

# Harvesting Flying Fish Roe: Case Study at Galesong District South Sulawesi Province, Indonesia

## -Transition in the use of Flying Fish roe and establishing a sustainable resource-

Year: Admission 2013

Place of Fieldwork: Indonesia

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### Research background

My research subject is the harvest of Flying Fish Roe: case study at the Galesong district, Takalar prefecture, in the South Sulawesi province. I conducted fieldwork at Galesong and the North Galesong District. The Galesong area consist of three districts (North Galesong, Galesong, South Galesong) located northwest part of Takalar prefecture and near the south of Makassar city (the capital city of the South Sulawesi province). Fishermen in Galesong have fished Flying Fish since the 17<sup>th</sup> century. In the 1970s, fishing methods changed, and from then on. The fishermen in Galesong began to harvest only the roe of the Flying Fish, also called the roe. The previous fishing method is called Pakkaja, and the current method of harvesting the roe is called Balebale. In the 1970s, the main country receiving exports from South Sulawesi was Japan, but now the Republic of South Korea is the main country. In the recent years since 2001, many fishermen in Galesong have gone to Fak-Fak (in the western part of the Papua islands) as a new fishing spot. This move is probably because of decreasing Flying Fish resources in Makassar strait.



(Image 1: Flying Fish Roe)

### **Research purpose and aim**

Currently, much of the Flying Fish roe has been exported from Indonesia to Japan. However, the majority of people in Japan are not aware of this fact. Moreover, there have been few studies about the business of harvesting Flying Fish roe and the importance of this natural resource in Indonesia. Because of that, I would like to study the harvest and trading network of Flying Fish roe and consider its importance as a natural resource from the viewpoints of Fisheries Science and Area Studies.



(Image 2: I am studying with Professor Syamsu Alam Ali at Hasanuddin University)

### **Observations and results**

On this occasion, I conducted only one original survey in the Galesong area. I was also able to get the information that is available outside of my original research, for example, data on the volume of exports from South Sulawesi province to abroad countries from 2007 to 2013, the transition to ships with engines, transitions in the relationship between fishermen and businessmen, data on how many ships the businesses have, how much the fishing expeditions cost, etc. I also met with fisherman and they have told me I am welcome to join them in harvesting the Flying Fish roe next year.



(Image 3: The ship that harvests Flying Fish eggs)

**Implications for future research**

Next year, I will take a fishing ship in order to take part in harvesting Flying Fish roe, and I must analyze data that I get during this fieldwork. I will analyze my fieldwork data in order to discover new avenues for research about the harvest of Flying Fish roe. Future research should also focus on the management of Flying Fish as a natural resource.