

# Potential of Women Fisherman in Indonesia Frontier

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**Abstract:** The consequences of the insular location, the greatest size and the maritime form of Indonesia caused the survival pattern of the people offshore mostly as fisherman. But the problems that arise from the definition of fisherman tend to be interpreted as people who catch fish, while women who play a role mostly as fish cleaners to be consumed at home or sell it in markets, which are not directly involved in fishing activities, are not taken into account, sometimes not receiving wages in the home business. They are only considered to accompany even just relying her life to her fishing husband. Then the contribution of women fisherman is considered non-existent and adversely affecting women fishermen. This paper describes how the potential of fisherman in the concept of Indonesia's frontier to see non-physical potential in maintaining the security of border outside the country. This research is a qualitative research by collecting data from literature study through literature review from various scientific articles. Validity and reliability of data is done by reference triangulation. This paper aims to explain the ability and potential of fisherman in maintaining and integrating Indonesian frontier which has not been taken into account of their potential as a key informant and has a significant role in the blue economy. So that gender equality and empowerment of women fishermen in fisheries development in Indonesia is important.

## 1 INTRODUCTION

Indonesia as an insular location has contact with other countries through its fairly open and strategic sea lane, which occupies a cross position between the Pacific Ocean and the Indian Ocean and a fairly solid trade crossing between the Asian continent and the Australian continent, resulting in various advantages and disadvantages emerging simultaneously as a consequence. The strategic value of the insular location is usually used for developed countries by making international ports as an international trade route into one of the foreign exchange earnings for the country, but this potential drains 'capital' for Indonesia so that the absorption is preferred only to build a national port and manage marine resources alone, whereas the advantage of insular location is not owned by all countries, so this position is usually a strength and advantage geographically for a country (Daniah, 2014).

As a maritime country, Indonesia was internationally recognized at UNCLOS in 1982 which was then ratified by Indonesia with Law Number 17 of 1985. Under UNCLOS 1982, the total marine territory of Indonesia is 5,9 million km<sup>2</sup>,

consisting of 3,2 million km<sup>2</sup> of waters territorial and 2,7 km<sup>2</sup> waters of Exclusive Economic Zone (ZEE in Indonesian language), Indonesian waters have the potential of capture fishery resources of 6,5 million tons per year, consisting of 4,4 million tons captured in Indonesian waters and 1,86 tons captured in the waters of ZEE (Ambari, 2017). This makes Indonesia as the largest archipelago country in the world. However, the development of the marine and fisheries sector is still far from expectation, whereas the coastal areas and small islands and the Indonesian archipelago keep the potential of natural resources and environmental services are very large and not yet optimally utilized.

The potential of large and vast natural resources of marine resources can become one of the sources of foreign exchange for maritime countries, of course with attention to the ability of human resources in the management of fisheries and marine resources diversity available for each community, but the low ability of maritime communities in Indonesia just rely on the ability to go to sea as a way to survive.

Indonesia is also included in the category of very large size because it has a total area of jurisdiction that reaches ±7,8 million km<sup>2</sup>, one third by water area of ±5,9 million km<sup>2</sup>, and has a coastline of ±81.000

km, so it occupies a long coastline after the Canadian coastline (Forum for Strategic Studies, 2012). The long coastal advantages make the habit of the people in the coastal areas tend to work as fishermen who should be very prosperous fishermen with the benefits of marine natural resources abundantly by Indonesia, but the irony that occurred precisely the point of poverty is in the coastal areas of the majority of society foraging by becoming a fisherman.

Law Number 9 of 1985 article 1 point 10 and Law Number 7 of 2016 formulates that the term fisherman is any person whose livelihood is fishing. Fishermen are often synonymous with men fishing, fishing and trawling, so that under the law most fishermen women who are not directly involved in the fishing process are not recognized by the state as fishermen, but only do the processing marine products related to fisheries and marine. So that the definition of fishermen in the Indonesian policy cannot accommodate fishermen women who actually have a big role in the coastal economy. The result of the condition is that the policy targets related to sea power resulted in fishermen women not being included in the Indonesian development program.

The contribution of non-existent fisherman women has a negative impact on women because they cannot get access to credit, processing technology, refrigeration warehouses and government-run training. Whereas in the context of food security and poverty eradication from the Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries, it expressly states the obligation of the state to treat fishermen women include obtaining adequate housing, basic sanitation and safe hygiene, investment and credit savings, free from sexual harassment and violence, technological development and so on that refer to CEDAW (Dhewy, 2017).

Whereas what distinguishes the activities of men fishermen and women fisherman only on fishing activities directly. The task of fishermen women is more comprehensive such as preparing the needs of the net before the husbands leave, then the catch of fish will be sorted first, cleaned before the sale and processed (dried or through the process of fogging) then marketed. If the catch still does not meet the needs of the fishermen are usually involved in fish farming, seaweed processing, processing of the shells, whereas men are often unemployed in case of extreme weather in the sea. It does not include cooking washing, babysitting and cleaning their house. So far, the gender perspective on fisheries issues is very weak because it only focused on the production of fish controlled by male fishermen.

The very high activity of the existence of the fishermen women is still considered largely that they are financially dependent on their husbands and not yet fully engaged as fishermen, so that in the household position the existence of the fishermen women is still considered weak, whereas the very complex activities performed by the women fishermen from before the men fishermen set out at sea to go home after the sea.

The image of gender bias is due to patriarchal culture which sees the fisherman's activity is more on men's struggle to get their family's welfare, so the fishermen get access to fishermen's card consisting of insurance and other development programs based on Law Number 7 of 2006 about Fishermen's Protection and Empowering, Fish Farmers and Salt Farmers who have not yet touched on women fishermen because they are only considered as objects that receive livelihood from husbands (fishermen) (Istiana, 2014).

If the fishermen's women are not guaranteed their rights and are not supported by their existence, it can be expected that the largest poor can come from this class. Then the government should pay special attention to the women fishermen and change the definition of the very masculine fishermen in Law Number 7 of 2016. If this is not done, then the achievement of SDGs in promoting gender equality and women's empowerment will fail, especially related to essential components such as eradication poverty, food security, sustainable development of fisheries and marine resources.

## 2 RESEARCH METHODS

This study is a descriptive qualitative study that explains and illustrates the problems by performing data collection, information analysis and reporting of the results. This study explains the strengths that fishermen women have in maintaining the wealth of marine and fishery resources of Indonesia through its role. The data in this study is collected through the use of literature review method or library research. So the type of data used in this study is secondary data, where the data relevant to the problems obtained and discussed from various books, journals, reports, documents and materials from the internet. The analytical techniques used in this study is a method of content analysis that explains and analyzed data of research results that have been read and summarized from written sources obtained successfully (documents analysis). The interpretation of data on the law is then analyzed by using deductive method, that is the method which tried to apply the relevant

theory in a phenomenon, and then presents the results of the study. Validity and reliability of data is done by reference triangulation.

### 3 RESULT AND DISCUSSION

#### 3.1 Frontier Concept for Indonesia

Borders on a country are often interpreted in the frontier concept that has a function in maintaining the sovereignty of a state. The borders of the state are regarded as the most fundamental sovereignty, having a boundary or dividing line between the two countries, which appears physically and non-physically (based on an imaginary line agreement) (Hayati & Yani, 2007), so that all natural resources contained therein are wholly owned by the state and in the event of theft of all resources nature contained therein, the country shall be entitled to take firm action against the offender.

The concept of frontier is to realize the zones (path) with the width that separates the two regions of different countries (Daldjoeny, 1991). Frontier or also often referred to as foreland (in front) is the path (zone) outer from the boundaries of a country that also touches the boundaries of other countries. Flint says the frontier is the foremost region of a dangerous country when it expands its outer enemies, so often referred to as “the foremost defense” of a country (Flint, 2007), this leading region is closely tied to the withdrawal of the integration frontier that includes internal components such as citizenship, security and wealth natural resources, so that the state strengthens frontier because in addition to the border reasons, also the wealth of marine natural resources that have great foreign exchange potential for the state that is guarded not only by the security apparatus but by every citizen. The potential of citizenship in guarding coastal areas is not only done by men but women also have the same potential, such as providing information to the state security apparatus.

The strength of national borders encompasses the outer islands region that is correlated with the geostrategic and geo-economic of a country, most developed countries have used ocean oriented to strengthen their Zee territory to overcome sovereignty and citizenship problems for the inhabitants of the outer islands, as well as the management of their natural resource potential, physically the expansion carried out by the government through its outer perimeter (Djalal, 2009). Economic unity needs to be improved especially in the outer border areas, especially in

managing offshore natural resources potential. This is done as a binder of the nationalism of the offshore fishermen economic actors as part of the sovereignty of the state.

#### 3.2 The Strength of Women Fishermen in Keeping Indonesia Frontier

The advantage for a country with a large coastline is to have abundant natural resources and have a place for agricultural, forestry and marine wealth. But this also resulted in a very broad line of state security boundaries due a country to be controlled and supervised by the government, especially in offshore positions, the high incidence of fish theft and low levels of marine security due to low control of trans boundary crime. The ability to overcome all the threats in the coastal areas, ranging from the low priority of marine safety issues certainly have an impact on the catch of fish in the sea, but this problem has been seen from the many villages inhabited by poor fishermen groups because in addition to the fisherman's ability is still traditional, marine resource results have also been reduced due to the number of thefts.

Various attempts to overcome the problems of fish theft in the sea have been pursued by the government through various conferences and international agreements agreed by each country involved, but the low sanctions for the country that violates the cause of international agreements are not able to run well, such as negotiations the 14th Fish Trade by the FAO Fisheries Commission is often referred to as Fishery Agreements which turns out to be only a formality when fish thefts occur in every country.

This is what causes the need to increase the role of Indonesian fishermen women who are in the offshore region as key informants when their husbands go to sea. Women fishermen have longer time on the coast so that when fish theft carried out by neighboring countries, these fishermen women are able to cooperate with the government to overcome them with the given facilities and learning skills to get involved. This eradication effort can increase knowledge for women fishermen about the importance of keeping coastal area and its marine resources. The increasing information prevention of theft of fish will be more beneficial to the country's foreign exchange, especially for the fishermen families themselves with the increase of catch because fish will be caught more and more.

The high number of fish thefts by neighboring countries and fishermen who still catch fish in the

traditional way caused the number of poor people, especially in the coastal area of 31,02 million people (BPS, 2010) due to the high dependence of the fishermen with the natural conditions, sometimes have to deal with the conditions of large waves that cause fishermen to be it is difficult to change the economic conditions for the better, whereas their existence for the economic power of the country is very significant. When the coastal areas are categorized as poor areas, the government needs to try to develop the potential of blue economy for women fishermen to survive when the fishermen (men) go to sea. The role of women fishermen should be optimized through the development of productive economic enterprises as well as one way of empowering women fishermen for sustainable development of fisheries and marine resources.

The socio-economic condition of the fishermen community is said to be cause for concern because of the physical obstacles that are uncertain climate conditions make the economic endurance of fishermen households is low. This condition requires all family members to participate in improving the family's economic life, not to mention the low level of knowledge of women fishermen as a supporter of household economic needs is needed because the husbands who work as fishermen from the income side have no certainty. In famine season or when big waves, fishermen do not earn income if they do not have alternative livelihoods or involve families to make money to meet various household needs (Kusnadi, 2003). The role of women fishermen in making money becomes one of the void of fishermen income in famine season, and increase economic resilience of fishermen household especially in coastal area of border which susceptible to seized by neighbor country.

The empowerment activities of women fishermen through self-help women themselves can produce a variety of excellent products from the potential of fishery resources that can further enhance the role of the fishermen women to engage in the mindset of the existing blue economy in order to strengthen the frontier limit of the state. But in the management of the blue economy, of course, the role of the government must also take sides with the fishermen in the coastal areas, such as the collaboration of government policies and business groups in developing trade based on marine resources. The development of this group of women fishermen programs is the actualization in developing marine economic business based on productive coastal development framework.

Fish farming program that has been processed by the fishermen women in improving economic strength in the coastal area of course need to be supported by the government through the implementation of pass cards as one of the legal cards in and out through the border to interaction of offshore women's fishing trade, in order to facilitate the transaction every day in order to expand the trade of fish cultivation to neighboring countries because it has economical and efficient value rather than requiring them to travel great distances if they have to sell to their own territory. Such as the border case on Miangas Island (Las Palmas), to transact destination economies to the Philippines is preferred because it only covers 48 miles, whereas if it must transact economically to Talaud District which is part of North Sulawesi Province, it must travel 145 miles.

The use of pass cards to facilitate trade access to neighboring countries by the government, also in order to strengthen the economy in offshore coastal communities, so that economic independence of women fishermen as economic actors directly created when selling the cultivation or processed fish. The use of pass cards also has other advantages of being able to generate information about the strengths and weaknesses of neighboring country borders, information developed between offshore fishermen and border fishermen more quickly in the event of transnational crime such as theft of fish or other crimes, compared with information that arrived at the apparatus state security, because women fishermen are considered as ordinary people.

Fragmented state forms also result in fragile coastal areas to be separated when one region with another region is less able to fully integrate (sovereign), especially on the issue of equitable development. Whereas Indonesia is also faced with different geographical conditions or lack of natural potential, the potential existence of women fishermen with the existence of marine aquaculture groups such as strengthening the seaweed cultivation program as an effort to overcome the problem fragmented, in addition to the exchange of knowledge on the way of cultivation sea in offshore area development. In this case of course the role of a group of women fishermen with groups of women fishermen in other areas will be faster and easier due to the emotional equation that tends to have a higher social empathy and this effort to create feelings for women fishermen as part of the country.



## 4 CONCLUSION

Various issues of countries that have maritime categories of course must be faced by Indonesia with all its consequences, but it turns out the government just “forget” that there are other forces in overcoming the maritime problem. The existence of women fishermen should not only be considered just complementary reproduction and household, but also able to overcome the problems that occur in Indonesia frontier, including the potential of female fishermen as key informants in providing information about various criminal acts at sea, as the perpetrator of the blue economy mindset development, as actors of foreign market access through pass cards and the potential to integrate separate coastal areas through knowledge and strengthening of marine fisheries groups of inter-offshore fishing females. The potential and ability of women fisherman need to be viewed as a state power in maintaining and maintaining Indonesia frontier that has been only intended for men fishermen or government security apparatus.

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