HOST COUNTRY ENGAGEMENT

The R courses I will teach at the Universitas Hasanuddin will be a great opportunity for cultural exchange. I want my time with the other students to be useful to them, but I also hope to gain perspectives about life as a college student in Indonesia. Also, when helping Blue Forests run their Field School in Tanakeke, I will get to interact with children and learn more about how small island communities come together. Further, the preparation and sharing of meals is a fundamental aspect of any culture. As someone who often moves for work, I have had the privilege of getting to experience cuisine from jambalaya from Cajun Louisiana to the chowders and seafood of my own home of the Pacific Northwest. Over the years, I have collected recipes in a single notebook, and it is one of my most cherished belongings. My notebook will be traveling with me to Indonesia and I hope to expand this notebook in Indonesia through learning to cook seafood with the local families in Tanakeke and Makassar. As a home to over a thousand ethnic groups, Indonesia boasts a wide array of traditional dishes, especially seafood. I have learned through conversations with my affiliates that Makassar is a particularly great place to try ikan bakar (fried fish) and mie kering (a noodle dish often served with shrimp and squid). I also have my own recipes and culinary traditions that I hope to bring to the table. I hope this experience will contextualize my work in fisheries as I will get exposure to the human side of fishing. I want to appreciate how much seafood matters to the communities of Indonesia and how breaking bread with your friends and family is one of the most important ways to learn about one another and bring people closer together.