Having lived abroad before, I understand not only the challenges of becoming fluent in a new language but also how essential it is to connecting to the people around you. To understand small-scale fisheries in Indonesia, the ability to speak with stakeholders is key which is why I will also be applying for the CLEA in order to be able to communicate effectively with my peers and colleagues. Before leaving for the country, I also plan on mastering the basics of Bahasa Indonesia through independent study using resources such as Duolingo. On top of that, I am already pursuing a formal Bahasa Indonesia course through the language course website Babel. Further, I have connected with members of a group in my area called Indonesia Community Connect that focuses on connecting Indonesian culture with the region and promotes Indonesian heritage in New Hampshire. Through this, and an online exchange program, I will meet weekly with a native speaker willing to have a language exchange where we can have conversations to practice speaking and understanding.