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Becoming the Fish-bomb Fisherman as an Adaptation Strategy in Economy Crisis: Case Study of Pulau Karang, Indonesia

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Abstract

Indonesia is recognised as the biggest archipelago country in the world. The total number of island is around seventeen thousands, which have reflected a complexity of biodiversity management to support social welfare. One of the recent issue in the coastal environment is about coral reef.

Indonesia which has 81.000 km coastal length, is a centre of variety's coral reef in Asia Pacific. Unfortunately, the environmental research since 1984 by P3O LIPI has founded that it is only 6 percents of coral reef in the good condition. The destructive factors are natural reason and human caused. A lot discussion pointed out that human being has much share on this process. In the recent years, fisherman is often perceived by many other parties as a destroyer to the sea natural resources. Their technologies to catch fish sometimes are negative toward environment, for instance bomb, potassium cyanide, and so on. In this paper would be discussed the change of social culture aspects in Pulau karang (unreal name), namely traditionally they did fishing for seacucumber or a very commercial fish: sunu and napoleon wrasse. In the period of economy crisis in Indonesia they changed to be Pa'es (the fisherman who used bomb as their main method). As an impact of economy crisis and sea natural resources crisis, they have to find alternative in order to get good income, and becoming a Pa'es is the good choice. Using the bombs make the coral reef in the ground fishing destroyed and as a result decreasing of productivity. Thus, they always needed to find a new ground fishing. Presently, their ground fishing was very far from their village and spent much time to go there.

The new problem is a new policy of government to apply “regional autonomy” (Law no.22/1999). It is intended to do decentralisation. So they would face difficulty to find another ground fishing. There is already a few cases in other provinces that the fisherman from other provinces is driven out with the reason: regional autonomy.

Keywords: Coral reef, economy crisis, fish-bomb fisherman, Pulau Karang-Indonesia, regional autonomy