

## CHALLENGES IN IMPLEMENTING MEASURABLE FISHING POLICIES

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### Abstract

*The potential wealth of Indonesia's marine resources is crucial to protect for the benefit of future generations. However, these resources' declining number and diversity necessitate further protection efforts. This paper analyzes the implementation of measured fishing policies (PIT) introduced by the Ministry of Maritime Affairs and Fisheries (KKP). The KKP has issued PIT through Government Regulation (PP) No. 11 of 2023. However, this regulation has sparked controversies that pose a threat to the livelihoods of Indonesian fishermen. Moreover, the absence of accompanying regulations complicates the policy implementation process. The government must take prompt action to evaluate and monitor the implementation of this regulation. Commission IV of the DPR RI, through its oversight function, can request a review of the policy regarding foreign investors' involvement in measured fishing to safeguard the interests of local fishermen. Additionally, Commission IV can urge the government to allocate sufficient funding to construct necessary infrastructure through its budget function.*

### Introduction

Indonesia has a large potential for fish resource wealth. Based on the Decree of the Minister of Maritime Affairs and Fisheries No. 19 of 2022 on the Estimation of Potential Fish Resources, Amount of Allowed Fish Catch, and Level of Utilization of Fish Resources in the Fisheries Management Area of the Republic of Indonesia, Indonesia's fish potential reaches 12 million tons per year. Indonesia's marine capture

fisheries production has been increasing yearly, except during the Covid-19 pandemic (KKP, 2023).

Capture fisheries in Indonesia exhibit a different character than those in other countries. Indonesia boasts a rich diversity of fish species (multi-species) and utilizes various types of fishing gear (multi-fishing gear) for fishing activities in the sea. According to the Decree of the Minister of Maritime Affairs and Fisheries No. 50/Kepmen-



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KP/2017, 38 percent of Indonesia's fisheries management areas have been categorized as overfished, while 44 percent are fully fished. Consequently, several fisheries management areas in Indonesia face threats of unsustainable marine resources. Several areas within Indonesian waters, such as the Malacca Strait and the waters of the Indian Ocean south of Java, have experienced overfishing (Suman et al., 2018).

Additionally, fishing activities in Indonesia are still predominantly carried out on a small scale. The distribution of industrial-scale fisheries across Indonesian fisheries management areas is not uniform (Trenggono, 2023, p. 2). This paper analyzes the implementation of the measured fishing policies (PIT) set by the KKP.

### **Measured Fishing Policies**

The high utilization of fish potential in Indonesia is closely related to input control policies and the issuance of fishing permits for fleets and fishing gear (Zaini, 2021). The uncontrolled granting of fishing permits has resulted in overfishing in several Indonesian fisheries management areas. This situation has prompted the implementation of a PIT to regulate fishing activities from the output side. The PIT is a strategic program implemented by the KKP as part of the blue economy development concept. The main objectives of the PIT are to ensure the sustainability of fish resources, promote regional economic growth, and improve the welfare of fishermen (KKP, 2022).

The PIT implementation was further reinforced by the issuance

of Government Regulation (PP) No. 11 of 2023 on the Measured Catching of Fish. This regulation defines the measured fishing zone, including Indonesia's fisheries management areas, in territorial and high seas. Indonesia's fisheries management areas encompass various water bodies such as Indonesian waters, the exclusive economic zone, rivers, lakes, reservoirs, swamps, and other stagnant waters within the territory of the Republic of Indonesia.

PP No. 11 of 2023 also establishes fishing quotas within the PIT zone. These quotas are calculated based on the potential fish resources available and the allowable catch, considering the level of fish resource utilization. The regulation aims to ensure sustainable fishing practices and proper management of fish resources (jdih.maritim.go.id, March 9, 2023).

The PIT distinguishes between Indonesia's fisheries management areas' industrial and local fishing zones. Under this policy, domestic and foreign investors can utilize fish resources in the industrial zones through a special permit valid for 15 years. The government aims to generate non-tax state revenue (PNBP) from this policy.

The government believes that the PIT will positively impact the preservation of Indonesia's marine resources by reducing overfishing and ensuring the maintenance of fish stocks and the overall health of the oceans. Moreover, business actors can determine the optimal number of vessels to maximize profits. This policy also aims to promote economic equality across regions by aligning the landing ports with the fishing areas.

To ensure accurate catch data, the PIT requires business actors to submit reports on their catches at the designated landing ports. This will enhance data accuracy and monitoring. Additionally, optimizing industrial activities at the landing ports is expected to increase PNBP derived from this fishing activity (Zaini, 2021).

However, until now, the implementation of PP No. 11 of 2023 is still causing polemic, including the readiness of port facilities and infrastructure as recipients of measurable fish catch and human resources to carry out monitoring and verification in the field. Furthermore, the KKP still needs to implement PP regulations, such as a ministerial regulation or a ministerial decree (detikfinance.com, May 4, 2023). However, another important thing is that the PIT through the PP is considered to be detrimental to fishermen, namely its relation to the use of boat crew from the local fisheries management area, the limited area of the fisheries management areas, and the rules for unloading fish at the local fisheries management areas. These three things make it difficult for local and small fishermen to compete with the large-scale fishing industry (rejabar.republika.co.id, March 21, 2023).

### **Strengthening the Measured Fishing Policies**

Several appropriate steps are needed so that this measurable fishing policy can work properly and achieve what is intended by this policy. First, the government must

redefine this policy's clear goals and objectives and strengthen it by implementing ministerial regulations or decrees to facilitate supervision in implementing the PP. Implementing regulations that must be prepared include the mechanism for sharing authority between the center and the regions in managing catchment zones, developing human resource capacity in strengthening supervision in various designated zones, and how the mechanism protects local fishermen and small fishermen by opening investment faucets from other countries.

Second, the government needs to provide training and technical support for fishermen in applying measured fishing technology, including using measured fishing gear and measurement and reporting systems. Third, the government must cooperate closely with relevant stakeholders, including fishermen, fisherman associations, and the private sector. This is done to increase public participation in the implementation of PIT. Fourth, the government must immediately build the necessary infrastructure for policy implementation, such as adequate ports, wharves, and fish storage warehouses. Fifth, the government must develop an effective monitoring and evaluation system to ensure the successful implementation of this measurable fishing policy. Sixth, the government must prepare incentives and compensation for fishermen who comply with measurable fishing rules. This incentive can be in the form of capital assistance and business training.

## Conclusion

PP No. 11 of 2023 on PIT is one of the efforts to preserve marine resources. The PP requires sufficient time for optimal implementation to achieve its goals. However, several incidents that have occurred to date necessitate effective and efficient follow-up actions by the government, especially in protecting local fishermen and small-scale fishers, as well as in efforts to increase PNBP from the fisheries sector. Immediate action must be taken to establish implementing regulations as a guide for implementing the PP.

By implementing the oversight function, the DPR RI, especially Commission IV, can request the government to review the policy of allowing foreign investors to participate in PIT implementation, focusing on protecting local fishermen from further marginalization. Oversight is also necessary to ensure that the government promptly prepares the necessary regulations for implementation. Additionally, by implementing the budget function, Commission IV can urge the government to allocate an adequate portion of the budget for building the required infrastructure. Through these concerted efforts, it is hoped that effective fishing policies can be developed to enhance the welfare of fishermen, preserve fish and marine resources, and increase state revenues.

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