



REPORT

STRENGTHENING CIVIL SOCIETY AND COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION (CSO) PARTICIPATION ON THE INITIATION OF FISHERIES REFUGIA MANAGEMENT

INDONESIA

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**Information activities in 2022 of Strengthening Civil Society and Community
Organization Participation**

I. Background

The Fisheries Refugia Project in Indonesia, implemented from 2019 to 2022, has enrolled several activities involving the local fishermen community on both sites (West Kalimantan and Bangka Belitung). This civil society and community organization (CSO) was facilitated under local fishery joint business groups and was targeted to be involved during the project activities to achieve higher acceptance on the community levels regarding the Fisheries Refugia concept and goals as well as to strengthen their participation as the local fisheries refugia management group. The Fisheries Refugia concept was considered as the Novel fisheries management introduced in Indonesia where most of the fisheries community knowledge was more familiar with the Marine Protection Area (MPA) concept. The MPA concept established in Indonesia separates several zones for conservation purposes and protects the most essential habitat as the no-take zone.

The “no-take” zone concept implemented eventually produced a tremendous social-economic impact. Most of the fishermen community will show their resistance to the idea of the “no-take” zone. Unfortunately, we found that limited knowledge regarding the fisheries refugia concept was present among the fishermen community on both sites. It was expected by the local fishermen that the fisheries refugia concept was also establishing permanent “no-take” areas. To minimize the potential resistance among the fisheries communities that might be present during the fisheries refugia Implementation in the future, several activities enrolled by involving the local fishermen communities. The CSO participation in the initiation of the fisheries refugia management was also aimed to identify the potential CSO that should be strengthened to be effectively involved in the fisheries refugia implementation.

II. Involved Fisheries Community

The identification of the potentially impacted community post to the Fisheries Refugia had been conducted during the socio-economic study. The existing communities were categorized into two components, i.e., primary and secondary stakeholders. The primary stakeholders are composed of several parties who put their direct interest in the resources and areas. These parties were the fishermen, collectors, exporters, and processors (post-harvest industry). The secondary stakeholder was the parties that belonging an indirect interest in the resources and areas, i.e., MMAF, local governments (Provincial, District, and Village), NGOs, and Universities.

Among the fisheries stakeholders, the fishermen communities were the main concern regarding the Fisheries Refugia Implementation. The main record from several meetings was regarding the existence of the livelihood for the local fishermen existed on fisheries

refugia sites when the Fisheries Refugia-based management was established. This resistance statement came from the local authority representing the groups of fishermen. Nowadays, the fishery joint business group is established locally throughout Indonesian fisheries communities developed by the MMAF. This group represented a small number of fisher individuals belonging to similar business interest backgrounds (fishing target, fishing gear type, and/or vessel size).

Table 1. The List of Involved Fishermen Group in West Kalimantan and Bangka Belitung Province.

No	Groups	Fishermen type	Sites
1	Yakin Usaha	Trammel-net fisher	West Kalimantan
2	Mina Bahari	Gill-net fisher	West Kalimantan
3	Tunas nelayan Tuing	Squid jigging and lift net fisher	Bangka Belitung
4	Nelayan Simpang Mapur	Squid jigging fisher	Bangka Belitung
5	Simbang Kuala Mapur	Squid jigging fisher	Bangka Belitung
6	Sinar Gunung Permai	Gill-net fisher	Bangka Belitung
7	Air melandut	Gill-net fisher	Bangka Belitung
8	Bahari Lestari Abadi	Gill-net fisher	Bangka Belitung
9	Nelayan Citra lestari	Squid jigging fisher	Bangka Belitung
10	Simbang Nelayan Jaya	Squid jigging fisher	Bangka Belitung

III. Activities Involving Fisheries Community

To strengthen civil society and community organization participation during the initiation of Fisheries Refugia Management, there were three activities that actively involved local fishermen through the fishermen group representatives.

a. Acquisition of ecological information

Fisheries refugia were laid on the ecological evidence on target sites to identify the essential habitat. Important information such as Fishing Season Indices and the potential fishing ground could be identified through the experimental fishing survey and the observation of gonadal maturity from the temporally collected samples. Nevertheless, gaining specific prior information regarding both parameters required local's knowledge. The local fishermen's knowledge was not only helpful in providing an initial perspective prior to the survey activities but also important to confirm the result of the study. Thus, the survey conducted in this project always involved local fishermen.

During the survey activities, a massive communication with the member of the local fishery joint business group was made to acquire information regarding the condition of the areas and collect personal opinions from those fishermen regarding the ecological information. These activities also facilitated a personal information transfer from the fisheries refugia team project to campaign the fisheries refugia concept. This person-to-person communication was aimed to open a better understanding of the

fishermen's community level which will be important to enhance the acceptance rate of the fisheries refugia management concept.

b. Acquisition of social-economy information

Besides the participation of the local community group during the ecological data acquisition, the fishery joint business group members were also targeted as the respondent in the social-economy survey. The social-economy survey conducted was aimed to identify the community response and institutional development potency on both refugia sites. The social-economy survey was conducted to build understanding regarding the response of the local fishermen community on fisheries refugia sites and looking forward to the potency in strengthening civil society and community organization (CSO). Several scoring criteria were used in estimating the CSO potency (Table 2).

Table 2. Assessment criteria in estimating the CSO potency

No	Development phase	Criteria
1.	Forming (initial formation)	1. Organization structure and organization committee democratically elected available 2. The organization members' identity was recorded. 3. Published ID cards for the members 4. Periodically member meetings are conducted and recorded.
2.	Brainstorming (suggestion collection)	4. Activity plan and published document available 5. Membership fee, organizational income plan, and organizational spending plan available
3.	Norming (value system determination)	6. The agreed value system of the organization 7. Established a conflict resolution system for the members 8. Organization basic budget and household budget available
4.	Performing (perform functions in co-management)	9. The organization has existed for more than 2 years 10. There are agreement and understanding regarding responsible fisheries activities. 11. Implementing organizational activities contributed to resource sustainability. 12. Entrepreneurial relationship developed

By involving the local fishermen and their fishery joint business groups, there was acquired information describes the recent locals' perception to be used as the basic consideration prior to the fisheries refugia implementation. This social economy survey was also essential to seek potency in accommodating the existing CSO as an important part of establishing fisheries refugia management.

c. Fisheries Refugia meeting

In order to implement fisheries refugia-based management, several meeting agenda have been conducted to facilitate discussion among stakeholders, socialization of the fisheries refugia concept, and shared awareness materials to improve understanding

and reach mutual agreements. Through this agenda, the CSO represented by the fishery joint business group was also involved to acquire their opinion and increasing their participation in the fisheries refugia project.

IV. Expected impacts post to the activity involvement

The fishermen's community's perception of both sites varied in response to the importance of fisheries management. According to the social economy survey, the local fishermen's knowledge about the importance of fisheries management reached 79% for Bangka Belitung respondents and 52% for West Kalimantan. Thus, by involving the local fishery joint business group in fisheries refugia project activities it was expected to increase their understanding of the importance of fisheries management by implementing the fisheries refugia concept. Furthermore, through the identification of potential local fishery joint business groups, the impact of fisheries refugia implementation might be enhanced by the presence of supported local fishermen and their organizations in providing surveillance, protection, and sustainable fishing activity in the fisheries refugia area.

V. Documentations



Local fishermen assist the survey teams in collecting ecological data and information



Local fishermen joint business group as the respondent for the social-economy survey



Meeting with local fishermen joint business group to acquire information regarding fisheries activities on site



Local fishermen join business group representatives (3 persons on the right side) in a meeting involving all relevant stakeholders