

## **ECONOMIC & SOCIAL ASPECTS OF COASTAL COMMUNITIES (FISHERMEN) AMPEL ISLAND FISH AUCTION SITE, BOJONEGARA, SERANG REGENCY, BANTEN**

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### ***ABSTRACT***

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Fishing communities play a crucial role in sustaining the coastal economy and preserving maritime traditions. This study investigates the unique characteristics of the fishing community in Pulo Ampel, focusing on their social structure, cultural values, and community dynamics that influence their daily lives. The objective of this research is to analyze the occupational aspects of fishermen, including fishing techniques, the use of tools and technology, and work patterns, as well as the challenges they face, such as weather variability, climate change, and economic pressures. Findings reveal that these challenges significantly impact the productivity and sustainability of fishermen's work and subsequently affect their income levels and quality of life. The study identifies key income-influencing factors, such as market access, fluctuating fish prices, and operational costs, and evaluates the broader social and economic impacts on their families and communities. These insights offer valuable guidance for policymakers in formulating interventions that could enhance the economic welfare and social resilience of the Pulo Ampel fishing community.

### **INTRODUCTION**

Pulo Ampel, also known as Ampel Island, is a strategic location for fish auctions in the Banten region. This area benefits from maritime access that facilitates the distribution of fish catches. The Pulo Ampel Fish Auction serves as a marketplace for fish catches brought in by local fishermen. Although the Fish Auction serves in Pulo Ampel is not very large, it plays an important role in supporting fish trade. The Pulo Ampel Fish Auction is located in Bojonegara District, Serang Regency, Banten.

Pulo Ampel itself has a population of approximately 2,500 people, with livelihoods as follows: 10% are farmers, 60% laborers, 20% fishermen, and 10% entrepreneurs. The livelihoods of fishermen at TPI Pulo Ampel are highly dependent

on their fishing activities. Fishermen go out to sea in boats to catch fish and other marine resources. Before setting out, fishermen must pay close attention to weather conditions. The fish they catch are then sold to generate their daily income, which varies depending on the day's catch.

The purpose of this research is to provide a description of the characteristics of the fishing community in the Pulo Ampel area and to understand aspects of fishermen's work, income levels, and daily living conditions.

## **METHOD**

### **Time and Place**

This study was conducted on March 16 and 30, 2024, at TPI Pulo Ampel in Bojonegara, Serang Regency, Banten.

### **Tools and Materials**

The materials and tools used in the research included: Tools: Stationery, Laptop, and Mobile Phone. Materials: Paper Questionnaire.

### **Research Methods**

The research method employed is qualitative, with data collection conducted through random sampling. Simple random sampling is a commonly used method for developing more complex sampling techniques. The random sample is expected to represent the target population (Syaputra, 2022).

The method of sample selection is designed to achieve a smaller margin of error and lower variance relative to efficiency. In parameter estimation, inferential statistics are used to obtain consistent and non-consistent parameter estimators. Additionally, for matching population parameters, accuracy in parameter estimation is essential.

From the random sampling data, we utilized the Microsoft Excel application for analysis. In Microsoft Excel, we processed the data to determine the average age of fishermen, ownership of fishing vessels, years of experience as fishermen, sales results, and vessel ownership. The analyzed data can then be further interpreted.

## **RESULT AND DISCUSSION**

In **Figure 1**, there is a diagram that visualizes the age percentages of fishermen. The largest percentage is found among fishermen aged around 60 years, accounting for 14.6%. The second largest percentage is for those aged 48 years, with a percentage of 7.3%. Additionally, the average percentage for fishermen aged

between 47 and 59 years is 4.9%. This indicates that a significant number of individuals at TPI Pulo Ampel, aged 47-59 years, are engaged in fishing as their profession (Wahab A. 2019).

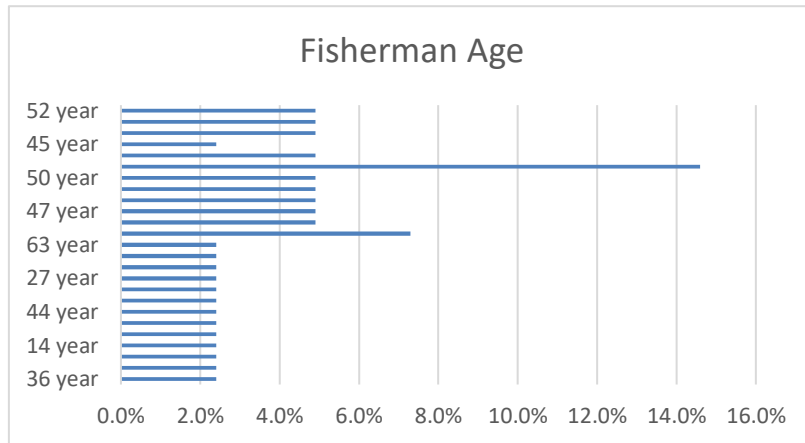


Figure 1. Diagram of Fisherman Age

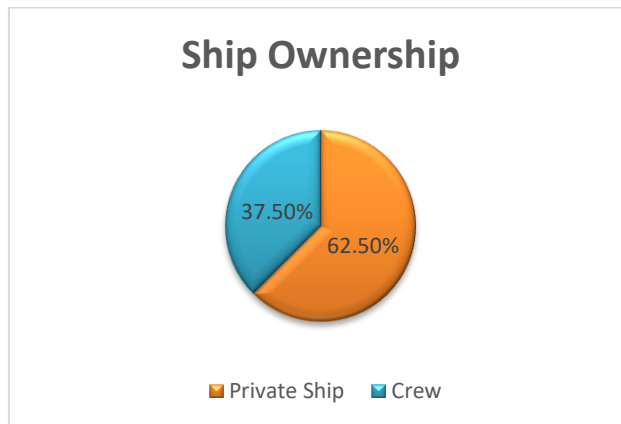


Figure 2. Diagram of Ownership Boat

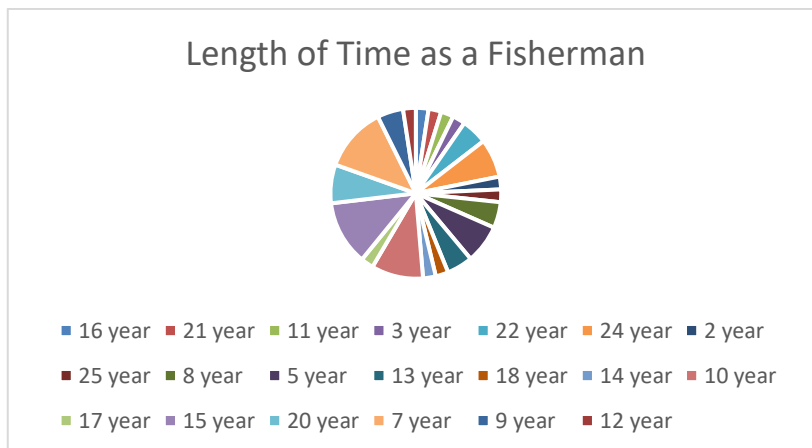
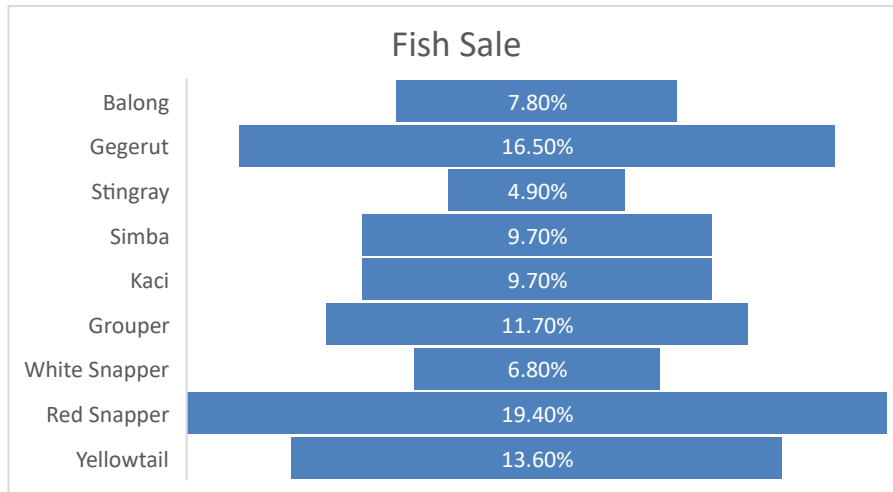


Figure 3. Diagram of Length of Time as a Fisherman



**Figure 4.** Diagram of Average Fish Sale

In **Figure 2**, there is a diagram that shows the distribution of boat ownership by category. The percentage of boats owned by crew members (ABK) is 17.5%, while personal ownership accounts for 82.5%. From these percentages, it can be seen that the majority of boats are owned personally, indicating that individuals play a significant role in boat ownership, suggesting that individuals at TPI Pulo Ampel have a very stable economy (Yunita, 2024). In contrast, only a small portion is owned by crew members.

In **Figure 3**, there is a diagram illustrating the percentage of how long the TPI Pulo Ampel community has been engaged in fishing. Four significant percentages reflect the duration that individuals have worked as fishermen. The average duration for the TPI Pulo Ampel community is between 7 to 15 years, accounting for 12.2%. There are also individuals who have been fishing for 10 years, making up 9.8% of the community, while a smaller percentage, 7.3%, represents those who have been fishermen for 20 years. This highlights the in-depth knowledge and skills acquired through many years of experience, which are invaluable in the fishing industry (Andri, 2022).

In **Figure 4**, a diagram depicts the average daily sales of various fish products caught by fishermen at TPI Pulo Ampel, with red snapper dominating sales at 19.4%. Other fish, such as gezerut, yellowtail catfish, and grouper, also show strong sales percentages of 16.5%, 13.6%, and 11.7%, respectively. Meanwhile, simba fish and kaci both have the same percentage at 9.7%. The remaining fish, such as balongo, white snapper, and stingray, account for a smaller percentage of the sales. This data highlights the types of fish found in the waters of TPI Pulo Ampel. Daily sales also depend on the types of fish that are most abundant, as well as weather conditions and seasonal factors (Zahrah, 2019).

Interview data revealed that fish prices vary depending on the location of

the catch. One type of fish, the red snapper, commands a higher price at Rp 60,000/kg, while grouper, gegerut, yellowtail, simba, and others are priced around Rp 50,000/kg. The price difference between pompano and stingray is not significant, with both priced around Rp 40,000/kg. Overall, these prices remain relatively low. When sold, fish are typically purchased from collectors, with only a few traders and tourists buying directly from fishermen, as most fish are sold directly to local collectors or bosses. Most fishermen sell their catch; however, a small portion remains unsold and is prepared as a side dish for home consumption.

Conflicts among small-scale fishermen can occur, primarily due to a lack of communication, but these conflicts are generally not long-lasting. There can also be conflicts between fishermen and traders. According to traders, the prices for fish caught by fishermen are relatively low, which does not result in significant losses for them.

Fishing is a profession that heavily depends on the bounty of nature. When nature provides its resources, it is essential to be grateful and take care of them for future needs. The exploitation level of fishermen at sea is significant, as they venture out daily with the hope of abundant catches (Hamdani et al., 2016). Fishermen are defined as individuals whose work involves catching fish or other marine organisms. They are generally categorized into two groups: traditional fishermen and modern fishermen. Traditional fishermen employ simple methods and rely less on sophisticated technology, while modern fishermen utilize more advanced tools and equipment to increase their efficiency and catch. Traditional fishermen are often characterized by lower education levels, and many women among them have limited mastery of technology, management capabilities, and creative insights. Thus, there is a need for a coaching model based on gender analysis that can provide solutions for traditional fishermen (Handajani et al., 2015). Small-scale fishermen operate boats with a capacity of 1–10 GT, typically fishing in areas 2-3 miles from the shore (Vibriyanti, 2014).

Retnowati (2011) noted that discussions about fishermen, particularly small or traditional fishermen, are closely related to their work systems. Generally, their working hours are relatively short, often consisting of a single day of fishing. Fishermen using boats sized 5-10 GT are categorized as traditional fishermen.

Longlines are a type of fishing gear that varies widely in terms of size, operational methods, fishing areas, and target species. According to Indonesian fisheries statistics, a longline consists of a main line with shorter branch lines attached at specific intervals. In fisheries encyclopedias, longline gear is defined as a specific type of fishing gear characterized by its construction, which allows for targeted fish capture without harming aquatic habitats. Longline gear

remains a favorite among fishing tools (Ginting et al., 2022). This longline fishing gear is a local wisdom of the Ampel Island community, as it is considered environmentally friendly, particularly for protecting coral reefs.

Fishermen on Ampel Island have regulations that prohibit damaging coral reefs, which is viewed positively by them and does not hinder their fishing activities. This approach also benefits the coral reef ecosystem, which serves as a habitat for marine life. Fishermen on Ampel Island are part of a harmonious organization that remains active, with many fishermen participating while only a few do not. Some interview data indicated that many members are administrators of this harmonious fishermen's organization.

## **CONCLUSION**

The purpose of this questionnaire research is to explore the unique characteristics of the fishing community in the Pulo Ampel area in greater depth. This exploration encompasses various aspects, including an understanding of the social structure, cultural values, and community dynamics that influence their daily lives. This study highlights several facets of fishermen's work, ranging from fishing techniques and the use of tools and technology to the work patterns they follow. Additionally, it seeks to understand the challenges faced by fishermen, such as adverse weather conditions, climate change, and economic pressures that impact their productivity and sustainability. A central focus of this study is the analysis of fishermen's income levels and how these levels affect their quality of life. The research aims to identify factors influencing income, such as access to markets, fish prices, and operational costs. By understanding these dynamics, we can suggest policies or interventions that may enhance the economic welfare of fishermen. Furthermore, the study examines the daily living conditions of fishermen, including their access to health services, education, and other essential infrastructure. It also evaluates the social and economic impacts of fishermen's work on their families and the community as a whole. By understanding these aspects, we gain insight into how the identities and traditions of fishermen are formed and maintained within society.

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