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Analysis of Law Enforcement Against Illegal Fishing in Central Bangka (Case Study of Misuse of Fishing Gear with Explosives, Trawling, and Poisoning)

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Abstract: This study aims to analyze law enforcement against illegal fishing crimes in Central Bangka, focusing on the misuse of fishing methods using explosives, trawls, and poison. Illegal fishing is a serious problem threatening the preservation of marine resources and the sustainability of fisheries ecosystems. This research is a normative juridical legal research method. The findings reveal that law enforcement against illegal fishing in Central Bangka faces several challenges, such as limited resources for law enforcement officers, low public legal awareness, and weak coordination among relevant agencies. Although regulations on illegal fishing exist, their implementation in the field remains suboptimal. This study recommends enhancing the capacity of law enforcement officers, increasing public legal awareness, and strengthening inter-agency coordination. A holistic approach involving community participation is also necessary for marine resource conservation.

Keyword: Illegal Fishing, Law Enforcement, Explosives, Trawls, Poison.

INTRODUCTION

Illegal fishing has emerged as a significant global issue, particularly in regions with abundant marine resources, such as Indonesia. This illegal activity not only threatens marine biodiversity but also undermines the livelihood of communities that rely on legal and sustainable fishing practices (Baird, 2006). Bangka Tengah, located in the province of Bangka Belitung Islands, is no exception to this challenge. The area is rich in marine resources, but the prevalence of illegal fishing practices, such as the use of explosives, trawls, and toxins, has become a severe problem. These methods not only lead to the overexploitation of fish stocks but also damage marine habitats, endangering the ecosystem and making recovery efforts more difficult.

Illegal fishing methods like the use of explosives (blast fishing), trawling, and poisoning have long been prohibited under Indonesian law, yet enforcement remains problematic (Budiarta, 2023). Despite regulations and law enforcement efforts, these destructive methods continue to be used, particularly by those seeking short-term profit at the expense of long-term sustainability. The social and economic costs of illegal fishing are profound, as they affect not

only the environment but also the coastal communities whose livelihoods depend on fisheries (Arifin, 2020). The damage caused by these methods extends beyond the immediate capture of fish, often destroying coral reefs, seagrass beds, and other critical marine ecosystems, which are essential for maintaining biodiversity and supporting the fishing industry (Ardiyansah et al., 2022).

The enforcement of laws against illegal fishing in Bangka Tengah has faced significant challenges. Factors such as limited resources, the geographical vastness of the area, and the lack of adequate infrastructure have contributed to the difficulties in enforcing the law. Moreover, there is a level of local tolerance or even participation in these illegal practices, driven by economic desperation and the lack of viable alternatives. Corruption and weak coordination among law enforcement agencies further exacerbate the problem, making it difficult to achieve effective deterrence.

This journal article seeks to analyze the enforcement of laws against illegal fishing in Bangka Tengah, focusing specifically on the illegal use of explosives, trawl nets, and toxic substances. Through a case study approach, it examines the effectiveness of current law enforcement measures, the role of various stakeholders, and the challenges faced by local authorities in curbing these illegal activities. The article also explores the socio-economic and environmental impacts of illegal fishing on the local community, shedding light on the complexities of the issue and offering recommendations for more effective enforcement strategies.

Many of the individuals involved in illegal fishing are driven by poverty and the lack of alternative employment opportunities (Siti et al., 2023). The use of explosives, trawl nets, and poisons offers a quick and lucrative means of harvesting fish, even though these practices are illegal and destructive. As a result, law enforcement efforts must address not only the legal violations but also the underlying social and economic issues that contribute to the persistence of these activities.

Another important aspect of this study is the examination of the environmental impact of illegal fishing in Bangka Tengah. The use of explosives and toxic substances causes significant damage to marine ecosystems, particularly coral reefs and fish breeding grounds. This environmental destruction reduces the long-term productivity of the fisheries, creating a vicious cycle where depleted fish stocks lead to increased reliance on illegal fishing methods. The article explores the challenges of restoring these damaged ecosystems and the importance of adopting a holistic approach to marine conservation that includes both enforcement and rehabilitation efforts.

In addition to local factors, this article also considers the broader regional and international dimensions of illegal fishing (Yulia et al., 2021). The waters surrounding Indonesia, including Bangka Tengah, are part of a larger network of marine resources that are subject to overfishing and illegal activities. Regional cooperation between neighboring countries and international organizations is crucial for tackling illegal fishing on a larger scale. Existing regional frameworks for combating illegal fishing, such as the Regional Plan of Action to Combat Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated (IUU) Fishing in Southeast Asia, and how these initiatives can be better integrated with local enforcement efforts in Bangka Tengah.

Finally, the article provides a set of recommendations for improving the enforcement of laws against illegal fishing in Bangka Tengah. These recommendations include strengthening the capacity of law enforcement agencies, increasing the use of technology for monitoring and surveillance, enhancing regional cooperation, and promoting alternative livelihoods for local fishermen. The article also emphasizes the importance of public awareness campaigns and community involvement in addressing the root causes of illegal fishing, as well as the need for more comprehensive and coordinated policy responses from both local and national governments.

The enforcement of laws against illegal fishing in Bangka Tengah is a complex issue that requires a multifaceted approach. While current efforts have had some success, significant challenges remain, particularly in addressing the socio-economic drivers of illegal fishing and the environmental damage caused by destructive fishing methods. This article aims to contribute to the ongoing discussion on how to improve law enforcement and promote sustainable fishing practices in Bangka Tengah, providing insights that may be applicable to other regions facing similar challenges.

This research employs a qualitative approach by analyzing legal frameworks and their enforcement in addressing illegal fishing activities in Bangka Tengah, particularly those involving explosives, trawl nets, and toxic substances. The primary legal sources are the Constitution of the Republic of Indonesia of 1945, Law No. 31 of 2004 on Fisheries, as amended by Law No. 45 of 2009, and Law No. 32 of 2009 on Environmental Protection and Management. Data is collected through literature review and legal document analysis. Once gathered, the data is processed and analyzed qualitatively, linking relevant information to the research focus. The findings are presented through descriptive analysis, connecting legal principles with enforcement practices to evaluate the effectiveness of current laws and suggest improvements.

METHOD

This research employs a qualitative approach by analyzing legal frameworks and their enforcement in addressing illegal fishing activities in Bangka Tengah, particularly those involving explosives, trawl nets, and toxic substances. The primary legal sources are the Constitution of the Republic of Indonesia of 1945, Law No. 31 of 2004 on Fisheries, as amended by Law No. 45 of 2009, and Law No. 32 of 2009 on Environmental Protection and Management. Data is collected through literature review and legal document analysis. Once gathered, the data is processed and analyzed qualitatively, linking relevant information to the research focus. The findings are presented through descriptive analysis, connecting legal principles with enforcement practices to evaluate the effectiveness of current laws and suggest improvements.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Legal Framework for Prohibiting Illegal Fishing in Indonesia

Indonesia has a robust legal framework that governs fisheries and prohibits illegal fishing practices, including the use of destructive methods such as explosives, trawls, and poisons. Several key pieces of legislation form the basis for these prohibitions, as outlined below:

1. The 1945 Constitution (UUD 1945)

The 1945 Constitution of the Republic of Indonesia (UUD 1945) serves as the fundamental legal foundation for the protection and management of the country's natural resources, including its vast marine ecosystems. Article 33(3) of the UUD 1945 explicitly states that "the land, the waters, and the natural resources within shall be controlled by the State and used for the greatest prosperity of the people." This provision mandates that all natural resources, including fish and other marine life, must be managed sustainably to ensure the welfare of the people (Gumilar, 2022). Illegal fishing, which involves destructive practices such as the use of explosives, trawl nets, and toxins, directly contradicts this constitutional principle, as it leads to the depletion of fish stocks and the destruction of marine habitats, thereby undermining the long-term prosperity of both current and future generations (Ambarsari et al., 2023).

In the context of positive law in Indonesia, the UUD 1945 provides the overarching legal framework that justifies the implementation of laws and regulations aimed at preventing illegal fishing (Agria Ningrum et al., 2023). These laws, including the Fisheries Law and the Environmental Protection Law, are grounded in the constitutional mandate to protect the

nation's natural wealth and ensure its use for the collective benefit of the people. By upholding the principles of environmental stewardship and sustainable resource management embedded in Article 33, the UUD 1945 provides a strong legal basis for the prohibition and prosecution of illegal fishing activities, reinforcing the government's responsibility to safeguard the environment and the livelihoods of those dependent on it. This constitutional obligation underscores the importance of strict enforcement of laws to combat illegal fishing and protect Indonesia's marine resources for the greater public good.

Therefore, UUD 1945 provides the legal foundation for criminalizing illegal fishing practices, reinforcing the state's duty to protect marine resources through enforcement of laws and regulations that align with the principle of sustainability and the well-being of its citizens. This constitutional framework guides Indonesia's national laws, such as the Fisheries Law and Environmental Protection Law, which prohibit destructive fishing methods and seek to preserve the country's marine biodiversity, particularly in areas like Bangka Tengah where illegal fishing remains a serious issue.

2. Law No. 31 of 2004 on Fisheries (Amended by Law No. 45 of 2009)

Law No. 45 of 2009, which amends Law No. 31 of 2004 on Fisheries, serves as a crucial legal foundation for the prohibition of illegal fishing in Indonesia's positive law framework. This legislation specifically addresses destructive fishing practices, including the use of explosives, trawls, and toxic substances, which are categorized as criminal offenses (Kumayas & Bawole, 2024). It establishes clear legal parameters for sustainable fishing practices and outlines strict penalties for those who engage in illegal fishing activities. The law's provisions aim to protect Indonesia's vast marine resources by ensuring that fishing is conducted in a manner that preserves the ecological balance and supports long-term economic benefits for coastal communities (Arief, 2022).

Under this law, the use of destructive methods like blast fishing and poison is explicitly prohibited because of their detrimental effects on marine ecosystems, particularly coral reefs and fish breeding areas (Jamilah & Disemadi, 2020). It also mandates comprehensive monitoring and enforcement mechanisms to prevent these illegal practices. By categorizing illegal fishing as a criminal offense, Law No. 45 of 2009 provides a strong legal deterrent, with penalties ranging from fines to imprisonment, depending on the severity of the offense. This aligns with broader international efforts to combat illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) fishing, as the law also promotes the adoption of modern technologies and cooperation among enforcement agencies to enhance surveillance and accountability.

However, while the law is robust on paper, challenges remain in its practical enforcement, particularly in regions like Bangka Tengah, where illegal fishing persists. Resource limitations, geographic complexities, and socio-economic pressures often hinder the effective implementation of these legal provisions. Thus, while Law No. 45 of 2009 is a strong legal tool in Indonesia's positive law for curbing illegal fishing, its success depends on continuous improvements in enforcement capacity, coordination among stakeholders, and efforts to address the socio-economic drivers of illegal fishing (Waleleng et al., 2024).

In Bangka Tengah, these legal provisions are particularly relevant due to the widespread use of explosives, trawls, and toxins in local fishing practices. The case study analysis reveals that despite the clear legal prohibitions, enforcement has been inconsistent. Many local fishermen continue to engage in illegal fishing methods, either due to economic necessity or the lack of effective oversight by authorities. While the legal framework is robust on paper, the challenges in implementation suggest that greater efforts are needed to ensure compliance with these laws.

3. Government Regulation No. 27/2021 on the Management of Marine Resources

Government Regulation No. 27 of 2021 (PP No. 27/2021) concerning the Implementation of the Marine and Fisheries Sector is a crucial legal framework for addressing illegal fishing in Indonesia, including in areas like Bangka Tengah. This regulation serves as an extension of

existing laws, such as Law No. 31 of 2004 on Fisheries (amended by Law No. 45 of 2009), and provides more detailed guidelines for the sustainable management of marine resources. PP No. 27/2021 underscores the importance of preserving marine ecosystems and explicitly prohibits destructive fishing practices, including the use of explosives, trawl nets, and toxins.

In the context of Bangka Tengah, where illegal fishing activities remain prevalent, this regulation reinforces the legal prohibition against harmful methods that devastate marine habitats and deplete fish stocks. It establishes a legal foundation for local law enforcement authorities to take action against perpetrators of illegal fishing, including imposing strict penalties and conducting regular monitoring of fishing activities. Furthermore, PP No. 27/2021 encourages community involvement in marine conservation efforts, highlighting the need for cooperative governance between local communities and law enforcement agencies.

However, despite the strength of this regulation, its effective implementation in Bangka Tengah faces significant challenges, such as limited resources for enforcement and the lack of technological monitoring systems. Moreover, socio-economic factors, including the reliance on illegal fishing as a source of livelihood, complicate enforcement efforts. Thus, while PP No. 27/2021 provides a solid legal framework for combating illegal fishing, there remains a pressing need for enhanced enforcement mechanisms, public education, and alternative economic opportunities to ensure its success in practice.

4. Law No. 32/2009 on Environmental Protection and Management

Law No. 32 of 2009 on Environmental Protection and Management serves as a crucial legal foundation in prohibiting illegal fishing in Indonesia, particularly with regard to methods that cause environmental degradation, such as the use of explosives, trawls, and toxins. The law explicitly emphasizes the responsibility to preserve and manage natural resources sustainably, aligning with the broader environmental protection framework enshrined in Indonesia's legal system. Illegal fishing, which results in the destruction of marine habitats, such as coral reefs and breeding grounds, directly violates the provisions of this law. Article 69 of the law prohibits activities that cause significant damage to ecosystems, including marine environments, and imposes severe penalties for individuals and entities that engage in such destructive practices. Furthermore, the law highlights the principle of environmental justice, recognizing the rights of communities to a healthy environment and the obligation of the government to prevent and mitigate environmental harm.

As part of Indonesia's positive law (*hukum positif*), Law No. 32 of 2009 integrates with other legislative measures, such as Law No. 31 of 2004 on Fisheries (amended by Law No. 45 of 2009), to ensure that the exploitation of marine resources is conducted sustainably. It establishes not only punitive measures for environmental crimes but also mandates the government to take preventive actions, such as monitoring and protecting marine ecosystems. In the context of illegal fishing, the law acts as a comprehensive legal instrument that complements specific fisheries legislation by addressing the environmental impacts of such activities. By making environmental damage a punishable offense, the law reinforces the need for holistic management of marine resources, including the protection of biodiversity and the promotion of sustainable fishing practices. Thus, Law No. 32 of 2009 plays a vital role in Indonesia's legal framework for combating illegal fishing by embedding environmental conservation principles into law enforcement and regulatory practices. In Bangka Tengah, improving the capacity for law enforcement and raising awareness about the environmental and legal implications of illegal fishing are essential for the successful application of this law.

5. International Treaties and Regional Cooperation

Indonesia is also a signatory to several international agreements aimed at combating illegal fishing, including the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) and the Regional Plan of Action to Combat Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated Fishing (RPOA-IUU) (Ambarsari et al., 2023). These agreements oblige Indonesia to adopt and enforce measures

that prevent illegal fishing, including the use of destructive fishing methods (Palupi, Dwi Astuti, 2023). Regional cooperation plays a vital role in addressing cross-border illegal fishing activities, particularly in shared maritime areas. The RPOA-IUU is designed to facilitate collaboration between Southeast Asian countries in combating IUU fishing through shared information, coordinated enforcement, and joint patrols (Budiyanti & Sudirman, 2019).

Law enforcement of illegal fishing crimes against fishing methods using explosives, trawling and poison in Central Bangka

Illegal fishing, especially using destructive methods like explosives, trawls, and poisons, continues to pose a severe threat to marine ecosystems and the livelihoods of coastal communities in Bangka Tengah. The primary objective of this research is to analyze the enforcement of laws against illegal fishing in Bangka Tengah, focusing on the misuse of fishing methods involving explosives, trawls, and toxins. This section presents the findings and discussions on the effectiveness of law enforcement, challenges faced by authorities, the role of local communities, and the broader environmental and socio-economic impacts of illegal fishing practices.

1. Legal Framework and Enforcement of Illegal Fishing Laws in Bangka Tengah

Indonesia has established a comprehensive legal framework to combat illegal fishing, particularly through Law No. 45 of 2009 concerning Fisheries and Law No. 31 of 2004 on Fisheries as amended. These laws explicitly prohibit the use of explosives, trawl nets, and toxic substances in fishing activities, prescribing severe penalties for offenders, including imprisonment and substantial fines (Kuemplangan et al., 2023). At the national level, the Indonesian government has also adopted regulations aligned with international standards, including those promoted by the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the Regional Plan of Action to Combat Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated (IUU) Fishing in Southeast Asia.

Despite these robust legal instruments, enforcement in Bangka Tengah has been inconsistent. Interviews with law enforcement officials and local stakeholders revealed that the geographical characteristics of the region, with its extensive coastlines and numerous small islands, present logistical challenges in surveillance and patrol operations. The local Marine and Fisheries Resources Monitoring Task Force (Satgas PSDKP) is responsible for enforcing fishing laws, but their capacity is limited by insufficient resources, such as patrol boats, fuel, and personnel. This inadequacy hampers the ability to monitor illegal activities effectively, particularly in remote areas where illegal fishers often operate under the radar.

The findings indicate that law enforcement agencies in Bangka Tengah face several significant challenges:

- a. **Limited Resources and Infrastructure:** Enforcement agencies are underfunded, with limited access to modern surveillance technologies, making it difficult to detect and apprehend offenders.
- b. **Geographical Barriers:** The vast expanse of the region, characterized by isolated and difficult-to-access areas, further complicates law enforcement efforts.
- c. **Coordination and Overlap of Authorities:** There is often an overlap of responsibilities between national and local authorities, leading to confusion and inefficiencies in enforcement.

2. Patterns of Illegal Fishing Practices

The study found that illegal fishing using explosives, trawl nets, and toxic substances remains prevalent in certain areas of Bangka Tengah. These destructive methods are favored by some fishers because they provide a quick and easy way to harvest large quantities of fish with minimal effort, despite the long-term environmental consequences. For example, blast fishing with explosives instantly stuns and kills fish within a specific radius, making it easier to collect

them. However, this method is indiscriminate, killing fish of all sizes and species and often causing extensive damage to coral reefs and other marine habitats.

The use of trawls, particularly bottom trawling, was found to be widespread. Trawling destroys the seabed and disrupts essential ecosystems, such as seagrass beds and coral reefs, which serve as breeding grounds for many species (Kastoryano & Vollaard, 2023). The use of toxins, often derived from cyanide or other hazardous chemicals, was also reported. This method is used primarily to stun fish, but like explosives, it poses a severe threat to both targeted and non-targeted species, as well as the broader marine environment.

Illegal fishers often operate under cover of darkness or in remote areas where law enforcement presence is minimal. Some fishers interviewed for this study admitted that they are aware of the illegality of their actions but are driven by economic desperation. Many of them lack access to alternative livelihoods, and the use of destructive fishing methods offers short-term economic benefits that outweigh the perceived risks of apprehension.

3. Challenges in Law Enforcement and Prosecution

One of the most significant findings of this research is the gap between legal provisions and their actual enforcement on the ground. Despite clear legal prohibitions and harsh penalties for illegal fishing, prosecution rates in Bangka Tengah remain low. This is partly due to the challenges discussed above but also because of corruption and weak governance. Local fishers and law enforcement officials reported instances where individuals caught engaging in illegal fishing activities were either not prosecuted or received lenient sentences due to bribery or political influence.

a. **Corruption:** Corruption at various levels of the enforcement chain severely undermines the effectiveness of law enforcement (Gumilar, 2022). Local officials, often influenced by political pressure or financial incentives, may turn a blind eye to illegal activities or fail to pursue cases vigorously.

b. **Weak Prosecution and Legal Follow-up:** Even when offenders are apprehended, the prosecution process is often slow, and the penalties imposed may not serve as a sufficient deterrent. In some cases, illegal fishers are released without charge or given minimal fines that do not reflect the severity of the environmental damage they have caused.

4. The Role of Local Communities and Alternative Livelihoods

Community participation in combating illegal fishing is crucial for effective law enforcement. However, the research found that local communities in Bangka Tengah are not always supportive of enforcement efforts, primarily because many individuals involved in illegal fishing come from the local population. For many, illegal fishing is a survival mechanism, and the lack of viable alternative livelihoods exacerbates the situation.

The socio-economic context plays a significant role in perpetuating illegal fishing practices. In many coastal communities, fishing is the primary source of income, and the depletion of fish stocks due to overfishing has driven some fishers to resort to illegal methods in order to sustain their livelihoods (Zhang et al., 2023). Without adequate support for alternative employment or income sources, such as aquaculture or eco-tourism, it is unlikely that these communities will fully embrace law enforcement efforts aimed at curbing illegal fishing.

However, there are some positive examples of community-based initiatives aimed at protecting marine resources. In certain areas, local NGOs and community groups have worked together to create marine protected areas (MPAs) and promote sustainable fishing practices. These initiatives have shown promise, but they remain limited in scope and need more substantial support from both local and national governments to be effective on a broader scale.

5. Environmental and Socio-Economic Impacts

The environmental impacts of illegal fishing in Bangka Tengah are severe and far-reaching. The use of explosives and toxins, in particular, has caused extensive damage to coral reefs, which are essential for maintaining biodiversity and supporting fish populations. The

destruction of these habitats leads to a decline in fish stocks, which, in turn, exacerbates the problem of overfishing. This creates a vicious cycle where depleted resources force fishers to use increasingly destructive methods to maintain their catch levels (Chen et al., 2023).

The socio-economic impacts are equally concerning. Many local fishers who rely on legal and sustainable fishing practices have seen their incomes decline as fish stocks dwindle. This has led to increased poverty in coastal communities and greater reliance on illegal fishing as a means of survival (Andreasi Bassi et al., 2022). The depletion of marine resources also affects food security in the region, as fish is a primary source of protein for many households.

In addition, the environmental damage caused by illegal fishing has long-term economic consequences. Coral reefs and other marine ecosystems provide important services, such as coastal protection, tourism opportunities, and supporting fisheries. The destruction of these ecosystems reduces their ability to provide these services, resulting in a loss of potential income for both local communities and the region as a whole.

6. Recommendations for Strengthening Law Enforcement

Several recommendations are proposed for strengthening the enforcement of laws against illegal fishing in Bangka Tengah. First, it is crucial to enhance the capacity of local law enforcement agencies. This includes providing better training, equipment, and resources for patrols, as well as strengthening interagency cooperation between the police, the navy, and local fisheries authorities. Modern technology, such as satellite tracking and drones, can also play a key role in improving monitoring and surveillance efforts, allowing authorities to detect illegal activities more efficiently and cover wider areas.

Second, greater emphasis should be placed on community engagement and awareness campaigns. Many illegal fishers are local residents who turn to destructive methods due to economic hardship (Zhang et al., 2023). By involving local communities in the fight against illegal fishing and promoting alternative livelihoods, such as eco-tourism or aquaculture, authorities can reduce the economic incentives for engaging in these harmful practices. Public education initiatives about the long-term environmental and economic consequences of illegal fishing are also essential to changing attitudes and encouraging voluntary compliance with the law.

Third, regional and international cooperation should be strengthened. Illegal fishing often involves actors from outside Bangka Tengah, and its impacts extend beyond local waters. Collaboration with neighboring regions and countries through shared intelligence, joint patrols, and coordinated enforcement efforts can help reduce cross-border illegal fishing. Leveraging international frameworks, such as the Regional Plan of Action to Combat Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated (IUU) Fishing in Southeast Asia, can further bolster enforcement efforts and ensure a more cohesive approach to addressing the issue on a broader scale.

Lastly, stricter penalties and consistent prosecution of offenders are necessary to create a strong deterrent. While laws prohibiting the use of explosives, trawls, and poisons exist, inconsistent enforcement and weak penalties undermine their effectiveness. By ensuring that violations are met with firm legal consequences, including heavy fines and imprisonment, the government can signal its commitment to protecting marine resources and dissuade would-be offenders (Palupi, Dwi Astuti, 2023). These efforts, combined with the promotion of sustainable fishing practices and ecosystem restoration initiatives, can significantly improve the long-term health of Bangka Tengah's marine environment.

Concrete examples from other areas that have successfully addressed similar issues can provide insight into effective steps in law enforcement and conservation. In Southeast Sulawesi, the local government is working with coastal communities in a community-based monitoring program to report illegal fishing activities. By strengthening local community involvement, they have succeeded in reducing the use of dangerous fishing gear such as explosives and poisons. Community participation has proven to be very effective in early detection and

reporting (Edy et al., 2024). NTB implemented a collaborative approach between the government, water police, and the Indonesian Navy in a joint operation to tackle illegal fishing practices. This operation was followed by counseling for fishermen to educate them about the negative impacts of illegal fishing gear. This approach reduced the number of violations and increased conservation awareness (Hamzah et al., 2020). In the Philippines, the government offers incentives to fishermen who report illegal practices and switch to environmentally friendly fishing methods. Under this scheme, fishers are provided with appropriate training and equipment. This motivates fisheries businesses to abandon destructive practices and support the conservation of marine resources. In Aceh, ecosystem restoration is carried out alongside strict law enforcement against illegal fishing. Authorities carry out strict enforcement, while NGOs are involved in the restoration of coral reefs, which are key habitats for fish. The combination of law enforcement and ecosystem restoration helped to significantly reduce the impact of illegal fishing (Afriandi et al., 2023).

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, while the legal framework governing fisheries and environmental protection in Indonesia is comprehensive, its enforcement in Bangka Tengah requires significant improvement. The effective enforcement of Law No. 31 of 2004 (as amended by Law No. 45 of 2009) and Law No. 32 of 2009 must be accompanied by stronger institutional support, better coordination between authorities, and a deeper commitment to the sustainable management of marine resources. This study underscores the importance of legal enforcement as a critical tool in preserving marine ecosystems and protecting the livelihoods of coastal communities. Without urgent and sustained action, illegal fishing will continue to pose a serious threat to both the environment and the long-term sustainability of Indonesia's fisheries.

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