

# Fishermen Empowerment Strategy as a Solution against Hybrid Threats in Indonesia

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**Abstract:** Indonesia is the largest archipelagic country in the world which has the potential to become the World Maritime Axis. As a maritime country, Indonesia has several problems with threats at sea. In this study, the researcher aims to analyze the empowerment of fishing communities as a form of mitigating hybrid threats in Indonesia. This study is qualitative research. The researchers used data collection techniques through a literature study. The data were collected according to the concept proposed by Miles and Hubberman. One of the obstacles that affect the empowerment of fishermen is the lack of budget, lack of human resources and supervision, and Fraud of fishermen. Air strengths that can support and cover the lesser quantity of Alutsista. Fishermen Empowerment Strategy is carried out by setting goals (winning war with fishery mobilization), availability of facilities (place, information, communication), and methods (Indonesian Navy Service, Regional Defense Development, and Social Communication).

**Keyword:** Fishermen, empowerment, Alutsista, defense, marine

## I. INTRODUCTION

Indonesia is the largest archipelago country in the world which has the potential to become the World Maritime Axis. This aims to develop Indonesia as a large country to have a strong defense and prosperous maritime nation. In support of these, President Joko Widodo initiated five pillars; rebuild Indonesia's maritime culture, commit to maintaining and managing marine resources with its seafood sovereignty that involves the development of the fishing industry as the main pillar, and give priority to infrastructure development and maritime connectivity by building sea highways, deep seaports, logistics, shipping industry, and maritime tourism, implement maritime diplomacy through proposals for increased cooperation in the maritime sector and require efforts to deal with sources of conflict at sea, such as fish theft, violation of sovereignty, territorial disputes, piracy, and marine pollution. The sea should unite some nations, and not separate them. Building defense maritime power is a form of responsibility to maintain maritime safety and security [1].

As a maritime country, Indonesia has several problems with threats at sea. This problem is a hybrid threat that arises from transnational crimes in the coastal areas, including drugs illicit, arms smuggling, illegal logging, human trafficking, illegal migrants, and Illegal Unreported and Unregulated Fishing. These crimes do not only involve state actors but are currently more dominated by non-state actors that utilize sophisticated technology and electronics [14].

Therefore, to combat this threat, Indonesia empowers defense capabilities, one of which is the empowerment of defense areas and community empowerment policy. Indonesia should not only increase in the quality and quantity of tools and weapon of national defense system. Enhancing community awareness is also necessary to improve the standard of living and welfare of coastal communities. The dominant coastal communities are fishermen.

Fishermen are a group of people who find living income from marine products and live in the coastal areas. In terms of sources of livelihood, fishermen engage activity of fishing as daily income in the marine and coastal environment. In terms of way of life, they become a community who is willing to perform mutual assistance when dealing with situations that require huge expenditures and the exertion of a lot of energy, such as during sail, building houses, or dams that block waves around the village. Fishermen tend to experience poverty since they have limited facilities. This is something that naturally happens in each individual fisherman in Indonesia [12].

Empowering fishing communities for defense relies on the main tasks of the Indonesian National Armed Forces (TNI) Navy (AL) and the involvement of the government and other sectors. The use of Indonesian fishermen is a form of opportunity for operational elements to maintain state sovereignty and security in the sea area. As it recorded by the KKP, the number of Indonesian fishermen is 2.39 million, so the role of the Indonesian Navy in fostering fishermen as a national defense reserve component is required in the marine sector. It aims to improve the welfare and prosperity of fishermen [13].

However, hybrid threats have increased in the last 4-5 years. 80-90 percent of drug smuggling enters Indonesia through the sea on the coast of the Malacca Strait, Kalimantan, and the southern coast of West Java. The drugs are smuggled from overseas, such as the Golden Triangle, Golden Chrysan, Golden Peacock and Africa. The issue of asylum seekers or refugees has also increased in the last two years, based on data from the Ministry of Law and Human Rights that 13,343 people registered with refugee status. The threat of IUU fishing generally occurs in fisheries management areas of 711 in the North Natuna Sea, 572 in the Malacca Strait, and 716 in the Sulawesi Sea [3].

Based on the above conditions, it is evident that the threats are growing more serious so the government and

Indonesian defense apparatus need new strategies and efforts in utilizing fishermen as national defense. Therefore, in this study, the researcher aims to analyze the empowerment of fishing communities as a form of mitigating hybrid threats in Indonesia

## II. THEORETICAL BASIS

### A. Empowerment of Marine Defense Area

In increasing the security of the maritime area, it should implement effective sea power in empowering the sea area. Empowerment of marine areas (Dawilhanla) is an effort to prepare the marine defense and its supporting forces early in accordance with the universal defense system (to create, maintain, improve and strengthen) the development of maritime potential. Dawilhanla is carried out in order to build and develop the strength of the marine and support OMP and OMSP. The target of Dawilhanla is to maintain a strong national territory and fighting space and to manage the National Resources in the maritime sector in a state defense system to support the interests of the defense system [9].

### B. Theory of Strategy

Boone Bartholomees [6], stated that the essence of strategy shows the convergence in the ends, means, and ways. The three essential components are interdependent. The ends may be achieved by the effectiveness of means and ways. The incompatibility of means, both types, and amounts, which are applied to ways, is not necessarily identified as a strategy when the ends are not achieved.

## III. METHOD

This study is qualitative research. Moleong [10] stated that qualitative research is research that aims to determine the phenomena of what is experienced by research subjects such as behavior, perception, motivation, actions, and others holistically and descriptively in the form of words and language, or in a special context by utilizing various natural methods. The researchers used data collection techniques through a literature study. The data were collected according to the concept proposed by Miles and Hubberman in Sugiyono [15] covering data reduction, data presentation, and drawing conclusions or verification.

In the process of analysis, the researchers described these problems based on the theoretical basis and concepts described previously. This data analysis was expected to be able to answer the problem described in the research background.

## IV. DISCUSSION

### A. Barriers and Constraints in Empowering Fishermen

One of the obstacles that affect the empowerment of fishermen is the lack of budget. The budget is a financial plan that is systematically arranged and expressed in monetary units to cover the future. Assistance is only given to a few groups consisting of several people. Furthermore, the

government does not completely fulfill their needs, so the assistance would not be appropriate and it cannot reach all fishermen.

In empowering fishing communities, the lack of human resources has resulted in employees being overwhelmed in carrying out their respective functions. This also has affected the lack of supervision, that to ensure all activities are carried out according to what has been planned. Due to the low level of education and welfare of fishermen, sometimes fishermen may commit fraud after receiving assistance, such endeavor to resell aid provided for personal needs [2].

Fraud generally occurs due to the lack of self-awareness in the community. Awareness is defined as a condition in which the individual has active control over internal and external stimuli. The lack of self-awareness may happen when fishermen experience a loss of motivation or a great desire to change for the better. Therefore, the public needs more awareness of the success of strategies. The lack of participation may be caused by both parties, either the organizers or fishermen so the empowerment program has not been reached [16].

The extent of the marine area of national jurisdiction is inversely proportional to the quantity of the Indonesian navy, and the inability of Alutsista to be able to protect all territorial waters became the factor that prevent them to carry out their main tasks optimally. Regarding that Indonesian navies as the main component of defense at sea shall require a long process to reach the ideal posture of the Air Force.

### B. Fishermen in Maritime Defense Area Empowerment

Air strengths that can support and cover the lesser quantity of Alutsista consist of commercial fleets, fishing fleets, ports, maritime service industries, as well as other supporting elements. The involvement of supporting elements, either directly or indirectly, has quite assisted the navy in carrying out its main tasks [4].

The Indonesian navy, Bakamla members, and Ministry of Maritime Affairs and Fisheries (KKP) are not fully capable of dealing with and tackling these complex threats because of the vast territory maritime boundaries. So the empowerment program for the fishing community can be instilled and increased by developing a sense of nationalism, and state defense awareness in which to maintain and secure the integrity of the jurisdiction of national waters from the threat of enemies or perpetrators of violators of international and national maritime law. Fishermen who have state defense awareness will maintain Indonesia's maritime sovereignty because their economic resources depend on marine products [6].

The level of state defense awareness describes the efforts corresponding to the apparatus, especially the Navy to support national defense requirements in the maritime sector. The role of the Navy has to be reinforced by developing the reserve component including intelligence data collectors,

support for shifting transport of special forces personnel, support for limited cargo transportation, support for search and rescue tasks at sea, and support for limited combat action to spread mines [16]. The development of fishing includes 3 aspects; (1) build the capacity of fishermen in deterrence at sea; (2) build deterrence credibility by creating a character of a national leader with maritime insight; (3) improve communication in relation to the insight of the archipelago and national resilience [4].

Meanwhile, in the aspect of fishermen's welfare, a fisherman empowerment program can be proposed to the minister of maritime affairs and fisheries, which prioritizes the issues of fisherman, such to increase exports, improve the technical facilities, expand fishing areas with regulatory support, and develop other cross-sectoral matters.

During peacetime the empowerment of maritime areas is divided into three forms, namely [8];

- Empowerment of maritime defense areas as training. This activity is accounted for by the navy and its staff in certain areas according to the budget plan.
- Empowerment of maritime defense areas as an integrated program, is an activity implemented by the navy and incorporated with institutions involved in each sector. The target areas of the program are selected based on local conditions, troop capacity, transportation, and the desired outcome.
- Empowerment of maritime defense areas as a form of military operation other than war is an activity carried out by the navy and staff as an operation based on special conditions such as horizontal conflict areas, vertical conflicts areas, mass rebellions, natural disasters, and other conditions.

To manage maritime defense to be sustainable, empowerment must be at both a collective and individual level. Empowerment is not just reorganizing management authority, but also requires initiative and awareness from the empowered parties. Building new social roles and relationships involving co-management factors that involve more than just institutional design, participatory democracy, and capacity building. In empowering fishermen and fishing communities, local fishermen can act as the "Sovereign Fishermen Patrol Team" marine security agents who will coordinate with BAKAMLA and the Indonesian Navy to protect Indonesia's maritime borders and achieve national interests [11].

The involvement of fishermen in preventing hybrid threats, especially in coastal areas at the Ministry of Maritime Affairs and Fisheries created a program called the Supervisory Community Group (Pokmaswas) which aims to provide space for the community to be involved in monitoring marine resources, marine sovereignty, marine security, and fisheries, and Development of Coastal Villages (Bindesir) which are fishermen or coastal communities who have received guidance from the Indonesian Navy. This effort is an actual

implementation in guarding and preventing threats, fishermen take a side role in enforcing maritime law in Indonesian seas in the form of warnings, reporting, infiltration, logistical assistance, and others. The implementation of this role is inseparable from the management of the Navy which involves fishermen as the defense support component, which it can support overcoming threats such as illegal fishing, smuggling, and other transnational crimes [8].

### *C. Fishermen Empowerment Strategy for Marine Defense.*

Empowerment is an effort that encourages people to be actively participation. The strategy needs three elements that must be included in the implementation of empowering coastal communities or fishermen [5];

1) *Ends*: A strategy defines the purpose of the Navy program such as preparing coastal areas as a force to win wars, building the welfare of coastal communities and accomplish the main duties and responsibilities of the Navy. The entire program is intended to increase awareness of coastal communities when they find several threats that interfere with sovereignty, especially hybrid threats, the communities can easily overcome and organized. Utilization of fishermen as the development of maritime potential and human resources plays role in collecting intelligence data, supporting transportation change of special forces personnel, supporting limited cargo transportation, supporting search and rescue tasks at sea, and supporting limited combat action of mine spreaders

2) *Means*: A strategy that indicates the facilities used in empowering coastal communities as instruments to achieve goals, such as the availability of meeting buildings, as a means of conveying information, communication, cleaning facilities, and so on.

3) *Ways*: a strategy that explains the method used by the organizers, including Lantamal, Navy Headquarters, Dispotmar, and others, in empowering coastal communities to increase public awareness by conducting Naval service, regional resilience, and social communication activities. The Naval service is carried out through community service activities, namely physical and non-physical activities. Physical activities refer to mutual cooperation with the target of public facilities and social facilities that have strategic value. Meanwhile, non-physical activities refer to counselling activities that foster a sense of nationalism, have a national perspective, defend the country, love the homeland, and improve community skills to support regional resilience. Bintahwil activities involve the aspect of demographic potentials such as ideology, politics, social, culture, and economy. One of the activities to strengthen social communication is to increase community participation in maintaining integrity (NKRI) in the region. Through coordination of three-way strategic communication in carrying out the sovereignty maintenance system by fishermen involving Bakamla and the Navy so that Patrol is more effective and controlled.

In reporting, simplification is carried out by opening interactive spaces and clear procedures for fishermen by the TNI using the 3A system, namely; *Complaints (Aduan)*, where fishermen report indications of security threats to the government through an application that is integrated with the central government; *Advocacy*, is the stage where the central government receives complaints reports by providing feedback in the form of coordination with local governments; *Action*, where the stage of the deployment of an operational team consisting of the government's leading sector and local fishermen. This can be started by forming a special unit from the leading sector or related ministries, which will later create a technology-based system that can be controlled and integrated with the central government of Jakarta [11].

## V. CONCLUSION

In countering hybrid threats in Indonesian seas, the empowerment of fishermen as a defense component, especially in the reserve and support aspects, contributes to limiting the operations of the Indonesian National Armed Forces Navy. Obstacles and barriers faced by the government in empowering fishermen make the empowerment of fishermen for defense purposes much-needed to maximize the strength of human resources. The strategy that can be used to realize this is to involve goals, infrastructure, and methods that aim to help the government create a fishing community that is resilient and has deterrence against emerging threats.

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