

# ***Ikan Diniatkan and Ikan Larangan : Areas of Traditional Fish Cultivation in the Districts of Pasaman and Padang Pariaman, West Sumatra Province***

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## **1. Introduction**

Like several other provinces of Indonesia, West Sumatra is endowed with a number of open waters of various types. The open water area in West Sumatra amounting to 52 386 ha comprises rivers, swamps and lakes (West Sumatra Provincial Fisheries Service Office, 1995). Open water development in the Province of West Sumatra is directed at increasing fisheries production as well as developing tourist destinations. However, the existing open waters have not yet been optimally utilised. In general, open water utilisation in this province is still carried out traditionally, especially in certain areas of the river for cultivation. A certain part of the river's waters has been used for fisheries under regulations agreed to by the villagers. This practice has been in existence for a long time and such areas are known as Ikan Diniatkan and Ikan Larangan areas.

Fish cultivation in the Ikan Diniatkan and Ikan Larangan areas is carried out under certain rules such as harvesting time, prohibitions and sanctions. An area is established for Ikan Diniatkan and Ikan Larangan, usually 200 m to 1500 m away upstream and downstream of the rivers from the bench mark. The public facility usually used as the bench mark is a bridge. Fishing at the Ikan Diniatkan and Ikan Larangan area is conducted once or twice a year. Fishing is usually done on holidays, especially at the end of the fasting month and the Indonesian Independence day.

The field surveys have shown that villagers strictly obey the harvesting time that is specified. Their obedience is inspired by the charisma of village leaders as well as their own strong mystical beliefs. The villagers believe that fishing beyond schedule is a crime, and that the violator may become a victim of poisoning or suffer a digestive disorder. Actually, the Ikan Larangan area is a modification of the Ikan Diniatkan area. In general, there are no differences in the management of Ikan Diniatkan and Ikan Larangan. In the Ikan Diniatkan area, the obedience is based on a mystical belief. In the Ikan Larangan area, such obedience springs from villagers' conviction about the benefits of fish cultivation.

## **2. History of the Area**

Written information about the activities of Ikan Diniatkan and Ikan Larangan areas is limited. This makes it difficult to find out when the two areas actually commenced. On the basis of interviews one could conclude that management of these areas started in 1769. According to the Provincial Fisheries Service Office of West Sumatra (1998), the number of Ikan Diniatkan areas has been decreasing during the past few years, while the number of Ikan Larangan areas has been increasing. The decline in numbers of Ikan Diniatkan areas may be because the number of village leaders with supernatural powers has decreased. Besides, they seem reluctant to practise their powers to open new Ikan Diniatkan areas. They worry about the safety of villagers who wish to prove the truth of their capabilities. On the other hand, Ikan Larangan areas have increased for two reasons. First, village leaders are willing to cultivate common carp (*Cyprinus carpio*) in the Ikan Larangan area. Second, managing the Ikan Larangan area is much easier since the local government provides support – it helps install signboards and notice boards and provides fish seed for stocking.

*This study is based on field surveys, interviews with officers of the Provincial Fisheries Service Office of West Sumatra, the District Fisheries Service Offices of Padang Pariaman and Pasaman, and several village leaders managing the Ikan Diniatkan and Ikan Larangan areas in places such as :*

*Village of Pakandangan – sub-district of Perwakilan 2 x 11 Enam Lingkung - district of Padang Pariaman;*

*Village of Kinali – sub-district Pasaman, district Pusanan;*

*Village of Aur Malintang - sub-district of IV Koto Aur Malintang, district of Padang Pariaman;*

*Village of Lubuk Lundur – district of Padang Pariaman;*

*Village of Ambancang Anggang, sub-district Lubuk Sikaping – District Pasaman (see map).*

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- (2) Fishing is allowed on the open day (open season) of Lubuk Larangan, using fishing gear that do not endanger fisheries resources sustainability and the environment.
- 3.2.3 Fishing gear that can be used in the Lubuk Larangan are jala (throwing net), jaring (net), bubu (trap) and others.
- 3.2.4 Fishing gear and materials such as explosives and electrical equipment are not allowed.
- 3.2.5 The jala, bubu and other nets with less than 2.5 cm mesh are not allowed.
- 3.2.6 The Lubuk Larangan management will collect the entrance fees from fishing members through sale of tickets. The number of tickets should be agreed to by the management and approved by the local government.
- 3.2.7 The sales of tickets must be reported to the local government. The money collected will be allotted for village development after retaining 10 per cent as retribution fee. This money will be paid to the local government through authorised staff.
- 3.2.8 Every 'retribution payment' will be distributed as follows:
  - (1) 75 per cent paid into the local cash account of the Dinas Pendapatan Daerah (District Income Services).
  - (2) 20 per cent paid into the village cash account.
  - (3) 5 per cent will be used as a 'stimulating fee' and the number will be decided by the village head.

#### **4. Open season of Lubuk Larangan**

- 4.1 Fishing is not allowed, if a Lubuk Larangan has not been approved by the Kepala Desa (Village Head) for the open season.
- 4.2 A Lubuk Larangan must remain closed for at least six months, so that the fish resource has a chance to rebuild.
- 4.3 Every violation of the regulations cited above (4.1. and 4.2.) attracts a jail sentence of six months or a fine of Rp. 50 000.

#### **5. Implementation**

##### **5.1 Application for Lubuk Larangan licence**

To obtain a Lubuk Larangan licence, an application should be made to the local government through the Fisheries Service of Tapanuli Selatan District. It should include the following details:

- (1) Decree of the Kepala Desa/Lurah about establishment of a community group to manage the Lubuk Larangan.
- (2) Decree of the Kepala Desa/Lurah about Lubuk Larangan site selection.
- (3) List of community group members.
- (4) Organisational structure of the community group.
- (5) Act and Group Act and statutes.
- (6) Map showing the location of the Lubuk Larangan.
- (7) Statement that the community group is prepared to pay retribution and to make a mark board for operation of the Lubuk Larangan.
- (8) Three copies of the Identity Card of the community group chairman, and three copies of his photograph (size: 4 x 6 cm).

##### **5.2 Conditions for the location of Lubuk Larangan**

- (1) The Lubuk Larangan should be located in a strategic place. The river should have a water hole (lubuk) for fish to live and breed.
- (2) Fish fry should be restocked to keep the fish stocks in the water hole.
- (3) Water in the water hole should flow easily and should not be polluted by industrial and other waste.



*Site of Lubuk Larangan*

*Sign 'Awat Lubuk Larangan'*



*Site of Lubuk Larangan*

*Harvesting*



*Restocking*

*Harvesting*



*Harvested species*



*Most common species*



*Meeting of village community*



*Fisheries Service Complex of District Fisheries Service Office, South Tapanuli*



*Fisheries Service facility of District Fisheries Service Office, South Tapanuli*

- (4) To make control easier, the Lubuk Larangan must be located closer to the community habitation.
- (5) Stretched rope or wire across the river will indicate that Lubuk Larangan is in force at the river.

The rope or wire bears the message “Awas Lubuk Larangan” (Keep Lubuk Larangan). A signboard in the middle of the river announces “Whoever catches fish or disturbs the Lubuk Larangan will have to pay a fine of Rp. 250 000”.

### **5.3 Open season**

- (1) The date and time for harvesting (open season) at Lubuk Larangan, are decided at a meeting of the village community.
- (2) Harvesting is managed by the community group.
- (3) Harvesting can be done once or twice a year depending on fish stocks. The ‘open season’ is usually held on a festival day (“hari raya”) or during vacation.
- (4) After the open season date is decided, the community forms a special committee. Its tasks are as follows:

To prevent the fish from going out of the Lubuk Larangan to be harvested. The committee will fence the border with bamboo, rock and palm tree.

To collect a fishing entrance fee from members. Example: Rp. 7 500 per person using net gear.

To announce the open season over the radio or other media to the village population.

- (5) To ensure resource sustainability, net sizes are regulated at meetings of the village community.
- (6) The harvesting member need not be from the local village. Residents of other villages are also allowed to harvest, as long as they can meet all the conditions.
- (7) Fish harvesting under a Lubuk Larangan system can also be a part of the community’s recreation and sports activities, which support local economic development. Money generated by it goes out of the community to the neighbouring town.
- (8) Under a Lubuk Larangan system, fish can be harvested by 400 to 500 people. Their production cannot be gauged exactly, as there is no clear procedure or mechanism to do so.

### **5.4 Closed season**

A closed season at a Lubuk Larangan is usually applied during the period of fish fry stocking, for six months to a year. The decision about a closed season is taken by the community on the basis of discussion and consensus. During the closed season, the community group that manages a Lubuk Larangan gives the fish supplementary feed, such as pellet and palm oil.

### **5.5. Sanctions imposed by Lubuk Larangan management**

- (1) Moral Sanctions: People in the community guilty of violating a law, may be punished with moral sanctions and a prison term. Examples of moral sanctions:

To own up to your misdeed at a mosque and say: “I have been caught looking for fish in the Lubuk Larangan”.

To clean up the main yard along the village.

- (2) Material Sanctions: If you break the law and catch fish during the closed season, a fine is imposed depending on the fishing gear used. On the basis of discussion, fines were agreed as follows for various gear:

Throwing net (jala) – Rp. 150 000

Hook (pole) – Rp. 100 000

Traps (bubu) – Rp. 50 000

Cotton (surface gill net) – Rp. 25 000

- (3) Legal Sanctions: Legal sanctions can be imposed on a member of the community for any infringement of Fisheries Law No. 9/1985 (UU No.9 Tahun 1985) and Environmental Management Law No. 23/1997.

## 6 Organisation and Management

The success of Lubuk Larangan management will depend on the participation of local people and their shouldering of responsibilities. Every person in the village should take part. After some discussion, the village decides on the organisation responsible for managing the Lubuk Larangan. Its structure is as follows:

- Chairman
- Vice-Chairman
- Secretary
- Treasurer
- Controller

Suggestions for activities at the village meeting are usually presented by:

- Senior people in the communities
- LKMD (Village Community Endurance Board)
- Kepala Desa (Village Head)
- District Fisheries Service Head
- Other institutions

## 7 Benefits from Lubuk Larangan Management

Villages under Lubuk Larangan management have an opportunity to improve their local incomes from the yield harvested. These incomes are usually allotted for village development schemes such as:

- Development and construction of village roads, MCK (clean water and household facilities)
- Restoring and maintaining a Lubuk Larangan
- Presents for people who genuinely cared for and maintained a Lubuk Larangan

## 8 The Government's Role

The local government plays an important role in assisting the Lubuk Larangan management through:

- Extension Programmes
- Supply of fish fry for restocking
- Regulations concerning sustainability of natural resources.

During the open season, sub-district government leaders (MUSPIKA- Musyawarah Pimpinan Kecamatan) attend a function to discuss and decide on controls and regulations.

## 9 Conclusions

Management of fisheries resources in rivers through a Lubuk Larangan system has been very positive in North Sumatra. It has helped improve community welfare and focus attention on environmental sustainability. The system has strengthened community's roles in fisheries resources management in North Sumatra and helped the concept of community-based resources management being promoted by the Bay of Bengal Programme. A system of co-management already exists between the government and the community. The government focuses on services, regulations and control, while management functions in the field are handled by the communities themselves. Fisheries resources management is necessary to help other districts of North Sumatra and other provinces in Indonesia. This system can also be developed for other inland fisheries activities (lake, artificial lake "waduk", swamp), both for capture fisheries and aquaculture.

## Bibliography

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