



SUCCESS STORY

USAID Indonesia Boosts Government's Sustainable Fishing Rules



Lingga Prawitaningrum from the Directorate of Fishing Vessels and Gears responds to queries during the USAID Ber-IKAN sponsored workshop on Fish Aggregating Devices (FADs). Under new regulations, FADs must be registered and comply with additional regulation for selectivity and capacity to ensure sustainable fisheries management in Indonesia.

Photo: USAID Ber-IKAN / Dwi Aryo

"The revised regulation establishes a robust framework aligned with international best practices that emphasize biodiversity conservation and promote the long-term health of Indonesia's fisheries resources."

Lingga Prawitaningrum,
the Directorate of Fishing
Vessels and Gears of the
Ministry of Marine Affairs and
Fisheries

In November, 2023, Indonesia's Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries (MMAF) officially issued Ministerial Regulation No. 36-2023 on Fishing Gear and Auxiliary Gear Deployment in Indonesia's Quota-Based Fisheries Management Areas to replace the Ministerial Regulation No. 18-2021. The revision includes additional sections governing inter-province licensing for fishing boats. Currently, in Indonesia boats fishing within their home provinces and within the 12 mile provincial territory are licensed by provinces. However, many boats fish across provincial boundaries and travel outside provincial seas into waters controlled by national government requiring both inter-province coordination and licensing from central government.

USAID's Collaborative Fisheries Management project, USAID Ber-IKAN, was a key MMAF partner in finalizing the revised regulation. To support the implementation of MMAF's new quota-based fishing regulation program, USAID Ber-IKAN supported review of the older fishing gear and auxiliary gear regulations.

Lingga Prawitaningrum from the MMAF Directorate of Fishing Vessels and Gears expressed gratitude to USAID Ber-IKAN for its support in finalizing the regulatory revision. The revised regulation establishes a robust framework aligned with international best practices that emphasizes biodiversity conservation and promotes the long-term health of Indonesia's fisheries resources.

Key aspects of the revision include specifying types, sizes, and deployment methods for seventeen different fishing gears and FADs, alignment with Indonesia's new quota-based fishing policies, and increased aspects of ecosystem-scale protection to reduce bycatch and habitat damage associated with fishing activities. USAID's collaboration with MMAF directly contributes to reducing illegal fishing practices, preventing social conflicts among fishers, minimizing impacts on marine ecosystems, and emphasizing selectivity and capacity to promote sustainable fishing practices.

Quota-based fishing and increased surveillance and control of unregulated and illegal fishing gear and fish aggregating devices (FADs) reduces threats to marine ecosystems and improves the well-being of fishing communities through sustained economic opportunities and food security. USAID Ber-IKAN works closely with MMAF to improve awareness among fishers about the new regulations, support community-based surveillance groups (POKMASWAS) playing a key role where government presence is limited, and increasing government surveillance and enforcement of laws and policies that regulate fishing gear and FAD deployment.

USAID Ber-IKAN is a five-year project running from 2022-2027 supporting the government of Indonesia towards its goal of sustainable fisheries management. USAID Ber-IKAN is implemented by Resonance Global in partnership with a consortium of other organizations including DT Global, Environmental Defense Fund (EDF), Marine Change, MDPI, and San Francisco State University.