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# Information Needs and Sources of Small Scale Traditional Fishermen in Kaliadem Village, North Jakarta Indonesia

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## **Abstract**

*The purpose of this research is to identify the information needs of fisherman in Kaliadem, Muara Angke, Indonesia and their source of information. The paper use quantitative approach by distributing the questionnaire to collect the data. Since some of the fishermen were illiterate, researchers then assisted the fishermen to fill the questionnaire by reading out the without influencing the responses. The questionnaire is provided and told in Indonesian language (bahasa Indonesia). The research setting is Kaliadem fishing village, located in the province of Jakarta. The questionnaires were distributed to 63 males members of the small scale traditional fishermen community. The result show that fishermen in Kaliadem fishing village rely on fellow fishermen as their main source of information. The most important information needs include information about fishing equipment, fish price, and the weather. Information needs for those things are considered important to increase the fish catch result, which eventually can increase their income. Lack of time and access to the necessary information sources is a constraint in meeting their information needs. Further research in this area on a larger scale needed to be conducted, to have a comprehensive description of information needs of Indonesian fishermen.*

**Keywords** : *Information needs, fishermen, Indonesia, small scale traditional fishermen, information source*

## **Introduction**

Indonesia is an archipelago country that located between the Indian and Pacific Oceans. With the geographical position of the region surrounded by oceans made Indonesia as a country with rich potential of marine resources. Therefore, many of the Indonesian population livelihoods depend on marine resources. In 2012, there were some 6,4 million Indonesian people engaged in fishing and fish farming activities, both on land and at sea (FAO, 2014).

According to Banmeke and Olowu (2005, p. 238), providing the appropriate information resources for a particular community can improve productivity. Even so, to provide the appropriate information resources, the information needs to be identified first. Therefore, understanding fisherman's information needs and seeking behaviour is an important first procedure in enhancing their productivity. Dissemination of information about the fishery is considered important for fishermen, especially for small-scale traditional fishermen, in order to increase fish catches. If the fish catch result increases, it would increase their income and welfare.

Ikoja-Odongo (2003) in his paper explained information needs and seeking behaviour of artisan fisher folk in Uganda. Njoku (2004) also conducted similiar research. He investigated information needs and seeking behaviour of 500 fishermen in Lagos State, Nigeria. The study shows that the fishermens' main sources of information are colleagues, friends, neighbours and relatives. Research on information needs of the fishing community in Indonesia was conducted by

Sugiharto et al. in 2008. The research highlighted the characteristic of fishermen in Parangtritis village, Bantul, Yogyakarta and their access to information sources. The result of the research indicates *that only some components of characteristic relate to access to information source by interpersonal media, the press, and the electronic* (Sugiharto, 2008, p. 31). The other research was conducted by Trisnani in 2016. She pointed out the information needs and information channel of fishing community in Madura, East Java Province on maritime culture and tourism.

The main purpose of this study is to explore information needs and information seeking behaviour of the small-scale traditional fishermen in Kaliadem fishing village, North Jakarta, Indonesia. Kaliadem village, North Jakarta, Indonesia is a residential neighborhood of fishermen and fishing boat harbor. The fishermen in the surrounding area are mostly small-scale traditional fishermen. These fishermen come from Jakarta, Indramayu, and Cirebon.

The objectives of this study are:

- a) To identify the information needs of fisherman in Kaliadem, Muara Angke, Indonesia
- b) To identify their source of information.

## **Materials and Method**

This is a quantitative study with survey method to gather data. The research setting is Kaliadem fishing village, located in the province of Jakarta. The questionnaires

were distributed to 63 males members of the small scale traditional fishermen community. Researchers assisted the fishermen to fill the questionnaire by reading out the without influencing the responses. The questionnaire is provided in Indonesian language (*bahasa Indonesia*).

## Result

### Demography

The traditional fishermen come from various cities and villages in Indonesia. Majority respondents come from West Java province (Indramayu, 35 respondents). Of the 63 respondents, 5 of them were illiterate. Regarding the mobile phone ownership, it is identified that 35 respondents have mobile phone, while 17 of them were smartphones. According to boat ownership, 46 respondents do not own the boat, while 17 has their own boat. Types of sea fish caught are anchovy, tuna, mackerel, snapper, and crab. Respondents in this study were the small-scale traditional fishermen. The majority of respondents were married (47 respondents). Each of the respondents has dependent family members between one to eight people.

**Table 1. The Region of Origin Fisherman**

Place of Origin	Frequency
Indramayu (West Java Province)	35
Cirebon (West Java Province)	4

Jakarta (Capital city)	12
Tegal (Central Java Province)	3
Brebes (Central Java Province)	4
Sukabumi (West Java Province)	1
Solo (Central Java Province)	1
North Sumatera Province	1
Others	2

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Respondents were asked the amount of free time they have in a single day. The majority of respondents (36 respondents) said they had free time average of 8 hours in a day. Related to the activities they did, most respondents answered they will rest (37 respondents) to recharge for the next day fishing activity. Most other respondents answered they would mend the nets that they use (19 respondents). Fishermen will go for fishing at night. Usually, fishermen who come from outside Jakarta will conduct fishing activities on the ship or boat up to three to six months. Fishermen will sell their fish catch at the fish auction place (*Tempat Pelelangan Ikan*) nearby.

### **Small-scale Traditional Fishermen Information Needs**

All respondents were asked related to the information needed. These information needs are categorized into two: the need for information about the fishery and non-fishery. Information relating to fishing activities includes fishing methods and

equipments, preservation and storage methods, fish species, fish farming, fishing spots, fish price and policy, weather, and information related to the ancestral traditions (sea festival). Meanwhile, non-fisheries information is information relating to the welfare of the fishermen, which was the information including health insurance, education for children, and finance. Fishermen in the area Kaliadem need information relating to fishing activities to support them for fishing. The survey result shows that the highest information needs of fisheries information is information about fishing equipment, fish price, and the weather. In addition, information about the price of fish is also needed to minimize the occurrence of fraud rates among fish traders, so that the fishermen got the benefit from the sea. Some fishermen also complained about the low price of fish, big operational cost and lack of fish catches. In the other side, information about non-fisheries needs includes the information need for health insurance, financial (information for borrowing money), and education for children. A summary of information regarding fishermen's information needs in Kaliadem village can be seen in table 2 and 3.

**Table 2. Fishermen Fishing Information Needs (Multiple Answers)**

<b>Information Needs</b>	<b>Frequency</b>
Fishing methods	26
Fishing equipment	46
Fish transportation	14
Storage method	24
Fish preservation methods	8

Fish processing	12
Fish species	15
Weather	40
Fish price	41
Fish farming	7
Policy of fishing activity	29
Information about ancestral traditions (sea festival)	13
Fishing spots	4

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**Table 3. Non-fisheries Information Needs of Fishermen (Multiple Answers)**

<b>Information Needs</b>	<b>Frequency</b>
Health insurance	39
Finance	22
Education for children	14

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### **Fishermen Information Needs Fulfillment**

In order to meet the information needs, each individual fisherman seeks information through certain sources that are believed to be the truth. Overall respondents were asked related to the most reliable resources by fishermen in solving problems they encounter fishing-related activities. The results showed that 51 respondents answered that they rely on a fellow fisherman to obtain the information they need.

In addition, they also rely on electronic devices such as radio and Internet access from their mobile phone. Sources of information obtained through fellow fishermen are considered accurate for fishermen due to the ease of access to information resources related to time efficiency. Other sources of information derived from reading or writing material, this source is almost never used by fishermen because of certain limitations in accessing the information source.

**Table 3. Reliable Source of Information (Multiple Answers)**

<b>Source of Information</b>	<b>Frequency</b>
Fellow/Fisherman	51
Personal experience	10
Radio	8
Family	4
Internet	3
Television	1
Government staff	1
Fishermen community	1

### **Availability of Reading Materials**

Regarding to the availability of reading materials, it is identified that most respondents have reading materials in the form of holy books (53 respondents) and

religious books (29 respondents). From the total of 63 male respondents, 62 of them were Moslems, while the other one is Christian. Ownership of the holy book for religion is a way to satisfy their spiritual needs. In the third place, as many as 17 people have fiction books while 8 others have a newspaper at home. The detailed information regarding the availability of reading materials can be seen in Table 4. However, based on survey result, it is also identified that the use of reading materials is fairly low.

**Table 4. Availability of Reading Materials at Home (Multiple Answers)**

Reading Materials	Frequency
Holy book	53
Newspaper	8
Religious books	29
Brochure	3
Fiction	17
Magazines	1

### **Barriers to Information Sources and Access**

When respondents were asked about the barriers they have to fulfill their information needs, most of respondents claimed that the local government less

provide counseling to them: especially about policy related to fishery activities. In addition, lack of time, ignorance of information sources and the lack of access to information sources are obstacles to obtain the information. Moreover, language barriers also become one of the obstacles for them in obtaining the information they need.

**Table 5. Barriers to Information Access**

Barriers	Frequency
lack of counseling from the local government	24
lack of time to access information sources	17
Ignorance of information sources	16
lack of access to information sources	15
language barriers	8

### **Conclusion**

Based on the results of the study, it can be concluded that fishermen in Kaliadem fishing village rely on fellow fishermen as their main source of information. They really trust people who are close to them. Their personal experience also plays important parts in satisfying their information needs. The most important information needs include information about fishing equipment, fish price, and the

weather. Information needs for those things are considered could increase the fish catch result, which eventually can increase their income. Lack of time and access to the necessary information sources is a constraint in meeting their information needs. Government need to construct an easy information access to fulfill the fishermen's information needs, for example by providing mobile libraries that reach the fishing village community and providing appropriate resources. Moreover, face to face consultation with the fishermen also needs to be conducted, in order to understand fishermen's information needs and provide appropriate information.

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