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Community-based Surveillance Group Regular Activities in Sulawesi

Introduction

Communities within the UoCs across Sulawesi have agreed to establish several management measures, for example, temporary closure area, limitation on fishing gears, and limitation on octopus size catch. The compliance of the agreed fisheries regulations are highly needed to ensure effective fisheries management. Therefore, one of the most important activities in fisheries management is surveillance.

Surveillance activity is one of the topics of fisheries meetings. When communities discuss temporary closure, they also discuss the surveillance activities that complement it. The discussion involves multiple stakeholders, not only village government and the surveillance group, but also fisher groups, community leaders, customary leaders, community-level buyers, and other relevant authorities such as the Marine Police.

Current Updates on Regular Surveillance Activities in Sulawesi

Partners in Sulawesi are working together with communities to conduct regular surveillance activities. The surveillance activities include not only surveillance group members but also fishers group, conservation groups, while coordinating with village officials and local authorities.

Community-based surveillance was carried out to monitor compliance with octopus temporary closures. Led by local groups such as KomPAK, community-based surveillance teams, and the LMMA group, the activities aimed to protect marine habitats, prevent illegal fishing, and strengthen local governance of marine resources. Surveillance was conducted both day and night, with participation from community members, enumerators, and village representatives, and supported by partners such as the National Park Agency.

Across all locations, teams faced recurring illegal fishing, logistical constraints, and limited enforcement authority. In Uwedikan, compressor use near closure boundaries remained a concern, compounded by weak local enforcement. In Kadoda, destructive practices such as dynamite fishing and night diving with compressors persisted, while fuel shortages and missing buoys reduced surveillance frequency and boundary clarity. In Kadie Kapota, incursions by neighboring fishers, damaged surveillance boats, and delayed fuel supplies limited surveillance consistency. Information gaps and differing community views on closure boundaries also highlighted the need for continuous socialisation.

Despite these constraints, all communities showed progress in community engagement and adaptive management. In Uwedikan, 22 participants carried out coordinated day and night surveillance, concluding with a joint decision to reopen the area on 26 July 2025. In Kadoda, 20 fishers (including women) monitored four closure areas, addressed violations through community sanction, and advocated for formalisation of a village regulation (Peraturan Desa). In Kadie Kapota, the LMMA group maintained regular surveillance over three months, secured partner support for fuel and boat maintenance, and adopted a persuasive approach to socialise octopus fisheries regulations. Collectively, these experiences demonstrated growing awareness that closure success depends on ecosystem sustainability, not only resource recovery.

To consolidate progress, communities plan to:

- Strengthen enforcement and coordination by finalising village regulations and improving follow-up on violations.
- Enhance surveillance activities through reliable fuel access, functional boats, and extended surveillance duration.
- Improve communication and boundary visibility via marker replacement and ongoing outreach.
- Promote learnings of community-based fisheries management to ensure long-term sustainability of octopus fishery.

The surveillance experiences in Uwedikan, Kadoda, and Kadie Kapota highlight the effectiveness of participatory, community-led approaches in sustaining fisheries closures. While logistical and enforcement challenges persist, the strong collaboration between local groups, governments, and conservation partners provides a solid foundation for community-based surveillance.

Appendix



Appendix 1 Surveillance team in Uwedikan, Pohuwato is checking the closure area marker during surveillance activities



Appendix 2 Surveillance team in Kadoda, Tojo Una-Una is conducting surveillance around octopus temporary closure area boundaries



Appendix 3 Meeting octopus fishers during surveillance in Kadie Kapota, Wakatobi