**The Future of Indonesian Fisheries**

Dan Ovando

Sustainable Fisheries Group, University of California Santa Barbara

8/11/14

These statements are derived from preliminary results of an upcoming study led by Dr. Christopher Costello and Dr. Steve Gaines. The exact results of this study are certain to change in the near future, but these statements provide a general summary of our current understanding of the future state of Indonesian fisheries.

* Fisheries are an important part of the economy and food security of Indonesia, supplying 3% of GDP but 50% of animal protein intake. Artisanal fishers provide most of this production. Indonesians are likely to demand even more fish in the future as the population grows larger and richer
* For being such an important part of Indonesia's food security and economic prosperity, we know little about Indonesia’s wild fisheries. Almost no wild Indonesian fisheries have been carefully studied
* Our study provides the first large-scale analysis of Indonesia’s wild fisheries resources.
* Our results show that under business as usual, Indonesia will likely be unable to increase food or profits from fisheries. If Indonesia maintains its current path, many fisheries, especially smaller ones, may experience a sharp decrease in profits and catch. This will have especially dire consequences for food security and job opportunities for artisanal fishers in rural Indonesian communities.
* Business as usual will mean less employment opportunity, as more Indonesians compete to catch today’s amount of fish
* Business as usual will decrease Indonesia’s food security, as today’s amount of fish must go to feed tomorrow’s growing population
* This will likely prevent Indonesia from increasing its role as a seafood exporter
* But, there are substantial gains to be made if Indonesia changes the course of its fisheries. We estimate that profits could be increased by 20%, catch could be increased by 10%, and biomass of live fish in the sea could be increased by 10% within 10 years if Indonesia were able to effectively manage its fisheries. Many of these benefits would start to develop within 5 years.
* This is likely a conservative estimate of the potential gains to be made
* However, the longer we take to act, the longer and more difficult it will be to achieve these benefits of reforming Indonesian fisheries
* Reforming Indonesian fisheries can provide more jobs, better food security, and a healthier marine ecosystem. These benefits can all be attained within the next 10 years if we act now, but the longer we wait to act, the longer it will take to fix fisheries, and the more costly it will be
* This study is just a first step. Even with our methods, we were only able to analyze a small percentage of Indonesia’s fisheries. For most Indonesian fisheries, the data were too poor to perform any type of scientific analysis. Improving the way in which Indonesia studies and manages its fisheries can provide the Country with a much greater ability to maximize the benefits Indonesia receives from its fisheries resources
* Changing the course of Indonesian fisheries will likely require substantial shifts in the way that fisheries are currently managed and monitored, but the benefits to making this change are great, as are the risks of maintaining business as usual
* The health of fisheries resources is gaining increasing global attention, and many developed countries have taken substantial steps to improve their fisheries management practices. But, the management tools that worked in the developed world may not work in the developing; we need leaders and innovators in effectively managing fisheries in the developing world. By acting now, Indonesia can help provide more jobs, food, and ecosystem serves to the people of Indonesia, and act as a global leader in fisheries management