PREFACE

The COVID-19 pandemic has affected the world economy, and Indonesia has not escaped its impacts. The marine and fisheries sector has suffered significantly in Indonesia, the largest archipelagic country in the world, where the marine and fisheries sector plays an important role in contributing to food security, livelihoods, and foreign exchange earnings. In addition to its impact on national and global economic sectors, the COVID-19 pandemic has also affected progress towards the achievement of Sustainable Development Goals, in particular Goal 14 (SDG-14), Life Below Water. Specific targets which have been impacted include: (i) fish stock exploitation below 80% MSY; (ii) conservation area extent, (iii) marine spatial planning instruments, (iv) establishing the management of Fisheries Management Areas (FMA); (v) the protection of fishermen; (vi) access to finance for fishermen; and (vii) raising levels of fisheries-related business compliance.

Various parties have endeavoured to minimize the impact of this pandemic, in particular efforts to ensure that restrictions on daily activities do not unnecessarily reduce the nation's economic sector. These include initiatives by academics and researchers at many institutions across the country. In this context, one way in which the Faculty of Marine and Fisheries Sciences of Universitas Hasanuddin (FIKP Unhas) is showing its concern and making a contribution towards these efforts is by holding a International Symposium on Marine and Fisheries (ISMF) in 2021. FIKP Unhas in collaboration with the Institute of Tropical Aquaculture and Fisheries (AKUATROP) which is part of Universiti Malaysia Terengganu (UMT) held the international symposium with the theme “Acceleration of Management of Marine and Fishery Resources in Achieving SDGs in the Era of the Covid-19 Pandemic”.

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, our international symposium was held on-line using the Zoom platform on 6th June 2021. Despite challenges related to the pandemic, we anticipate that this symposium can be a forum for the exchange of information, knowledge, experience, and for initiating cooperation in research and development activities in the marine and fisheries sector in order to strengthen innovation and improve the sustainable management of aquatic resources.

The implementation of the virtual symposium technically utilizes all types of social media that are used before and during the event. At the peak of implementation, this symposium used a zoom account belonging to the university with a capacity of 1000 participants. Although it was held virtually, the entire committee gathered at the FIKP Unhas for the smoothness of this symposium.

ISMF symposium was opened directly by the Rector of Universitas Hasanuddin. Furthermore, in the plenary speaker session, 8 speakers were divided into 2 sessions. Each session has 4 speakers with a duration of 20 minutes for each speaker and 30 minutes of discussion and question and answer. The two plenary sessions come from leading universities and institutions and are internationally recognized. The plenary speakers came from Victoria University, Cognr AI and Data Science, Melbourne, University Malaysia Trengganu, Hiroshima University, University of the Sunshine Coast, Universitas Hasanuddin, Rutgers University, and The World Aquaculture Society-Asian Pacific Chapter. The difference in time zones of all plenary speakers in this symposium did not make the enthusiasm of the scientists or participants diminish to share information, knowledge and experiences in this ISMF symposium.
The online symposium through the Zoom platform recorded that there were as many as 291 participants from various countries such as Indonesia, Europe, Malaysia, Japan, China, Australia, and America who listened and some of them discussed directly during the plenary session. The plenary session that had been carried out was then followed by a parallel session for the participants. In this activity, there are 12 break-out zoom rooms that were formed for participants to present the research results that have been registered. Each participant has a duration of 15 minutes to present their presentation material and includes a discussion session. In addition to oral participants, there is also 1 room formed for participants who will present their research results in the form of posters. This virtual implementation went smoothly, without any significant technical problems, both in terms of network and timeliness in implementation.

A warm thank you to all academics, researchers and observers of the marine and fisheries sector for their participation to submit article in the proceeding of 2021 Universitas Hasanuddin Marine and Fisheries Symposium. It is my sincere hope that all the contributions made will be of benefit and promote the development of the marine and fisheries sector towards the achievement of the SDGs, especially SDG-14.

Warm Regards,
Prof. Dr. Ir. Najamuddin, M.Sc
Conference Chairman
Faculty of Marine Science and Fisheries, Universitas Hasanuddin
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