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## Strategies of The Government and Laot Customary Institutions in Increasing Fishermen's Capacity and Developing Sustainable Fisheries Businesses on Sabang Island Aceh

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### Abstract

Sabang boasts abundant marine resources and serves as a mainstay for the fishing community. The purpose of this study was to determine the strategies of the government and traditional maritime institutions in increasing the capacity of fishermen and developing sustainable fisheries businesses. The type of research is descriptive qualitative, and data collection is carried out through documentation, interviews, and observation. Data analysis includes data reduction, data presentation, and drawing conclusions. The results of the study show that the strategy of the government and traditional sea institutions is to provide facilities, regulations, and economic improvement and provide assistance such as Big Bot, Small Bot, subsidized fuel and provision of business premises for salted fish, cracker processing, etc. The development of sustainable fisheries businesses in Sabang includes strengthening fishery product processing to absorb fishermen's production, improving supporting facilities and infrastructure such as cold storage and distribution access, and increasing the adoption of technology and institutions such as vessel registration and fishermen registration for legality and access to subsidized fuel, as well as educating fishermen in more effective and environmentally friendly fishing methods such as the use of handline fishing gear and others.

**Keywords:** Government Strategy, Laot Customary Institution, Fisherman, Fishery

### 1. INTRODUCTION

Aceh has potential natural resources, especially in the marine and fisheries sectors. Fisheries resources are a mainstay for small-scale fishing communities in coastal areas (Syaputri et al., 2016). This is because more than 55% of Aceh's population depends on the marine sector, so the development of the fisheries sector must be a priority in order to have a positive impact on economic growth in general, especially for fishing communities (Furqan et al., 2021). Sabang is an island with marine potential that has been designated in Aceh Governor Decree No. 423/1297/2018 concerning the Reservation of the Aceh Marine Conservation Area with marine, fisheries, and tourism potential (Khairuddin, 2022).

Sabang is one of the strategic islands with abundant marine resources. Sabang consists of five inhabited islands, namely Weh Island, Klah Island, Seulako Island, Rubiah Island, and Rondo Island, bordering the Nicobar Islands of India (Rasyid &

Dewiyanti, 2023). The Port of Teluk Sabang is located on Weh Island, Indonesia's outermost island in the Malacca Strait, directly bordering neighboring countries Malaysia, Thailand, and India. This location is highly strategic as it is traversed by international shipping lanes. According to data from the Sabang Area Business Agency, approximately 150,000 ships pass through the Malacca Strait every month. On December 21, 2000, Law No. 37 on the Sabang Free Trade Zone and Free Port was issued. A free port is a port that is exempt from customs supervision by the government so that any ship can enter and trade without paying import and export duties. As a result, the port is bustling with activity as ships from abroad enter the Sabang area. In 2009, the Sabang government and the Sabang Area Business Entity (BPKS) built a new international standard multipurpose pier to realize a free trade zone in Sabang. The development of facilities and infrastructure that support navigation safety in the region needs to be carried out. Facilities and infrastructure need to be developed, one of which is the shipping lane. Determining the shipping lane requires several supporting data, namely bathymetry, tides, and the size of ships that will enter the port (Syaputri et al., 2016).

The city of Sabang is located at 05°46'28"- 05°54'28" North Latitude and 95°13'13"02", 95°22'36" East Longitude. The city is located on Weh Island, which is north of Sumatra Island (Sabang, 2015). Sabang has marine and fishery resources with considerable potential for development and as a source of regional income and foreign exchange for the country. As an area surrounded by three waters with different characteristics, namely the Indian Ocean, the Malacca Strait, and the Bengal Strait, the waters of Sabang City are rich in various fishery commodities that have high economic value, including large pelagic fish, small pelagic fish, and demersal fish. The fish commodities caught by fishermen are dominated by tuna, skipjack tuna, and mackerel (Statistik, 2018). Given the diverse marine and fisheries potential of Sabang City, good management is needed so that all types of marine and fisheries potential can grow together optimally and support each other while still paying attention to the local culture. The values that have developed in the community need to be maintained so that the younger generation has a strong character in utilizing resources (Kurniasari et al., 2018).

The potential for aquaculture is more developed in the freshwater fish farming sector, while marine fish farming is still less popular among the community, even though the government has provided development incentives by giving assistance and opening pilot locations. The Sabang City DKPP noted that only 0.06 hectares of the 25 hectares of potential marine aquaculture land has been utilized, while only 3.2 hectares of the 28.21 hectares of potential brackish water aquaculture land has been utilized. Some of the obstacles include the high price of feed, low-quality seeds, limited aquaculture and feed technology, and a lack of fisheries extension workers (Z.A., 2025). To increase the recruitment of fisheries extension workers and place them directly with the community, so that farmers have the knowledge and skills to apply environmentally friendly and sustainable fishing and fish farming methods (Yulianto, 2010).

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The island of Sabang has its own unique appeal due to its marine potential and fishery resources. This situation provides opportunities to establish fishery businesses and become one of the driving forces for the fishing community and business actors. The presence of the fishery sector on the island of Sabang can increase the capacity of the fishing community. The fishery sector faces various challenges, ranging from fish processing to marketing (Zuriat, 2016). Fishing communities are synonymous with the proceeds from their catches at sea. An important aspect of fisheries industry development is outlined in Law No. 7 of 2016, which states that the government, within its authority, shall provide fisheries business facilities, including fishing equipment, fish farming, and processing and marketing (Mashuril, 2020).

The availability of marine resources requires management so that fisheries' potential can be utilized properly and sustainably (Junaidi et al., 2024). Traditionally, Sabang Island is currently an area managed by a customary institution led by a single commander who regulates all fishing practices and the social life of the coastal community and oversees all matters related to fishing activities, including fishing regulations for fishermen (Ulya & Suriyani, 2023). In addition, the commander of the navy also maintains the balance of the marine ecosystem, protects marine biodiversity, including coral reefs and mangroves, and prevents marine pollution from community waste, industrial waste, and other human activities (Mutia et al., 2025).

The potential of the fisheries and marine sector in Sabang City consists of renewable resources, namely capture fisheries and aquaculture, coral reefs, mangroves, tides, wind, and non-renewable resources such as petroleum and various types of minerals. The average coral cover, abundance, and biomass of target fish in the conservation area on Weh Island are 54%, 1,662 ind/ha, and 408.78 kg/ha, respectively, while outside the conservation area they are 33.05%, 1,058 ind/ha, and 307.77 kg/ha of target fish biomass (Hastuty & Adrianto, 2014).

Fishermen are a group of people who live on the coast and earn their daily livelihood from the sea using traditional fishing gear. However, considering the potential of marine and fishery resources that can be developed, marine fish farming, freshwater aquaculture, and fish product management (Juaris et al., 2023). Efforts to develop the fisheries and marine sector are certainly not without obstacles. In addition to the low capacity of fishermen, the condition of fisheries facilities and infrastructure is still limited. Therefore, it is important for the government to collaborate in increasing the capacity of fishermen and fisheries businesses to drive economic growth in the community. Therefore, the government is collaborating with traditional maritime institutions to support the capacity of fishermen and fisheries businesses, especially in Sabang, Aceh Province. This study aims to determine the collaboration between the government and traditional Laot institutions in improving the capacity of fishermen, as well as the opportunities and obstacles in developing sustainable fisheries on the island of Sabang. This study is of great urgency and is very important to be studied in depth, because in addition to improving the capacity of fishermen, it can also promote fisheries businesses

and economic growth for coastal communities, especially on the island of Sabang in Aceh Province.

This research is urgent because there needs to be collaboration between the government and indigenous institutions to improve the capacity of fishermen and sustainable fisheries businesses. How does the collaboration between the government and indigenous institutions improve the capacity of fishermen, and what are the opportunities and obstacles in developing sustainable fisheries businesses on the island of Sabang? The aim is to find out how the collaboration between the government and indigenous institutions improves the capacity of fishermen and what the opportunities and obstacles are in developing sustainable fisheries businesses. This research is very important to be studied in depth, because in addition to increasing the capacity of fishermen, it can also promote fisheries businesses and economic growth for coastal communities, especially on Sabang Island in Aceh Province.

Petters Neldy Suyana Feoh, Local Stakeholder Collaboration in Blue Economy Development for Poverty Alleviation in Coastal Areas. Discussing the utilization of marine resources to create new jobs and drive economic growth in the community through the fisheries and tourism sectors (Petters N, Suyana F, 2024). Eddi Indro Asmoro, Tugino, Harini, Rita Hariningrum, Measured Fishing Management Model in the Semarang-Central Java Fishing Zone. Discussing the fishing management model and the role of the government, academics, and the community in enhancing collaboration in fisheries management (Eddi I A, Tugino, H, Rita H, 2025). Gita Grhichia Situmorang, Astaman Amir, Chalvyn Silasa Pakidi, Stakeholder participation in ecosystem-based inland fisheries management. Discussing the potential of fish resources and providing a decent life for the community and ecosystem-based inland fisheries management (Gita G S, Astaman A, Chalvyn S P, 2024).

## 2. LITERATURE REVIEW

Several previous studies related to this research. Alderon, The Effect of Government Policy, Fisheries Sector Production, and Unemployment Rates on Economic Growth and Absolute Poverty in Bitung City. Discusses the effect of unemployment rates on economic growth in Bitung City and the effect of government policy on poverty (Alderon E A, Vekie A R, Tri O R). Yusuf Fadli, Adie Dwiyanto Nurlukman, Government Collaboration in Integrated Coastal Area Development in Tangerang Regency through the Coastal Community Development Movement. Discussing government collaboration through community participation in regional development with a good governance approach (Yusuf F, Adie D N, 2018).

Keny Karina Adisty, Kiki Endah, Ii Sujai, Empowering Coastal Fishing Communities Through Institutional Strengthening in Pangandaran Village, Pangandaran District. Discussing education related to training programs to increase community understanding and awareness and environmental system management on indicators of the application of environmentally friendly fishing technology to reduce negative impacts on

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the environment (Keny K A, Kiki F, Ii S, 2024). Ellen Elisabeth Kome, Yusnaldi, BayuAsihYulianto, PujoWidodo, PanjiSuwarno, The Role of Government in Maintaining Maritime Sustainability. Discussing the establishment of marine conservation areas to protect critical habitats and endangered species (Ellen E K, Yusnaldi, Bayu A Y, Pujo W, Panji S, 2024).

Andini Regi Khania, Arif Satria, Heru Purwandari, Stakeholders and the Influence of Incentives in Collaborative Management of Marine Conservation Areas. Discussing coastal and marine conditions and fisheries resource management (Andini R K, Arif S, Heru P, 2022). Nopriono, Suswanta, Community Empowerment in the Perspective of Collaborative Governance. Discusses collaboration in fish farming through collaborative governance in gurame fish processing activities with the concept of community empowerment (Nopriono S, 2019).

Strategies for increasing the capacity of fishermen and developing sustainable fisheries entrepreneurship are often referred to in the literature as a form of community-based resource management, in which governments and local institutions jointly design policies and interventions that empower local actors in decision-making, technology access, and efficient and environmentally friendly resource utilization. This theory emphasizes the importance of involving fishermen in the planning, training, and implementation of fishing gear and technology appropriate to local ecosystem conditions, thereby improving skills, productivity, and community economic independence without compromising the sustainability of fish resources. Such a strategy requires synergy between government policy support (e.g., provision of facilities, outreach, and market access) and the role of customary institutions as mediators of local wisdom that can maintain social norms in fisheries management (Syahid, 2023).

In the context of Aceh, particularly on islands like Sabang, the existence of maritime customary institutions such as Panglima Laot is a manifestation of the theory of co-management or resource co-management, where the authority to regulate and supervise marine resources is held not only by the formal government but also by local communities through historically developed customary rules. These customary institutions function as norm-formers, fishing regulation makers, conflict mediators, and facilitators of fishermen's participation in the implementation of sustainable marine policies, so that sustainability principles are not simply imposed top-down but internalized bottom-up in the fishermen's own practices. This combined strategy of government institutions and local wisdom enables coastal area management that is more adaptive to local socio-ecological conditions, strengthens community solidarity, and increases compliance with regulations that maintain marine ecosystems while developing sustainable fisheries businesses (Rahmawati, 2024).

From the above studies, it can be seen that the novelty of this proposal lies more in the collaboration between the government and Laot customary institutions in increasing the capacity of fishermen and the opportunities and obstacles in developing

sustainable fisheries on the island of Sabang. Therefore, it is very interesting to examine this issue using descriptive qualitative methods to answer the research questions.

### **3. RESEARCH METHOD**

The method used in this study is descriptive qualitative research, which aims to describe all conditions and various situations within the community. This study is about the collaboration between the government and Laot customary institutions in improving the sustainable capacity of fishermen on Sabang Island, Aceh. The method used in this study is descriptive qualitative research, which aims to describe all conditions and various situations within the community that is the object of research and attempts to bring reality to the surface as characteristics, traits, models, signs, or descriptions of certain conditions, situations, or phenomena that are accurate, with the goal of solving existing problems in the field. This research seeks to uncover the information needed in accordance with conditions in the field, and the data is then analyzed to provide a clear and accurate picture (Haradhan, 2018). The research location was on Sabang Island and focused on two points, namely Ie Meulee Village, Suka Jaya District, and Jaboi Village, Balohan District, Sabang Island. The primary data used were interviews with Sabang city government officials, the Sabang Marine and Fisheries Service, the Laot Customary Institution, fishermen, and fishing business operators. Secondary data were a collection of information gathered from sources other than primary data (Shidiq & Choiri, 2019).

Observation is also an activity of carefully observing a particular object directly at the research site. In addition, observation also includes systematic recording of all phenomena related to the object being studied. Observation at the research site, interviews with various knowledgeable parties, and documentation in the form of writing, illustrations, films, photographs, and so on are methods used to collect data (Sugiyono, 2017). Data reduction, data presentation, and conclusion/verification are three concurrent streams of activity that are part of the analysis (Miles et al., 2018).

### **4. FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION**

#### **Strategy of the Government and Traditional Marine Institutions in Increasing the Capacity of Fishermen on Sabang Island**

The collaboration between the Sabang city government and the Laot customary institution has a goal that impacts the community. In addition to improving the capacity of fishermen through coordination, communication, and cooperation to overcome fisheries and marine issues, such as issuing fishing regulations, resolving disputes, and improving the standard of living of fishermen Sabang city government Zuklifi H Adam, He said that the key to the fishermen's success depends on government assistance in terms of both facilities and infrastructure as needed and required by the panglimalaot as the liaison between fishermen and the government, as well as involving all stakeholders in the decision-making process and marine resource management.

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Then the explanation Head of the Sabang Marine and Fisheries Service (DKP) Sabang Zulfan, the strategies that need to be implemented for the development of the fisheries processing sector are. Utilizing tourist destinations as market opportunities by improving the quality of processed products through improving the quality of raw materials. Developing fish processing centers by considering the availability and quality of water as a major factor in the processing process in order to meet market demand. Improving processors' access to raw materials through the development of fish landing centers. Commander laot Muhammad Abdul Gani, that the main task in supervising fishermen is to act as a liaison or bridge of communication between fishermen and the government to convey the aspirations and complaints of fishermen and maintain and oversee the implementation of customary maritime law, including managing the schedule of ritual events such as kendurilaut (sea feasts), helping to resolve issues that arise between fellow fishermen or between fishermen and other parties, and protecting the coastal environment, including preserving the marine ecosystem.

Head of Fisheries and Marketing for the city of Sabang, Lifrizza stated that in order to improve the capacity of fishermen, assistance and training should be provided to improve their skills and standard of living. In addition, the government developed a joint fisheries management system and involved community participation from the outset in the planning, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation of the programs that had been carried out, ensuring the involvement of all stakeholders, including fishing communities, in every stage of marine and fisheries resource management. Commander Laot Balohan, Zarkasyi, that in maintaining the security of the Sabang waters, leads fishermen, monitors activities at sea, and protects fishing routes from the threat of pirates. Furthermore, marine resource management also poses a major challenge as fish stocks are declining due to overfishing, and conflicts between fishermen are common. Climate change is also exacerbating the situation as it affects catches. Maintaining balance and fairness in the utilization of marine resources is very difficult. Murtaza, a fisherman, also explained that preserving traditions and knowledge passed down from generation to generation about sailing and the sea amid changing times is not easy, especially when it comes to attracting the interest of younger generations. In short, being a fisherman requires great responsibility and the ability to overcome various challenges. However, success depends on the cooperation of all parties, including the government, the community, and the fishermen themselves.

According to Saifullah, Head of the Technical and Fish Catch Division (DKP) of Sabang, the strategy of the government and the Laot commander in increasing the capacity of fishermen is to establish effective communication and coordination between local government agencies, Laot Customary Institutions, and other relevant institutions, hold forums and meetings such as duekpakat to discuss issues faced by fishermen and formulate joint solutions, advocating pro-fishermen policies oriented towards improving welfare and environmental sustainability, addressing complex issues in the fisheries and marine sector through synergy between government power and local wisdom, ensuring

the preservation of the marine and coastal environment through joint efforts to prevent destruction and maintain ecosystems, and creating better conditions for fishermen through capacity building, access to resources, and supportive policies.

The government's strategy to improve the capacity of fishermen is as follows:

1. Conducting training through the Sabang City Marine and Fisheries Service (DKP) provides training on environmentally friendly fishing techniques, seafood processing, and occupational safety at sea, as well as financial literacy and small business management programs for fishermen to improve economic competitiveness.
2. Providing assistance and modern equipment such as motorboats, outboard motors, environmentally friendly nets, cold storage facilities, and improvements to fishing port infrastructure and fish auction sites (TPI) to enable faster and more efficient distribution of catches.
3. Opening access to capital and subsidies, providing access to small business loans (KUR) and capital assistance for fishing communities, and subsidizing fuel for fishermen to reduce operational costs.
4. Establishing regulations and protections for fishermen, namely implementing policies to protect the traditional fishing grounds of Sabang fishermen from interference by large ships or outside fishermen, and providing fishermen with insurance as a guarantee of work safety and encouraging fishermen to engage in marine ecotourism (such as fishing tours and sea tours), so that they do not depend solely on fish catches.

The commander's strategy for improving the capacity of fishermen is as follows. Enforcing customary rules related to fishing seasons, prohibiting the use of destructive fishing gear (such as fish bombs and trawl nets), restricting fishing areas, and mediating between fishermen and the government in resolving maritime conflicts. Forming a group of fishermen based on the panglimalaot (fishing village chief) so that fishermen have a forum for deliberation and collective strength, and fostering a culture of mutual cooperation and assistance among fishermen. Encouraging fishermen to protect marine ecosystems, including coral reefs and marine life, to ensure sustainability and regulating the khandurilaot tradition as a form of gratitude and a means of educating people about the importance of protecting the sea. Monitor fishing activities to ensure compliance with regulations, report violations to relevant authorities, and partner with government and international organizations in fisher empowerment programs. (Afriandi, 2024).

According to Yuniar, the Head of Production and Marketing (DKP) Sabang, the government's strategy with the naval commander is through a collaborative program to increase the capacity of fishermen by renovating infrastructure and providing six large boats and ten small boats to make it easier for fishermen to catch fish. Then there is the conservation area under the supervision of Purwal Aceh regarding marine conservation in the Balohan sub-district, which covers an area of 2,800 hectares with various fish farms

in it. Fishermen are empowered through community-developed businesses, raw materials are provided, and market prices can increase. Therefore, DKP Sabang collaborates with private partners in the field to accommodate the processed fish caught by fishermen. Additionally, the Sabang Municipal Government provides support through assistance from Japan and coordinates with the Aceh Provincial Government to meet community needs by inviting external businesses to purchase processed fish at competitive prices. Community-based initiatives through the SKPT Cooperative process turn fresh fish into salted fish, dried fish, and other products.

Table 4.1: Joint documentation with the salted fish business group in Jaboi Sabang village. Government Assistance Through the Sabang City DKP to Fishing Communities

No	Assistance	Number	Description
1	Big Bot	6 Pieces	Active
2	Small Bot	10 Pieces	Active
3	Subsidized Fuel	10 Liter/Month	Used
4	Provision of business premises for salted fish, cracker processing, etc.	5 Group	Active/walking

### Sustainable Fisheries Business Development on Sabang Island

The development of sustainable fisheries on Sabang Island is focused on the construction of an Integrated Marine and Fisheries Center SKPT supported by the Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries (KKP) and the Japanese government to improve the regional economy, fisheries infrastructure, and processing of catches. According to the Head of the Sabang Marine and Fisheries Service (DKP), the main priority in fisheries processing is to increase the economic value of local products such as lobster and octopus, expand markets, and preserve marine ecosystems through good management and inter-agency collaboration. Additionally, the first priority that must be developed is the field of fishery product processing with a value of 25.07, followed by capture fisheries at 24.27; then aquaculture at 23.71 and marine tourism at 22.39. This is in line with information from the Marine and Fisheries Department and the Regional Development Planning Agency of Sabang City. The fish processing sector is a priority program because its development can help solve fisheries issues in Sabang City and support the marine tourism sector. One of the fisheries issues in Sabang City is inadequate cooling facilities, such as ice factories that are not functioning and limited cold storage. In addition, suboptimal transportation and access to Sabang hamper fish distribution.

According to Jakfar, head of the Sabang Marine Products Cooperation and Production Division (DKP), the Indian Ocean is a strategic region with high potential for pelagic and demersal fish. Marine biodiversity (tuna, grouper, lobster, squid) supports the development of export-oriented fisheries. Sabang is located at the gateway to the Malacca Strait and international shipping lanes, facilitating access to export markets. There is

potential for the development of a fishing port that can serve both domestic and international markets. The Aceh and national government programs support sustainable fisheries, such as environmentally friendly fishing equipment assistance, fisherman insurance, and blue economy programs. Synergy with traditional maritime institutions that preserve the marine environment. Marine tourism in Sabang (diving, snorkeling, and fishing tours) opens up opportunities for business diversification for fishermen. Seafood products can be marketed directly to tourists at higher added value. The development of seafood processing businesses (smoked fish, salted fish, frozen seafood) can increase the selling value of products and the domestic and export markets, which continue to grow for processed seafood products.

According to Lifrizza, Head of the Sabang Fisheries and Marketing Division (DKP), the development of the fishing industry has the potential to support social and cultural characteristics that promote sustainability and give marine products high economic value in the market. Therefore, fisheries businesses can be developed to support the economic sustainability of fishermen by processing fish into salted fish and satay sauce, meatballs, and so on. This is expected to have an impact on the lives of the people of Sabang, not only creating economic growth but also improving the welfare of the fishing community in particular.

Yuniar, a staff member of the Sabang Fisheries Marketing Agency (DKP), explained that fishermen can improve their knowledge and skills in business management by participating in seminars, workshops, and training sessions. It is hoped that with their traditional knowledge and regular knowledge development, fishermen can increase their influence in democracy to determine fisheries policy.

Mansur, a fisherman, stated that further development of the fisheries sector will boost the fishermen's economy. In addition to optimizing the utilization of fish catches, there will also be employment opportunities in the fish processing industry, thereby reducing unemployment and labor migration out of Sabang. In addition, the development of the processing industry will create new business opportunities in the region, namely businesses to meet industrial and consumption needs. Socially, the involvement of local people in the entire fishing industry chain will foster confidence and pride among the local community as locals of the region. This can foster a sense of concern for preserving resources for future generations.

According to Hasbi, a fisherman, the DKP has been working on various matters related to the fishing industry for the fishing community, such as creating a WhatsApp group as a forum for information, providing subsidized fuel every month, providing fish catch reports in the first and second weeks of the month, adding fishing equipment and maritime fleet, allocating a budget to 12 regional maritime commanders for their efforts in supervising fishermen, and providing assistance to fishermen who have suffered misfortune through aid from the Sabang City Social Service. Additionally, fishermen are given membership cards, and the department opens opportunities for fishermen to propose their fishing needs and business plans through the Regional People's

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Representative Council (DPRD), which are then verified by the Sabang City Fisheries Department.

The development of sustainable fisheries in Sabang is beginning to be seen through an increased focus on measurable and ecosystem-based fish resource management. Studies show that the potential of fisheries resources in Sabang waters, particularly reef fish species such as grouper, still requires improved management to support long-term sustainability, despite relatively good handline catches. This highlights the need to strengthen broader management strategies, including involving fishermen in monitoring and implementing environmentally friendly fishing practices.

In the context of empowering fishing communities and developing businesses, the Indonesian government, through the Ministry of Maritime Affairs and Fisheries (KKP), continues to accelerate the construction of the Sabang Integrated Marine and Fisheries Center (SKPT) as strategic infrastructure to support local fishing activities. The SKPT is expected to become a service center supporting local fishermen, including access to fishing gear, processing facilities, and a more efficient marketing network, thereby increasing the productivity and income of fishermen in this outermost region. The accelerated completion of the SKPT is being implemented to have a direct impact on improving the regional economy and the standard of living of the coastal communities of Sabang.

Furthermore, marine ecosystem conservation and management efforts are also part of the activities supporting the sustainability of the fisheries business in Sabang. Various marine conservation programs, such as coral reef rehabilitation and community education activities, are conducted alongside awareness campaigns to maintain ecosystem health as a key asset for the sustainability of fishermen's livelihoods. The synergy between government initiatives, local communities, and fisheries businesses is expected to safeguard the potential of marine resources while opening up new, sustainable and environmentally friendly business opportunities in the Sabang region.

Opportunities for Sustainable Fisheries Business Development are as follows:

1. The construction of SKPT in Sabang aims to strengthen fisheries infrastructure and facilitate fishing activities, including improving refrigeration facilities and fishing port facilities to support better fish catching and processing.
2. The development of the fish processing industry from a household scale to an industrial scale is very important to absorb the production of fishermen, reduce fish waste, and increase the added value of fishery products.
3. The market opportunities offered by Sabang's marine tourism destinations need to be utilized for the sale of fishery products, especially leading commodities such as lobster and octopus.
4. The adoption of environmentally friendly and efficient technologies needs to be increased in order to improve fish catches.

5. Effective institutional development and capacity building of fishermen's human resources are essential to achieve better and more sustainable fisheries management.
6. Strengthening the economy in outlying areas such as Sabang by increasing the economic value of local fishery products.
7. Preserving marine ecosystems and biodiversity in Sabang
8. Expanding market access for local fishery products, both domestic and international.
9. Cooperation: MMAF is working with the Japanese government to establish SKPT and involve various central and regional agencies, including the Indonesian Quarantine Agency, MMAF, and other relevant agencies, to accelerate the development of globally competitive integrated fisheries.

The obstacles to the development of sustainable fisheries on Sabang Island are as follows:

1. Limited infrastructure and facilities, cold storage facilities, fish auction sites (TPI), and fishing ports are not yet optimal, and some fishing boats are still small with simple technology, resulting in limited range.
2. Capital and access to financing: Fishermen have difficulty accessing credit or business capital, and high operating costs, especially for fuel, are a major burden.
3. There are still fishermen who use destructive fishing gear (fish bombs, poison, and tiger nets) and the risk of declining fish stocks if not controlled sustainably.
4. Most fishermen still use traditional methods with limited skills and minimal knowledge of modern technology, business management, and marketing.
5. Fish prices are often unstable, especially when catches are abundant and access to export markets is still limited due to long distribution chains.
6. Extreme weather, high waves, and seasonal changes affect catches and threaten marine ecosystems (coral reefs and mangroves) due to climate change and human activities.

## 5. CONCLUSION

The strategy of the government and traditional institutions in Laot to improve the capacity of fishermen on Sabang Island emphasizes the provision of facilities, regulations, and economic improvement, while traditional institutions in Laot focus on traditional regulations, marine environmental conservation, and social solidarity among fishermen. Both parties complement each other in improving the capacity of fishermen on Sabang Island, both in terms of economic welfare and marine resource conservation.

The development of sustainable fisheries in Sabang includes strengthening the processing of fishery products to absorb fishermen's production, improving supporting facilities and infrastructure such as cold storage and distribution access, as well as increasing the adoption of technology and institutions such as vessel registration and

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fisher registration for legality and access to subsidized fuel, and educating fishermen on more effective and environmentally friendly fishing methods such as the use of handlines and other equipment.

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