

Integration of Blue Economy in Fishermen's Economic Activities: a Strategy to Improve the Welfare of Coastal Lamongan Residents

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ABSTRACT

This study aims to analyze the contribution of fishermen's economic activities which consists of income, catches and added value This study aims to determine the impact of income on fishermen's welfare and evaluate the strategic role of the *blue economy approach* in strengthening local economic sustainability in Lamongan Regency. This study adopted a *mixed methods approach* with a sequential explanatory design. Quantitative data were collected from 100 respondents through questionnaires and analyzed using multiple linear regression, while qualitative data were obtained through in-depth interviews with key informants. The analysis results indicate that income has a positive and significant influence on fishermen's welfare. Conversely, catch yields show a significant negative influence. Although added value is not statistically significant, this variable has a structural role that cannot be ignored. The findings also indicate that the implementation of *blue economy principles* can strengthen the relationship between economic variables and fishermen's welfare in the context of sustainable local economic development.

INTRODUCTION

Regency Lamongan is one of the coastal areas that has potential source Power abundant sea . In period time a number of year lastly , sector fisheries in the Regency Lamongan experience significant development . With length of coastline reaching 47 kilometers, this area supported by infrastructure adequate maritime resources , including 3,423 units boat fishing gear and 52,269 units of equipment catch , and the existence of five locations base fish landing sites (PPI) spread across Lohgung , Labuhan , Brondong , Kranji , and Weru . Data from 2024 recorded that total production fishery catch reach 79,936 tons with mark economy amounting to Rp1.416 trillion . Meanwhile that , subsector fishery cultivation show contribution as big as 46,835 tons or worth Rp. 1.445 trillion , which comes from of 37,516 fish farming units with a total area land cultivation approximately 24,754 hectares . In addition that , subsector processing results fisheries also show significant increase , marked with existence 1,318 units industry processing that has capacity production reached 92,906 tons in the same year .

Although own potential source Power big sea , fishermen in the Regency Lamongan Still face various constraint structural obstacles improvement welfare . Limitations access to technology modern fishing causes productivity fisherman traditional still low . On the other hand , the cost operational going to sea Keep going increased , especially consequence height price material burn that can reach 60–80% of the total cost operational . Access subsidized fuel is also limited , so that Lots fisherman forced buy retail fuel with price Far more expensive. Besides that , dependency fishermen to middlemen in system marketing create chain long and uneven distribution efficient , which results in low profit margins received fishermen . Conditions This make fisherman is at in position weak bargaining power , worsening inequality economy although sector fishery in a way general experience growth .

Traditional fishermen in Lamongan similar to the small-scale fishing population in Indonesia in general – bearing operational costs of up to 60–70 % when buying fuel, but more than 80 % cannot access subsidized fuel, and are forced to pay the retail price of *Rp. 10,000 – 12,000* per liter. There are no fisherman's gas stations – only available at around 3.5 % of coastal villages – increasing the burden of access and costs. This situation reduces productivity and profit margins, encourages dependence on middlemen for capital and sales, and traps fishermen in a vicious economic cycle.

Condition social economy fishermen in the Regency Lamongan, as in many coastal areas others, are in the situation is getting worse vulnerable and not uncertain . High dependency to results catch as the only one source income make they are highly exposed to fluctuations season, weather extreme, and pressure exploitation source Power sea. Income fisherman tend low and not stable , because results catch often decreases as a result of overfishing and change ecosystem sea. On the side others, some big fisherman Not yet own activity economy a capable alternative give mark add , like cultivation, processing results sea, or diversification business based maritime others. The lack of skills, access to capital, and weakness institutional economy local become inhibitor main in the

process of diversification As a result , fishermen life in cycle dependence narrow economy, without guarantee sustainability and resilience adequate livelihood .

Therefore that, is necessary something study in -depth and comprehensive scientific use identify in a way systematic condition social economy fisherman along with determinants that influence it . Research kind of This become crucial as runway empirical in formulate policy the public who do not only nature responsive to fluctuations results catch, but also nature strategic and preventive in build resilience economy fishermen. Approach based *blue economy* offer perspective alternatives that emphasize optimization source Power sea in a way sustainable, strengthening mark add, and diversification activity economy coast. With Thus, the results study expected can contribute in compilation capable policies increase capacity adaptive, strengthening resilience economy, and encourage improvement welfare fisherman in term long. Without existence intervention data -based and targeted, there is risk the more weakening position economy fishermen in the middle dynamics environment and markets that continue to changed .

Although sector fisheries in the Regency Lamongan relatively progress , implementation principle *blue economy* Still be at the stage early and not yet running optimally. A study by Rahmawati (2015) on coastal area management programs local find that policy management the coast in Lamongan which was designed through Plan New Coastal Area Strategy 2010–2030 includes 4 programs and 21 activities, but Not yet fully adopt principle sustainability in aspect economic and socio - cultural evaluation on the *minapolitan* program in Brondong — a core part of the *blue economy* strategy local — shows that of 63 planned activities only 6 were realized, reflecting weakness in funding, support institutional and involvement society. Analysis This indicates that, although formed runway policy , implementation *blue economy* in Lamongan Still limited variety , no significant from aspect quality, and not yet succeed produce mark plus and sustainability economy for fisherman.

However, the implementation draft *blue economy* among fisherman Regency Lamongan Still is at in stage beginning and facing diverse complex obstacles. As something approach development based balance - oriented maritime between utilization source power and preservation ecosystem sea, principle *blue economy* Not yet fully implemented in activity fishery traditional in this region. The lack of understanding and awareness fisherman to principles sustainability reflected from Still dominant activity fishing tends to ignore aspect ecological initiative use technology environmentally friendly fisheries environmental and sustainable also not yet Lots run, especially Because capital and capacity limitations technical skills owned by fishermen scale small . Based on data from the Maritime Affairs and Fisheries Service Regency Lamongan , level implementation practice *blue economy* among fisherman new reach not enough from 20%, far below the national target by 50% as poured out in Long-Term Development Plan Regional Medium Term Development Plan (RPJMD).

Urgency study *blue economy* in the Regency Lamongan is also based on its position strategically one of the pilot projects implementation policy economy maritime sustainable in Long-Term Development Plan Regional Medium-Term

Development Plan (RPJMD) 2021-2026. Government Regency Lamongan has to launch vision of " Lamongan" Blue" which adopted principles *blue economy* in development sector maritime affairs and fisheries . Lamongan is also a location Empowerment Program Pilot Coastal Community Economy (PEMP) with approach integrated that combines conservation ecosystem coast with development economy society. Transition from practice fishery conventional going to *blue economy* in Lamongan face structural challenges in the form of limitations infrastructure supporters, access capital and capacity adaptation technology, requires study deep in identify appropriate intervention target. Research sustainability *blue economy* in the Regency Lamongan No only contribute significant for welfare fisherman local but also provides a learning model valuable For replication in the region coast other with characteristics similar .

Draft *blue economy* appear as approach development marine that emphasizes sustainability, efficiency, and innovation. However, the implementation of draft This Still not optimal at the level root grass, especially among fisherman traditional. Therefore that 's important For study connection between activity economy fishermen and welfare they , as well as the role of the blue economy in strengthen sustainability economy local .

THEORETICAL REVIEW

Theory Economy Welfare

Theory economy welfare developed by economists origin English named Arthur Cecil Pigou in *The Economics of Welfare* state that welfare economy determined by prosperity individuals and equality income . He emphasize importance efficiency allocation source power and control externalities . In context fishermen , utilization source Power in a way efficient should No cause impact negative to environment and public around .

H1 : There is influence income to welfare fishermen

H 2 : There is influence results catch to welfare fisherman .

H 3 : There is influence mark plus to welfare fisherman

Theory Income

Alfred Marshall, economist from flow neoclassical , through his book *Principles of Economics* (1890), put forward theory Productivity Marginal that explains that improvement income individual related direct with contribution addition they on the production process . Theory This help explain How level welfare economy determined by value productivity factor production . In context fishermen , income obtained comparable with contribution marginal they through use power work and tools catch in activity fishing .

Theory Economy Blue

Blue economy first put forward by economist Gunter Pauli in his book *The Blue Economy: 10 Years, 100 Innovations, 100 Million Jobs* (2010). He propose an economic model new copycat system natural and prioritize efficiency utilization source Power without cause damage environment or gap social . In context sector maritime , economics blue push management source Power sea in a way

sustainable , including through development industry processing results catch that can increase mark increase and income fisherman in a way direct .

H 4 : There is influence draft *blue economy* to welfare fisherman .

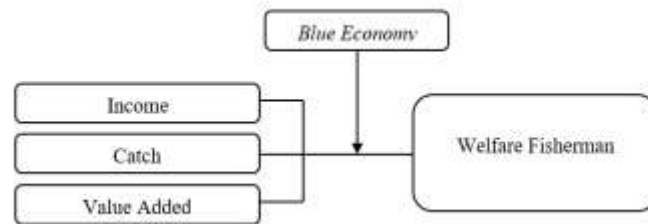


Figure.1 Framework

METHODOLOGY

Study This use approach mixed method with design explanatory sequential , namely research that began with quantitative data collection and analysis , then to be continued with qualitative data mining For explain and deepen results findings beginning . Approach This chosen Because capable give comprehensive understanding to connection between activity economy fishermen and welfare , as well How draft *blue economy* can strengthen sustainability economy local . The data used is the primary data collected through interview with amount respondents For filling questionnaire is as many as 100 people, while qualitative data obtained from 10 informants key consisting of on figure fishermen , managers place fish auction (TPI), members cooperatives and actors business processing results sea .

Instrument quantitative used in the form of questionnaire containing five variables main : income (X1), results catch (X2), value add (X3), application blue economy (Z) principles , and welfare fishermen (Y). Variable *blue economy* in context This measured through indicator like use tool catch friendly environment , diversification effort and efficiency energy . Instrument qualitative in the form of guidelines semi - structured interviews developed based on findings beginning from quantitative data .

Technique analysis quantitative done with multiple linear regression to determine the influence of variables X1, X2, and X3 on Y, and to assess whether variable Z plays a role as predictor in connection said . Because the research This using primary data originating from from questionnaire , then before do analysis regression validity and reliability tests are required . After the instrument declared valid and reliable , then assumption testing was carried out classics that include normality , linearity , multicollinearity , and heteroscedasticity . After testing the assumptions classic completed , then hypothesis testing was carried out which included simultaneous testing , partial testing , and coefficient testing determination . Meanwhile that is , qualitative data analyzed through a data reduction process, thematic categorization, and drawing narrative conclusions to confirm and enrich the quantitative results.

RESULTS

Analysis Results Quantitative

Validity Test

Validity Test done For know to what extent the grain questions on the instrument study capable measure the intended construct . Validity test results to all question items on variables X1 (income), X2 (results) catch), X3 (value add), Y (welfare fishermen), and Z (*blue economy*) shows mark correlation between items with a total variable score above limit critical r- table (0.197), as well as significant at the 5% level (p-value < 0.05). This is show that all over indicators used in questionnaire declared valid, so that worthy used in data collection for measure variables study in a way accurate .

Reliability Test

Reliability test done For know level consistency or reliability tool measuring in produce stable data . Reliability test results to variables in study This use coefficient *Cronbach's Alpha* , which is entirely show value above 0.60 , namely threshold minimum limit for category reliable . In terms of specific variables X1 (income), X2 (results) catch), X3 (value add), Y (welfare fishermen), and Z (*blue economy*) all own mark *Cronbach's Alpha* > 0.7 which indicates that instrument study own reliability high . With Thus , the instrument questionnaire used in study This can considered reliable and consistent in measure every variables studied .

Assumption Test Classic

Normality Test

Normality test aim For know whether the residual data in the regression model distributed normally . The results of the normality test carried out use method *Kolmogorov-Smirnov* show that mark significance is above 0.05. This is indicates that the residual data in study This normally distributed , so that assumptions normality fulfilled and the regression model used can interpreted in a way valid .

Linearity Test

Linearity test used For test whether connection between each variable independent (income , results catch , value plus , and *blue economy*) towards variables dependent (welfare fishermen) is linear. Based on Test results for *Linearity* through ANOVA analysis , obtained mark significance linear relationship < 0.05 and value significance *deviation from linearity* . 0.05 for all variables . With thus , it can concluded that connection between variables in the model is linear, and the assumption linearity fulfilled .

Heteroscedasticity Test

Heteroscedasticity test used For ensure that residual variance is constant (homoscedasticity). Testing done with using the Glejser test , and the results show that mark significance of each independent variable is greater big from 0.05. With thus , it can concluded that No happen symptom heteroscedasticity in the regression model this , so that assumptions homoscedasticity fulfilled .

Multicollinearity Test

Multicollinearity test aim For identify whether happen high correlation between variables independent that can influence stability of the regression model . Based on results calculation *Variance Inflation Factor* (VIF) and *Tolerance*, obtained VIF value < 10 and Tolerance > 0.10 for all variables . These results show that No there is symptom multicollinearity in the model, so that each variable independent can stand Alone in influence variables dependent .

Multiple Linear Regression Test

Table. 1 Multiple Linear Regression Test
Coefficients^a

Model	Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficients	t	Sig.
	B	Std. Error	Beta		
1 (Constant)	10,783	.965		11,175	.000
X1	1,246	.134	.853	9,272	.000
X3	-.160	.135	-.084	-1.188	.238
X2	-.776	.105	-.617	-7,409	.000
Z	.226	.070	.226	3,228	.002

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Based on the table above , the equation regression obtained is as following :

$$Y = \beta_0 + \beta_1 X1 - \beta_2 X2 - \beta_3 X3 + \beta_4 Z + \epsilon$$

$$WF = 10.783 + 1.246I - 0.776C - 0.160VA + 0.226BE + \epsilon$$

WF = Welfare Fisherman

I = Income

C = Catch

VA = Value Added

BE = Blue Economy

ϵ = error

Simultaneous Test (F Test)

Simultaneous test or the F test is used For know whether all variables independent in a way together influential significant to variables dependent , namely welfare fishermen . The test results show that F- value count more big from F- table and value significance (p-value) is greater small of 0.05. This is show that in a way simultaneous , variable income (X1), results catch (X2), value plus (X3), and blue economy (Z) have an effect significant to welfare fishermen . With Thus , the regression model used worthy For explain connection between variables studied .

Coefficient Test Determination (R²)

Coefficient determination (R²) aims For know how much big variables independent in a way together capable explain variation from variables dependent . The test results show that The R² value is 0.587, which means that

58.7% of the variation in welfare fisherman can explained by income , results catch , value add , and implementation the blue economy concept . The remaining 41.3% is influenced by other factors outside the research model . This value show that the model has Power explain the strong to variables dependent.

Partial Test (t-Test)

Partial test done For know the influence of each variable independent individually towards welfare fisherman .

H 1 : Income (X1) t-test results show that variables income influential positive and significant to welfare (p-value < 0.05). This show that the more tall income fishermen , then welfare they also tend to increase .

H 2 : Catch (X2) variable results catch influential negative and significant to welfare (p-value < 0.05). This means that , even though results catch increase , things the No in a way automatic increase welfare , possibility Because height cost operational or low price selling fish.

H 3: Added value (X3) t test against mark plus show results No significant (p-value > 0.05), which means that in a way statistics , values plus Not yet give influence direct to welfare fishermen , although in a way conceptual still own role in increase income .

H 4 : *Blue economy* (Z) t-test results show that blue economy variables have an influence positive and significant to welfare (p-value < 0.05), which indicates that implementation principle economy blue can strengthen welfare fisherman through management source Power deeper sea efficient and sustainable .

Analysis Results Qualitative

Delay qualitative in study This intended For complete analysis quantitative with method dig more in perspectives , experiences , and challenges faced fishermen in the field , especially in context implementation economy blue and strengthening welfare . Through interview deep with a number of informant key like chairman harmonious fishermen , representatives group business and fishermen active , obtained a clearer picture intact about condition social economy community coastal . Findings main show that part big fisherman Still depend on activity fishing as source income main , without diversification business that can give mark plus .

Although there is potential big in sector fisheries , their utilization is still very limited . Most of fisherman Not yet own access to training skills , business capital , and facility processing results sea . As a result , the results catch for sale in form raw with fluctuating and low prices , and highly dependent on the system middlemen . This is impact on instability income and low welfare , as can also be seen in results analysis quantitative where the variables mark plus No influential significant to welfare fisherman .

On the other hand , the concept *blue economy* Not yet fully understood or applied by fishermen in Lamongan . Information about economy blue Still limited to policy jargon government , without accompanied by understanding practical about How principle the can implemented in a way concrete in activity everyday . Some informant mention that government program related economy blue Not yet touch aspect empowerment directly , such as technology friendly

environment , processing waste , or innovation product results sea . Fishermen also face constraint structural like limited market access , dependence on infrastructure traditional , as well as lack of synergy institutional local .

With Thus , the results analysis qualitative This confirm that challenge welfare fisherman No solely related with quantity results catch or size income , but rather more on its inadequacy mechanism supporters For push efficiency , sustainability , and value plus in activity economy they . Therefore that , is necessary more interventions directed , collaborative , and based community For push adoption principle *blue economy* in a way gradual and contextual , so that it can answer need real fisherman as well as strengthen foundation economy sustainable local .

DISCUSSION

Income To Welfare Fisherman

Analysis results multiple linear regression show that variables income (X1) has influence positive and significant to welfare fishermen (Y). Findings This in line with theory productivity marginal as stated by Alfred Marshall, who stated that level income individual will increase if contribution marginal towards the production process also increased . In context fishermen , increasingly big ability fisherman in optimize results catch and exploit factor production , then the more the potential is also great his income which is impacted direct to improvement welfare . This is show that aspect income still become fundamental factors that determine level welfare fishermen in the Regency Lamongan . The results in accordance with results (Bene, 2006; Kusnadi , 2002) that improvement income proven be one of factor main in push welfare fisherman .

Catch Results To Welfare Fisherman

The catch (X2) shows influence significant negative to welfare fishermen . Findings This Enough contrast and indicate existence problem structural in system fishery catch . Although the catch volume tall , fisherman No necessarily experience improvement welfare Because cost high operational , fluctuations price selling fish, and dependence on middlemen cause profit The net profit received is very minimal. This is reflect existence inefficiency in chain distribution and weakness position bid fishermen in the market, which is direct influence income and quality life they . The results in accordance with results research conducted by (Arifin, 2021 ; Nurhayati , 2020) which states that results high catch No always correlated positive with welfare , because height cost operational and weak position bargaining in the market.

Value- added To Welfare Fisherman

Added value (X3) no show significant influence in a way statistics to welfare fishermen . This show that activity processing or diversification product results sea still very limited , so that Not yet capable give contribution real to income and welfare fishermen . Although thus , in a way structural mark plus still own potential big in strengthen resilience economy fisherman If developed with the right approach . Adoption technology processing simple , training

entrepreneurship , and strengthening institutional fisherman is step important For change mark plus become impacting variables significant to front . The results own equality with research conducted by (Salim, 2019; Stacey, 2012) which states that low contribution mark plus to welfare fisherman influenced by the lack of innovation and processing post-harvest .

Blue Economy Against Welfare Fisherman

Blue economy (Z) is proven own influence positive and significant to welfare fishermen . This is strengthen idea that implementation principle economy blue – which emphasizes efficiency source power , innovation sustainable and conservation environment – contribute real in build system economy more coast resilient . Findings this also confirms relevance approach *blue economy* in context policy development of coastal areas that is not only improvement - oriented results production , but also consider aspect sustainability and empowerment community local . The results in line with results research (Pauli, 2010; KKP, 2020; Novira & Suparmoko , 2021) that approach *blue economy* proven capable give impact positive to improvement well-being and sustainability system economy coast .

Analysis qualitative research conducted through interview deep give description contextual strengthening findings quantitative , at the same time reveal factors social and structural that is not caught by the numbers statistics . One of the findings main is low understanding fisherman to draft *blue economy* . Most of fishermen in Lamongan Still operate with pattern business traditional and not yet touched by innovation technology and approach sustainable management . Concept *blue economy* Not yet integrated in activity economy daily they , well in practice capture , processing , and marketing results sea .

Besides that , informant reveal that limitations access to technology , training , and capital become inhibitor main in develop mark add . Most of results catch Still for sale in form raw , with prices determined by middlemen or collectors , which results in fisherman difficult get decent profit . The minimum intervention from institutional local , such as cooperative or group business together , also weakens position bid fishermen at the market. This is explain Why in findings quantitative , variable mark plus No influential significant Because in a way practice Not yet become part from economic strategy fisherman .

From the side income , interview show that Fishermen are very dependent on the seasons and conditions weather , so that income tend fluctuating . When the season famine arrive or results catch decline , fishermen No own source alternative income . This is strengthen importance diversification business based the sea , which is in line with principle *blue economy* . However For going to to direction mentioned , it is needed support Serious from government , including provision infrastructure , access capital , training , and strengthening capacity institutional fisherman .

With Thus , the results analysis qualitative confirm that challenge welfare fisherman No only nature economical , but also includes aspect social , institutional , and access to source power . Implementation *blue economy* which has been This nature macro need transformed become approach micro based community , so that it really touch need real fishermen . Approach This No only will increase

efficiency and productivity , but also strengthens sustainability and independence economy local coast .

Although No all over results study This in accordance with hypothesis beginning especially on variables mark add the ones that don't influential significant to welfare fishermen – however matter the No necessarily make study This No worthy . On the contrary , the findings This precisely enrich understanding to reality empirical in the field and shows existence gap between policy or theory with implementation current in society coast . In context study social , deviant results from hypothesis beginning is a natural thing and even important Because can reveal factors new or condition previous structural No considered (Neuman, 2014).

As example , insignificance mark plus to welfare fisherman can explained through qualitative data that shows that part big fisherman Not yet own access to technology processing , training business , and markets that allow diversification product results sea . In other words, the variable mark plus Not yet play a role in system economy fisherman No Because the concept No relevant , but Because its implementation Not yet walk optimally . This is show importance approach *context-sensitive* in interpret results quantitative , as emphasized by (Creswell & Plano Clark, 2011), that qualitative data integration can explain dynamics social that is not fully reflected in statistical data .

More further , approach proven *blue* economy influential significant in a way statistics and supported by findings qualitative strengthen contribution study This to development sustainable coastal areas . Therefore that , although one of the hypothesis rejected , overall results still consistent with framework theoretical and provide input strategic for formulation policy local based evidence . In study policy and development , findings that are not significant even though can become indication existence problem implementation or gap required capacity followed up (Bamberger, Rao, & Woolcock, 2010).

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Study This show that welfare fishermen in the Regency Lamongan influenced by several factor economy , with income and implementation principle *blue economy* proven influential positive and significant . While that , the result catch influential negative , which indicates existence problem in efficiency business capture and system distribution results sea . Added value No give significant influence in a way statistics to welfare , which reflects low capacity fisherman in develop business processing results catch . findings This reinforced by analysis qualitative that reveals that limitations access to technology , lack of support institutional , as well as low understanding to draft economy blue become obstacle main in realize sustainable well- being for community fishermen . With Thus , integration approach economy blue become opportunity strategic For building an economic model more coast inclusive and empowered stand .

Based on results findings mentioned , it is recommended to government regions and stakeholders policy For more focus on strengthening capacity fishermen , in particular in matter training processing results sea , access capital , and provision technology appropriate use . Assistance to group fisherman through

cooperative or institutional economy local also need strengthened use increase position bargaining and value add . Besides that , it is necessary done socialization and implementation principle *blue economy* in a way concrete and contextual so as not to stop at the level concept , but rather can implemented in activity economy daily fishermen . Research continuation can also be focused on aspects institutions and participation community in support transformation economy coast in a way sustainable .

FURTHER STUDY

Study This own a number of necessary limitations noticed For development future studies . First , the scope geographical study limited to coastal areas Regency Lamongan , so that results findings Not yet can generalized for other coastal areas that have characteristics socio-economic and different ecologies . Second , the approach quantitative used in study This cross-sectional in nature , so that No can catch dynamics change welfare fishermen and the implementation of the blue economy term long . Therefore that , research advanced recommended For done in a way longitudinally so that it can observe impact implementation blue economy principles towards welfare fisherman in period time certain . Furthermore , the development index integration *blue economy* based communities can also become focus studies deep next . Research continuation can also be expand coverage respondents with involving group Woman in family fishermen , remembering role they in processing and marketing results the sea is very important However often less explored . Study comparative between coastal areas in Indonesia is also highly recommended use get mapping of a more comprehensive blue economy implementation strategy broad and applicable .

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