Practice of Buying Jellyfish in Improving the Economy of Fisherman Communities

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ABSTRACT

The appearance of jellyfish in Air Hitam Laut Village, Sadu District, East Tanjung Jabung Regency, is an opportunity to improve the community's economy, especially jellyfish fishermen. The aim of this research is to find out how the process of buying and selling jellyfish improves the economy of the fishing community in Air Hitam Laut village, Sadu district, East Tanjung Jabung district. This research uses qualitative research methods, the subjects of this research are the fishing community in Air Hitam Laut village, Sadu sub-district, East Tanjung Jabung district. The data collection techniques are observation, interviews and documentation. The results of the research show that the sale and purchase of jellyfish has improved the economy of fishermen in the village of Air Hitam Laut, Sadu sub-district, East Tanjung Jabung regency. In the past, fishermen only focused on looking for fish and shrimp and if the net or fish catcher found jellyfish, they only threw them away, which is different from now with the business of buying and selling jellyfish, fishermen can sell jellyfish if the fisherman gets jellyfish while looking for fish.

INTRODUCTION

In Indonesia, there are many types of jellyfish and are one of the aquatic commodities found in almost all Indonesian sea waters. Jellyfish are generally processed traditionally, namely by salting in several countries, namely China and Japan. In Indonesia, jellyfish have not been utilized optimally so more are exported abroad, this is due to a lack of information regarding the nutritional content of jellyfish. Jellyfish are a type of marine animal that does not have a brain, bones, lungs or intestines. This animal is considered by some people to be a stinging organism that is dangerous for fishermen because it affects the fishermen's catch. Jellyfish are a commodity that can be used as food and medicine. The traditional jellyfish processing process is still a reference for the industry with various modifications (Ayu Putri Wahyuningsih, 2022).

Several countries in the Southeast Asia region are known as the main producers of edible jellyfish, namely Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Thailand, Myanmar and Vietnam, which routinely supply semi-dried salted jellyfish to China every year (Rosita, 2022). East Tanjung Jabung Regency is the Regency with the largest water area in Jambi Province and has the longest beach. This area also has many fisheries businesses owned by the community, one
of which is fishing businesses. East Tanjung Jabung Regency is divided into 11 sub-districts and 60 villages (Qunita Lutfiah, 2020).

Meanwhile, Sadu sub-district is the sub-district at the very end of the border, but the majority of the population there earns their living as fishermen. Sadu sub-district, especially in the village of Black Water Sea. The economy of the people of this village is very dependent on sea catches. The income of fishermen in Black Water Village depends on 2 seasons, namely the west season and the east season. in the west season they usually don’t go out to sea. But it doesn’t settle depending on whether it’s raining heavily or not. If it rains heavily, fishermen will not come down, because big waves will endanger the lives of fishermen. Meanwhile, in the eastern season, fishermen’s income usually reaches more than in the western season, usually the dry season influences the number of fish caught to increase or increase due to sea circulation and good weather in the dry season with sea waves not being so high, making it easier for fishermen to find fish in the sea. Seasonal changes result in shifting patterns of western or eastern seasons and unpredictable sea water conditions. This causes the number of days at sea to become erratic which affects the amount of fishermen’s income (M. Ardhan Arsyad, 2023).

Season is one of the factors that can influence the uncertainty in fishermen’s lives because fishing business is very dependent on the season. The west season usually occurs from October to March, in this month the rainy season occurs throughout Indonesia with high rainfall which can impact fisheries catches to decrease due to bad weather in the middle of the sea such as high waves in the sea due to currents and winds. around the sea makes fish swim quite deeply to avoid the accumulation of fresh rainwater. The eastern season usually occurs from April to September, where this month there is a dry season where all regions in Indonesia experience the impact of a heat wave which is felt so that the dry season has an impact on the number of fish catches increasing or increasing due to air circulation around the sea and good weather in the dry season with not so high sea waves makes it easier for fishermen to find fish (Rini Lukum, 2023).

There are also factors that influence economic improvement, namely: Low levels of health and education, one of which is caused by low human resources, which results in low competitiveness in seizing job opportunities, this problem is the cause of high unemployment and poverty rates. The background of the low level of human resources is the low level of health and education and the fact that most of the people of Air Hitam Luat Village prefer to work at a young age as farm laborers and nelyana. The level of education of fishermen is directly proportional to the technology that can be produced by fishermen, in this case most people's education level is only limited to elementary school graduates. Education greatly influences fishermen’s mindset in decision making, such as in matters related to the level of technology adoption that will be applied in handling marine catches. The appearance of jellyfish in several locations in the blackwater village is an opportunity to develop exports of raw materials, but unfortunately the lack of knowledge about exports has resulted in the low selling value of fishermen's catches, especially jellyfish fishermen (Aci, 2023).

Exports are goods trading activities that cross regions (Indonesia) based on applicable activities. Export activities basically have to comply with SOP (Standard Operating Procedures), but in reality, they do not comply with SOP (Kurnia Nurhakim, 2015). greater added value than just raw materials. Jellyfish have been found in the village of Air Hitam Luat since 2019 but have been ignored by the local community. Blackwater fishermen feel disturbed by the appearance of Jellyfish, because fishermen's fishing activities are disrupted. However, since there has been a business selling and buying jellyfish in this village. Only then the fishermen from the Black Water Village take the initiative to try catching jellyfish. Black sea fishermen in Sadu sub-district have begun to use the jellyfish as a source of income
and to increase their income. However, it is estimated that fishermen’s catch per day is uncertain due to unfavorable weather or it could be said to be seasonal. Jellyfish are one of the types that are traded based on the trade specialization index. It can be seen that jellyfish are an established export commodity. Jellyfish have not been utilized optimally in the Black Water Sea village so more are exported to Medan due to the lack of knowledge of the Black Water Sea village community regarding the benefits and processing of jellyfish, but exporting can improve the economy of fishing communities (Jumardi, 2023). Based on the background above, researchers are interested in how the process of buying and selling jellyfish improves the economy of fishing communities in the Sadu sub-district.

**METHOD**

In this research, the author uses a qualitative method, namely a process where research and understanding are based on methods that require investigating a problem and human phenomenon. This research uses a qualitative method with a qualitative descriptive approach, namely the data obtained or collected is in the form of words and not in the form of numbers. Type of qualitative research (Nursapia Harahap, 2020). Based on the description above, this type of research is used to provide an overview of the sale and purchase of jellyfish in improving the economy of fishing communities in Air Hitam Laut Village, East Tanjung Jabung Regency, Sadu District.

Qualitative research is a research process to understand human or social phenomena by creating a comprehensive and complex picture that can be presented in words, reporting detailed views obtained from informant sources. Qualitative research is research conducted in certain settings in real life. The aim of qualitative research can be seen from the description of the research object (describing object); So that the research object can be interpreted, it needs to be described through photographing, video, illustrating and narrating. This depiction can be carried out on objects in the form of events, social interactions, social religious activities, and so on. Revealing the meaning behind the phenomenon (exploring the meaning behind the phenomenon); The meaning behind phenomena/facts can be revealed if the researcher shows and reveals them through in-depth interviews (dept. interviews) and participant observation. Explaining the phenomenon that occurs (explaining object); phenomena that appear in the field are sometimes not the same as what is the goal, is the core of the problem or in other words appear different from the main intent, so there needs to be a detailed, detailed and systematic explanation (Muhammad Rijal Fadli, 2021).

**FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION**

1. **FINDINGS**

Based on research findings, UburUbur are used by fishermen in Air Hitam Laut Village to exploit them to earn income and can improve the economy of the fishing community. This is because jellyfish, which are usually considered stinging pests, can become an export commodity in Air Hitam Laut Village which has high value and selling price, moreover, marine products in Air Hitam Laut Village are quite abundant. Jellyfish catching in Air Hitam Laut Village, Sadu District, East Tanjung Jabung Regency usually experiences the movement of Jellyfish, there are two types of Jellyfish found in Air Hitam Laut Village, namely clear jellyfish and red jellyfish or what is called C.mastigophora which has the ability to move with tentacles, but the Jellyfish still follow the movement of sea currents, tidal currents and sea breezes for horizontal distribution, the movement of the Jellyfish affects the range of fishermen which also changes over time, ranging between months August, September to...
December. The average population on the coast of Blackwater Sea Village is from the Bugis tribe. Jellyfish are a type of sea animal that has no bones.

2. DISCUSSION

Based on the results of interviews at the jellyfish warehouse owned by Mr. Jumardi, a resident of Air Hitam Laut Village who works as a jellyfish business owner. Mr Jumardi is 52 years old. Those with elementary school (SD) education. His daily work is as a farmer and as the owner of a jellyfish warehouse business. He opened this jellyfish buying and selling business starting on July 5 2020. The place of business is called the Jellyfish Warehouse. He then discusses employees and the number of employees in this jellyfish warehouse is not permanent. The steps for catching jellyfish and the transaction process

1. The process of catching jellyfish

The first time they carried out activities to catch Jellyfish was in 2020. Black Sea Fishermen have carried out Jellyfish catching operations from evening to morning using lights and pompongs from 2020 until now. Fishermen sell their catch, namely jellyfish, to jellyfish buyers or jellyfish processors. This fisheries resource is important because if the jellyfish population increases, then all the fishermen in Air Hitam Laut village will switch to catching jellyfish as additional income for fishermen.

2. Jellyfish catching equipment

The jellyfish catching tool is the Tunguk row where the tuguk row is used because the jellyfish caught can knock down the tuguk pole and damage the gumbang net. This gumbang net is for catching jellyfish but often also catches fish or shrimp.

3. Processing

The process of processing jellyfish for further export is: first, the body and stomach parts of the jellyfish are separated and cleaned to remove the red, then each part is soaked in alum solution for 1 to 2 days, followed by the second process of soaking, in a salt solution for 1 week or more until the jellyfish no longer tastes salty, then put it in a large bucket-shaped container. The jellyfish that have been separated are then sent to the long nipah fishery via pompong/fishing boat, then packed into large bucket-shaped containers, the amount exported to the long nipa fishery is then sent to the long nipa fishery to the kemedan.

Jellyfish are a seasonal marine product in sea waters, especially in Air Hitam Laut Village, Sadu District, East Tanjung Jabung Regency. Like other sea catches (fish, shrimp and crab). Since the appearance of jellyfish in the village waters, the black sea has triggered the buying and selling of jellyfish so that it can create jobs for the community, especially fishermen. With the buying and selling of jellyfish, the fishermen's economy increases. This is because fishermen used to only focus on looking for fish and shrimp, if the net or fish and shrimp catcher found jellyfish they would only throw them away, which is different from now with the existence of buying and selling jellyfish, fishermen can sell jellyfish if fishermen get jellyfish while searching. fish or shrimp. Fishermen sell jellyfish with Mr. Jumardi where he buys a record jellyfish for IDR. 2,000 thousand. However, this is different from fishermen who specifically look for jellyfish which are sold for Rp. 2,500 thousand because fishermen specifically look for jellyfish and are also employees at the warehouse. But these jellyfish are not always there depending on the season, the season is like 8 to 12 months.
In Air Hitam Laut Village, buy 2 types of jellyfish, namely red jellyfish and clear jellyfish. Mr. Jumardi collected the jellyfish that had been bought from fishermen, and immediately put them in the red jellyfish, cleaned them by throwing away the red, then separated the heads, legs and wings of the jellyfish. The ones who cleaned them were employees in the warehouse while the cleaning fee depends on the number of times he cleans one red jellyfish or the clear one, 1,000 rupiah.

Based on the results of an interview with Mr. Bayu, Mr. Jumardi’s confidant. "These jellyfish will be sold to local fishermen. The process of buying and selling jellyfish sometimes has problems depending on the condition of the type of jellyfish which is no longer good. Meanwhile, for the selling process of jellyfish in the village of Blackwater Sea. The jellyfish are collected, the jellyfish have been cleaned, then put into the jellyfish tub, the jellyfish have been separated into the tub, then left for 1 to 3 nights, then go to the next process, namely adding salt and then letting it sit for 1 week, even until the jellyfish no longer tastes salty, then put it in a large paint bucket, when you want to put it in a large bucket, put the head, legs and wings of the jellyfish into them according to type. the shape is like a head, all heads, legs, all legs as well as the wings. This jellyfish process takes a long time before being sent or exported because it goes through several stages such as cleaning the jellyfish, then separating them according to their shape, for example the heads of the jellyfish are put together in one large container, namely a large tub, which is soaked for several days to remove the saltiness of the jellyfish, then the jellyfish "We then packed the soaked jellyfish into large white paint buckets to be sent to the Nipan Panjang fishery using sea transportation, namely pompongs / fishing boats." (Bayu & Jumardi, 2023).

After being sent by the long palm fishery, it was the fishery's job to send it to Medan. Previously, Mr. Jumardi confirmed that the jellyfish he had sent had reached the long nipa palm and provided information to the long nipah fishery. For payment transactions via profit transfer, Mr. Jumardi opened a business buying and selling jellyfish. He made a big profit when he sent the long kenipah for each send, amounting to 200 buckets, of which from these 200 buckets I was able to get 10 million and get a bonus. In 1 year that’s 3 deliveries.

Based on the results of interviews with permanent employees of the jellyfish warehouse, Mr. Jumardi "Thank God, the buying and selling of jellyfish is going smoothly, but in this business there are definitely advantages and disadvantages, I sometimes also lose if the jellyfish come in the middle of the night because some of my employees can't come, so jellyfish dumping often happens due to the rot of the jellyfish. the jellyfish didn't have time to clean them all and the problem I often experience is that when the automatic lights go out, the signal here is lost, so I have difficulty calling the fishery in Nipah Panjang to make sure the goods have arrived or not, the process is after the goods are ready to be sent, I call the fishery long nipa that I will send 200 buckets of jellyfish today. After arriving at Long Nipah, I called the fishery again to come to Gudamg to check the jellyfish I sent and make sure the quantity is 200 buckets, from those 200 buckets I can get 10 million yet. again the bonus, then the payment transaction is carried out by transfer" (Jumardi, 2023).

Jellyfish are a seasonal marine product in sea waters, especially in the Blackwater Village area, just like other marine products (fish, shrimp, crabs and jellyfish). Since the appearance of jellyfish in the village waters, black sea water has triggered the buying and selling of jellyfish so that it can create employment opportunities for the community, especially fishermen. With the buying and selling of jellyfish, the fishermen’s economy increases. This is because fishermen used
to only focus on looking for fish and shrimp, where in the past, if a net or fish and shrimp catcher
got jelly, they only threw it away, which is different from now with the buying and selling of
jellyfish, fishermen can sell jellyfish if the fisherman gets jelly. when looking for fish or shrimp. To
get a lot of jellyfish, fishermen use long scoops to make it easier to reach the waters where they can
use nets.

As for what one of the fishermen, Mr Sudirman, felt. Based on the results of the author's
interview with Mr. Sudirman. "Catching jellyfish is easy and difficult, because we have to have
strong strength to throw a net, let alone use a long rake. We are also afraid that there will be
something in the sea, especially if the weather suddenly becomes unfavorable, and we will continue
after the weather improves. "But actually, catching jellyfish is profitable, especially if it's the
season, many fishermen suddenly turn to catching jellyfish because their selling price is expensive"
(Sudirman, 2023).

The effort to catch jellyfish is to maintain health so that fishermen catching jellyfish can
carry out fishing activities such as catching or netting jellyfish. Using strength to throw the net and
using a long scoop to make it easier to reach the water. Tidal currents also influence the direction
of the jellyfish. Fishermen will follow where the current movement takes the jellyfish. Not only that,
to carry out fishing activities, fishermen must have capital to carry out the activity because they
have to buy 15 to 20 liters of diesel fuel at a cost of between IDR 100,000 - 200,000, and the cost of
generating an electric light is IDR 50,000 - 100,000. not to mention the smoking habit cannot be
avoided, so it is included in the capital 1 to 2 packs of cigarettes a night for IDR. 30,000.as felt by
one of the fishermen, Mr Sandri. Based on the results of the author's interview with Mr. Sandri.
"By buying and selling jellyfish, many fishermen feel they are increasing their sea catch, but if it's
not jellyfish season, their income will decrease, but that's okay because if it's not jellyfish season, I
can look for fish or shrimp if it's the net time. Gumbang, if I get jellyfish, I can sell them in a
container, so I can sell all my catch without throwing anything away."

Fishermen sell jellyfish with Mr. Jumardi where he buys a record jellyfish for IDR. 2,000
thousand. However, this is different from fishermen who specifically look for jellyfish which are
sold for Rp. 2,500 thousand because fishermen specifically look for jellyfish, they are also
employees at the warehouse, he said. But these jellyfish are not always there depending on the
season, the season is like 8 to 12 months.

As felt by one of Mr. Aci's fishermen. Based on the results of the interview with Mr. Aci
"As a fisherman, I feel that my income has increased, so I feel that these jellyfish can make a profit.
My income has increased since the existence of a jellyfish warehouse that buys and sells jellyfish
(Aci, 2023). Previously, if I got jellyfish, I would just throw them away and now they can be sold,"
"If we ask whether we experienced a loss or not, that's not because if we go out to sea but don't get
ejellyfish, we can still get fish/shrimp and so on."The activity of buying and selling jellyfish carried
out by Mr. Jumadi in Air Hitam Laut Village creates employment opportunities for housewives and
children who do not continue their studies or can be said to have dropped out of school. Because
the jellyfish that Mr. Jumadi bought from Fisheries had to be cleaned first and separated into
heads, legs and wings. Before entering the soaking process to remove the saltiness from the
jellyfish before scoring. This activity is carried out by women and the Black Water Sea village
community for a fee of IDR for catching red or clear jellyfish. 1,000 rupiah per person. Based on
the results of an interview with Mr. Elleng, one of the fishermen in the village of Air Hitam
Laut."You could say that buying and selling jellyfish depends on the size of the jellyfish. If the
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jellyfish is the size the container wants then the price is IDR. 2,000 rupiah. However, if the reduction is small, usually 2 jellyfish can be bought for the price of one jellyfish. However, since the existence of buying and selling jellyfish, many fishermen have become less focused on finding fish and are more enthusiastic about catching jellyfish because jellyfish can be said to be expensive to sell, especially during the jellyfish season, but fishermen don't lose much if they buy and sell jellyfish. "It's not jellyfish season because they can look for fish and shrimp"(Elleng, 2023).

CONCLUSION

Based on the results of research regarding "buying and selling jellyfish in improving the economy of the fishing community in Blackwater Sea Village, Sadu District, East Tanjung Jabung Regency. The beginning of the appearance of jellyfish found in the village of Black Sea. It’s been there since 2019 but local fishermen don’t care because they feel disturbed when their fishing nets catch jellyfish. However, it is different now, which is an opportunity to improve the economy of the fishing community, not just exporting. With the buying and selling of jellyfish since 2020, fishermen have only begun to exploit them and the fishermen's economy has improved. A large number of fishermen have already managed to catch Jellyfish in the Black Water Village, so how to use it in the Black Water Village has not been utilized because of the lack of knowledge regarding processing, the method for processing Jellyfish in the Black Water Village only uses salt material.

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