's Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) in 2019, Indonesia is the world's largest producer for Eucheuma or gusa (*Eucheuma cottonii*), a type of seaweed algae that commonly used as raw materials for carrageenan, an ingredient for cosmetics, food and drinks, as well as industrial manufacturing.

Indonesia also covers at least 80 percent of market share of seaweed trade in the global market, with China ranked first as top export destination for the product. However, the ministry plans to increase added-value of Indonesia's seaweed by restricting export of raw seaweed this year, Soebjekto remarked. He expounded the ministry will increase exports more semi-refined carrageenan and refined carrageenan by 50 percent this year, as for the past years the raw seaweed export to China had reached nearly 80 percent.

Perfect storm: when climate change stokes wildfires, marine heatwaves and biodiversity loss

<https://www.unenvironment.org/news-and-stories/story/perfect-storm-when-climate-change-stokes-wildfires-marine-heatwaves-and>

"2020 is a crunch year for decision makers tackling the biodiversity and climate change emergencies and for humanity as a whole to start paying attention to the breakdown of our

planetary systems. The year will host two major events, known as “conferences of parties, on biodiversity and climate. The biodiversity conference will agree a new set of goals for nature for the next decade.

A host of recent scientific reports, and principally the 2019 Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystems report, are saying that species are dying out at unprecedented rates and that despite all efforts global temperatures are rising. And, as 2020 dawned, major wildfires in places like Australia have been in the news.

“While wildfires can be part of some ecosystems, human-induced climate change is making them more frequent, larger and more widespread. The increase of forest fires has a dual impact on biodiversity and climate, says Pascal Peduzzi, Director of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)-Global Resource Information Database in Geneva and programme manager of the UNEP World Environment Situation Room.

The unprecedented wildfires in southwestern Australia, during a summer which has seen record temperatures, drought and high winds. Some estimates say more than a billion animals have been killed, with many injured and/or short of food and water. A 2018 Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change report on Australasia says: “The regional climate is changing (very high confidence). The region continues to demonstrate long-term trends toward higher surface air and sea surface temperatures, more hot extremes and fewer cold extremes, and changed rainfall patterns.

Over the past 50 years, increasing greenhouse gas concentrations have contributed to rising average temperature in Australia (high confidence) and New Zealand, and decreasing rainfall in southwestern Australia (high confidence). The climate crisis is with us now and getting worse. UNEP's Emissions Gap Report 2019 warns that unless global greenhouse gas emissions fall by 7.6 per cent each year between 2020 and 2030, the world will miss the opportunity to get on track towards the 1.5°C temperature goal of the Paris Agreement.

Australia is not the only country to have experienced a serious wildfire recently. Widespread wildfires have occurred in the past few years in forests in Indonesia, Portugal, California, and even the Arctic. “Wildfires are expected to increase in many regions of the globe under a changing climate. Reducing forest-related greenhouse gas emissions is key to mitigating climate change, says Johan Kieft, a UNEP ecosystems and wildfires expert.

“The forestry sector offers significant potential for mitigation of greenhouse gas emissions, he adds. To capture that potential, the parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, have developed the Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD+) approach, providing incentives to reduce emissions from deforestation and degradation, sustainably manage forests, and conserve and enhance forest carbon stock.

The climate change impacts of forest fires have been largely overlooked in negotiations for REDD+, says Kieft. “They are the missing link in countries' plans to curb global heating. What we need to do, he says, is account for integrated fire management in these plans, such as in the nationally determined contributions, set out in the Convention.

To deter Chinese sea claims, Indonesia puts its fishing fleets on the front line

<https://www.eco-business.com/news/to-deter-chinese-sea-claims-indonesia-puts-its-fishing-fleets-on-the-front-line/>

"Indonesia is ramping up its fisheries in the waters around its northern Natuna Islands, following an incursion into the area by fishing boats and a coast guard vessel from China. The area in question is internationally recognized as part of Indonesia's exclusive economic zone, a sweep of sea extending 200 nautical miles (370 kilometers) from the country's coast. But according to China, the area falls within the “Nine-Dash Line that stakes Beijing's claim to much of the South China Sea. (China doesn't claim the islands themselves, but fishing rights within the seas around them.)

The latest standoff began last December when a fleet of Chinese fishing vessels appeared to be operating in the Natuna waters, accompanied by a Chinese coast guard ship. While foreign boats are allowed to pass through a country's EEZ, fishing there is strictly prohibited. Indonesia has since beefed up its military presence in the area, with the Chinese vessels reportedly leaving Indonesia's EEZ earlier this month. President Joko Widodo, who visited the islands in a show of force, has also asked Japan to invest in fisheries, energy and tourism in the Natunas, in a bid to cement Indonesia's presence in the area. “There is no bargaining when it comes to our sovereignty, our country's territorial, Widodo said on Jan. 6.

In addition, the government has called on domestic fishing fleets operating in the Java Sea to deploy to the Natunas some 1,000 kilometres (600 miles) away. This last move has prompted criticism of both the longstanding lack of government support for Natuna's local fishers, and the potential for a fresh dispute if the better-equipped Java fishers are perceived to benefit at the expense of the Natuna fishers. Experts have highlighted the scarcity of Indonesian fishing vessels operating in the Natunas and the lack of facilities on land to process catches, which inevitably end up being taken to Java.

Exploiting the resources in Indonesia's EEZ by our national fleet is a form of ‘effective occupation’ by us [who] clearly have the sovereign right there. Ari Purbayanto, fisheries professor, Bogor Institute of Agriculture Institute (IPB) “We've always been weak in exploiting the natural resources in Indonesia's EEZ, including the Natuna waters, Ari Purbayanto, a fisheries professor at the Bogor Institute of Agriculture Institute (IPB), outside Jakarta, told Mongabay in a text message.

Most of the catches brought ashore in the Natunas come from vessels smaller than 10 gross tonnage (GT), while larger boats reportedly almost never landed their catches there. The Natuna waters are estimated to have more than 750,000 tonnes of fish stock. The government has tried to address this by establishing a cold storage center and a boat repair station in Natuna.

“Exploiting the resources in Indonesia's EEZ by our national fleet is a form of ‘effective occupation’ by us [who] clearly have the sovereign right there, Purbayanto said.

But others have criticized the plan to send hundreds of fishermen from the northern coast of Java to Natuna. They warn the increased Indonesian fishing presence won't necessarily deter Chinese or other foreign fishing vessels, while at the same time they could potentially trigger conflict with the local small-scale fishers of Natuna. “We can and are willing to sail all the way to the EEZ, but the thing is our fleet is inadequate and we don't have the technology, Al Izhar, a fisherman from Natuna, told Mongabay Indonesia in a phone interview. “But if we are trained, we can contribute to play our role in being on the front line for the nation, he added.

Beefing up the state's security presence is also key to tackling fishing by foreign vessels, experts say. Indonesia's former fisheries minister, Susi Pudjiastuti, was widely hailed for her tough policy against foreign poachers, which centered on seizing and sinking their boats. “Indonesia's tough policy against foreign fishing boats under Susi's leadership in the last five years clearly grabbed the attention of and became a key consideration for neighboring fishing vessels to be more careful when they operate in the borders or within Indonesia's EEZ, Arifsyah Nasution, oceans campaigner at Greenpeace Indonesia, told Mongabay in a text message.

Maritime observers have called for an immediate easing of tensions between Indonesia and China in Natuna, which they warn could affect the sustainability and security of the fisheries industry in the region. Purbayanto said that Chinese fishing boats typically used destructive equipment such as large pair trawls. “They will drain the resources while we just watch it happen, he said. “It's possible that right now we're importing fish from China that actually was stolen from Indonesia.

Fisheries management is actually working, global analysis shows

<https://phys.org/news/2020-01-fisheries-global-analysis.html>

"Nearly half of the fish caught worldwide are from stocks that are scientifically monitored and, on average, are increasing in abundance. Effective management appears to be the main reason these stocks are at sustainable levels or successfully rebuilding. That is the main finding of an international project led by the University of Washington to compile and analyze data from fisheries around the world. The results were published Jan. 13 in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences. "

"There is a narrative that fish stocks are declining around the world, that fisheries management is failing and we need new solutions and it's totally wrong," said lead author Ray Hilborn, a

professor in the UW School of Aquatic and Fishery Sciences. "Fish stocks are not all declining around the world. They are increasing in many places, and we already know how to solve problems through effective fisheries management."

The project builds on a decade-long international collaboration to assemble estimates of the status of fish stocks or distinct populations of fish around the world. This information helps scientists and managers know where overfishing is occurring, or where some areas could support even more fishing. Now the team's database includes information on nearly half of the world's fish catch, up from about 20% represented in the last compilation in 2009. "

"The key is, we want to know how well we are doing, where we need to improve, and what the problems are," Hilborn said. "Given that most countries are trying to provide long-term sustainable yield of their fisheries, we want to know where we are overfishing, and where there is potential for more yield in places we're not fully exploiting." "Over the past decade, the research team built a network of collaborators in countries and regions throughout the world, inputting their data on valuable fish populations in places such as the Mediterranean, Peru, Chile, Russia, Japan and northwest Africa.

Now about 880 fish stocks are included in the database, giving a much more comprehensive picture worldwide of the health and status of fish populations. Still, most of the fish stocks in South Asia and Southeast Asia do not have scientific estimates of health and status available. Fisheries in India, Indonesia and China alone represent 30% to 40% of the world's fish catch that is essentially unassessed. "

"There are still big gaps in the data and these gaps are more difficult to fill," said co-author Ana Parma, a principal scientist at Argentina's National Scientific and Technical Research Council and a member of The Nature Conservancy global board. "This is because the available information on smaller fisheries is more scattered, has not been standardized and is harder to collate, or because fisheries in many regions are not regularly monitored."

"The researchers paired information about fish stocks with recently published data on fisheries management activities in about 30 countries. This analysis found that more intense management led to healthy or improving fish stocks, while little to no management led to overfishing and poor stock status. These results show that fisheries management works when applied, and the solution for sustaining fisheries around the world is implementing effective fisheries management, the authors explained."

"With the data we were able to assemble, we could test whether fisheries management allows stocks to recover. We found that, emphatically, the answer is yes," said co-author Christopher Costello, a professor of environmental and resource economics at University of California, Santa Barbara, and a board member with Environmental Defense Fund. "This really gives credibility to the fishery managers and governments around the world that are willing to take strong actions."

"Fisheries management should be tailored to fit the characteristics of the different fisheries and the needs of specific countries and regions for it to be successful. Approaches that have been effective in many large-scale industrial fisheries in developed countries cannot be expected to work for small-scale fisheries, especially in regions with limited economic and technical resources and weak governance systems, Parma said.

The main goal should be to reduce the total fishing pressure when it is too high, and find ways to incentivize fishing fleets to value healthy fish stocks. ""There isn't really a one-size-fits-all management approach,"" Costello said. ""We need to design the way we manage fisheries so that fishermen around the world have a long-term stake in the health of the ocean.""

Indonesia mobilizes fishermen in stand-off with China

<https://www.nytimes.com/reuters/2020/01/07/world/asia/07reuters-indonesia-china.html>

"Indonesia will mobilize fishermen to join warships in the South China Sea to help defend against Chinese vessels, the government said on Monday, as the biggest stand-off with China for years escalated off Southeast Asia's largest country.

In an unusually strong statement, President Joko Widodo told reporters: ""There is no negotiation when it comes to our sovereignty."" The stand-off since last month in the northern Natuna islands, where a Chinese coastguard vessel has accompanied Chinese fishing vessels, has soured the generally friendly relationship between Jakarta and Beijing.

Indonesia's chief security minister, Mahfud MD, told reporters that around 120 fishermen from the island of Java would be sent to the Natuna islands, some 1,000 km (600 miles) to the north. ""We want to mobilize our fishermen from the north coast and maybe in turn from other areas to operate by fishing there and other things,"" Mahfud said.

Indonesia, the world's fourth most populous country, said last week it was sending more warships to the area. Six Indonesian ships were there now and four more were on the way, Imam Hidayat, the head of the Maritime Security Agency's sea operations sub-directorate, told Reuters.

China claims much of the South China Sea, a global trade route with rich fishing grounds and energy reserves, as its own based on what it says its historic activity. But Southeast Asian countries - and the United States and much of the world - say such claims have no legal basis.

On Tuesday Chinese foreign ministry spokesman Geng Shuang said Beijing has ""opened diplomatic channels"" with Indonesia since the latest incident, and said ""both countries shoulder responsibility for maintaining regional peace and stability."

"Speaking in Beijing last week, Geng said China had sovereignty over the Spratly islands and their waters and that both China and Indonesia have ""normal"" fishing activities there. He did not specifically mention the Natuna islands, which are southwest of the Spratlys.

China-Indonesia fisheries issue calls for joint mechanism

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/content/1175917.shtml>

"It has been reported recently that Indonesia protested over Chinese fishing vessels and coastguard presence in the waters near the Natuna Islands, claiming that ""China's claims to the exclusive economic zone on the grounds that its fishermen have long been active there... have no legal basis and have never been recognized by the 1982 UNCLOS."" Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Geng Shuang replied on Dec 31, stating that China has sovereignty over the Nansha Islands and has sovereign rights and jurisdiction over relevant waters near the Nansha Islands.

In the meantime, China has historical rights in the South China Sea. Therefore Chinese fishing activity and coastguard vessels' presence is legal and legitimate. The Natuna Islands are located on the southern tip of the South China Sea with abundant natural resources such as fisheries, oil and gas. China has recognized Indonesia's sovereignty over the Natuna Islands for many years. In 2015, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Hong Lei clearly stated that China has no objection to Indonesia's sovereignty over the Natuna Islands.

However, Indonesia claimed EEZ from the Natunas overlaps with the waters of the Nansha Islands. To Chinese fishermen, this part of the South China Sea has been known for decades as the southwest fishing grounds. Thus the two states have had a dispute over maritime jurisdiction in the waters. Since the 1990s, Indonesia has sought through diplomacy to manage this issue with China over sovereign rights and jurisdiction in the waters of the southern part of the South China Sea while not disturbing its overall relationship with China.

Indonesia continues to insist that it has no territorial claims over areas in the South China Sea. While being a non-claimant, it has expressed many times that it would be happy to be ""an honest broker"" in the dispute by not siding with any party. Nevertheless, it is sometimes trapped in the dilemma of neutrality and self-interest. On one hand, the Indonesia-led Workshop on Managing Potential Conflicts initiated in the 1990s aims at managing conflicts by exploring areas of cooperation among coastal states that used to be an essential mechanism of conflict management.

Indonesia is also one of the main promoters of the ASEAN Outlook on the Indo-Pacific, which was passed on Jun 23rd, 2019, in the ASEAN Regional Forum, strengthening inclusiveness and consensus-building. On the other hand, Indonesia attempts to reframe the issue with China by insisting there are no overlapping claims. In July 2017, Indonesia showed a stronger posture by

renaming the southern tip of the South China Sea, the "North Natuna Sea," to enhance its maritime claims.

Since Jakarta has decided to fortify its claimed maritime borders north of the Natunas, there have been quite a number of clashes between Indonesia and other countries bordering the South China Sea such as Vietnam and China. In March 2016, an Indonesian Maritime Affairs and Fisheries patrol ship intercepted a Chinese trawler in this section of the waters. In April 2019, the Indonesian navy arrested a dozen Vietnamese fishermen and came into conflict with Vietnamese coastguard vessels.

Indonesian President Joko Widodo launched an aggressive campaign against so-called illegal fishing shortly after he took office. In all, the dispute between China-Indonesia is mainly about fishing rights, and it should not be escalated to a political and territorial one. With the Code of Conduct negotiations progressing on a fast track, it is time for the two nations to sit down and find an amicable solution to this decade-long issue. China and the Philippines inaugurated the Bilateral Consultation Mechanism on the South China Sea since 2016 and so far conducted five meetings. China and Malaysia also set up a bilateral dialogue mechanism to deal with maritime issues in September 2019.

Both of these mechanisms established technical working groups to work on maritime issues of mutual concern and possible cooperation initiatives. It is time for China and Indonesia to consider a similar agreement to guarantee that maritime issues will not disturb the overall cooperation and relationship between the two countries.

The year 2020 marks the 70th anniversary of the diplomatic relationship between China and Indonesia. Widodo is also planning to pay a state visit to China this year. It is time for the two to make joint efforts to find a way out of this conundrum to ensure peace and stability in the South China Sea.

Former Indonesian fisheries minister Susi Pudjiastuti calls for sinking illegal foreign fishing boats

"Susi Pudjiastuti, former minister of maritime affairs and fisheries, unceasingly voiced her hopes that the government acts firmly in upholding the law against illegal foreign fishing vessels in Indonesian waters. Susi stressed that Indonesia as a sovereign nation must be able to distinguish between foreign vessels that must be respected or those that must be captured. "

"When [a foreign country] invests [in Indonesia], we respect and protect them. But when [a country] steals (conducting illegal fishing), we must catch and sink them," said Susi in her official Twitter account @susipudjiastuti, Monday evening, January 6. Susi made similar remarks at the end of last week following China's violations in the Indonesian territorial waters, Natuna. "

"Treat fish thieves by enforcing the law on them for what they have [violated]. This is different from maintaining a friendship or investment climate," she remarked on Saturday, January 4. Furthermore, the former minister emphasized that friendship between countries does not mean protecting fish thieves. "

"Friendship between countries cannot protect fish thieves and set aside law enforcement against perpetrators of illegal, unreported, unregulated fishing (IUUF). This is a transnational crime," she tweeted.

Susi Pudjiastuti conveyed her statements in response to the peaceful solution proposed by Defense Minister Prabowo Subianto regarding China's violation in Natuna Sea. ""We will settle it well. After all, China is a friend country,"" said Prabowo at the Coordinating Ministry of Maritime Affairs and Investment Office, Jakarta, Friday, January 3. Prabowo's opinion was seconded by Coordinating Minister for Maritime Affairs and Investment Luhut Pandjaitan.

Deadly conditions for Indonesian migrant crews tied to illegal fishing

<https://news.mongabay.com/2020/01/deadly-conditions-for-indonesian-migrant-crews-tied-to-illegal-fishing/>

"D, 28-year-old Indonesian man, was witness to a deadly assault on a fellow boat crew member by the captain when they worked aboard the Taiwanese fishing vessel Da Wang a few years ago. The captain hit his friend in the head, then forced them to continue working. "In the morning when we woke up for breakfast, we found him dead in his room. The captain wrapped up my dead friend's body with a blanket and then stored him in the freezer, D said in an interview in July 2019.

D is one of 34 Indonesian sailors featured in an investigative report by the environmental group Greenpeace and the Indonesian Migrant Workers' Union (SBMI) published on Dec. 9. The organizations looked into their complaints of forced labor during their employment on 13 fishing vessels registered in China, Taiwan, Fiji and Vanuatu. The crews' statements described conditions in which they experienced overwork, withholding of wages, debt bondage, and physical and sexual violence.

These conditions eventually forced them to cut short their working contracts, which typically run about two years, and forfeit the deposits they were typically required to pay to get the jobs. "There's a strong interrelation between illegal fishing and forced labor of crews aboard fishing boats it's two sides of the same coin, Arifsyah Nasution, oceans campaigner at Greenpeace Southeast Asia, told Mongabay.

With coastal fisheries being depleted due to overfishing, vessels are heading farther out into open waters and high seas, in turn racking up higher operating costs. Companies look for cheap labor

to reduce costs and stay profitable and much of that cheap labor comes from Southeast Asia. “The way for [companies] to survive is by doing illegal activities: unreported catch, shark finning, transshipment so they can stay out in the seas longer, and sacrificing standards for salary and life on board, Arifsyah said.

Citing the Taiwan Fisheries Agency, the report says 21,994 Indonesian fishers were working on Taiwanese coastal and distant-water fishing vessels as of June 2019. Migrant boat crews from Indonesia and the Philippines make up a large component of Taiwan's distant-water fleets, one of the top five in the world and responsible for an industry valued at \$2 billion a year, according to Greenpeace.

While the abuse mostly occurs once the crews are aboard the vessel, exploitative working arrangements begin with recruitment by fly-by-night hiring agents, the report says. Many Indonesian migrant fishers are reportedly given false seafarers' papers by the hiring agencies, which in most cases aren't even licensed to send workers overseas; only two of 124 registered manning agencies had permission from the Indonesian Transportation Ministry to recruit and place migrant fishers aboard foreign vessels, according to government records cited in the report.

The migrant fishers also have to agree to a payment scheme in which their salaries are deducted to pay “guarantee deposits and processing fees for the first six to eight months of their employment, forcing them to work long hours for little or no pay, the report says. And when a crew member fails to complete their contract, they will lose the deposit, it adds.

“The clauses in the contract are already unfair, Arifsyah said. “There's an indication that [working conditions] are designed to be inconvenient [for the boat crews], and it's being used to benefit the local recruiters and agencies abroad.