PEMIKIRAN EKONOMI & BISNIS

Sustainability of Lobster in Indonesia Affected by the Regulation

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Ahmad et al., (2020) “stated that Economically, the policy on lobster seed export seems less profitable, given the very small state revenue. On the other hand, the legalization of lobster seed export has the potential to trigger massive exploitation of lobster seeds which will ultimately threaten the balance of the ecosystem. In fact, the export of lobster seeds will only benefit the lobster enlargement business in Vietnam and lobster seed exporters because of the large disparity in the price of lobster seeds at the fishermen level and the export market. Meanwhile, the government considers that the export of lobster seeds is carried out for the benefit of fishermen who live from catching lobster seeds and for generating lobster cultivation.”

Regulation of the Minister of Marine Affairs and Fisheries Number 12 of 2020 explains that the exporters must carry out domestic lobster cultivation activities by involving the community or local cultivators. The exporters have succeeded in carrying out lobster cultivation activities and are always following the availability of stocks in nature. The quota for catching the lobster seed is set at 139,475,000 head per year with an allocation of 70% for cultivation and 30% for export. The new policy also requires exporters to release 2% of their harvest from cultivation.

Shrimp farming business actors complain about complicated business licensing regulations. There are currently 21 permits that must be fulfilled by shrimp farmers. And also the operation of the generator that is used as a backup for PLN electricity is also subject to 5 license requirements.

The Minister of Marine Affairs and Fisheries Regulation Number 12 of 2020 should not be implemented in 2020, because this policy is related to Government Regulation Number 75 of 2015 concerning Types and Tariffs of non-tax state revenues which are no longer relevant now and in the future. There are too many regulations that holds lobster cultivator from growing so their production become difficult to compete in the international market due to inefficiency.

The result of observations by *Komisi Nasional Kajian Sumber Daya Ikan* (the National Commission for the Study of Fish Resources) in 2018 show that lobster source in 11 fisheries management areas are in the red zone and the yellow zone, which means that the capture of adult lobster cannot be added and the capture of lobster seeds must be carried out with great

care. Therefore, the Regulation of the Minister of Marine Affairs and Fisheries Number 12 of 2020 has a negative impact on sustainability of lobsters in Indonesia and it is better enforced in mid-2021.

The roadmap for lobster cultivation in Indonesia 2020-2024 looks very optimistic and tends to ignore conditions in the field. For example, the new policies has triggered an increase in the price of lobster seeds at the fishermen level, from an average Rp. 5,000 per head to Rp. 12,000 or Rp. 13,000 per head, with an increase of 140%. The unreasonable price increase has resulted cultivators being helpless. It is estimated that if lobster seed taken continuously for export purpose for 3 years, in the fourth year the cultivators will no longer get the seeds when the export lobster seeds is out of control. In addition, conflicts between fishermen are often unavoidable. Since the issuance of Regulation of the Minister of Marine Affairs and Fisheries Number 12 of 2020, the fate of lobster cultivators has worsened because the price of harvested lobster has dropped sharply and they find it difficult to sell them. Farmers tend to be threatened that they cannot continue their lobster enlargement business because they cannot afford seeds which are increasingly expensive. Exporters prefer exporting lobster seeds to marketing lobster cultivation products.

Ahmad et al., (2020) stated that “The enactment of Minister of Marine Affairs and Fisheries Regulation Number 12 of 2020 has proven to have a negative impact on the sustainability of lobsters in Indonesia. This regulation is more in favor of investors than fishermen / lobster cultivators and creates a scarcity of lobster seeds, thus complicating the position of cultivators. The new policy should not be implemented immediately without paying attention to the ability of fishermen and cultivators, given the many problems faced, especially related to licensing which is very burdensome for cultivators. There are even indications that the partnership is only utilized by the company to qualify for the export of lobster seeds and the cultivators are only utilized as a tool and complement to obtain a lobster seed export license. The large number of companies that apply for licenses to the Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries indicates a high difference in selling prices in an effort to attract wealth hunters to obtain the maximum trade quota which in turn threatens the sustainability of lobsters in Indonesia.”