

# **MAKING A NEW LOCAL AUTHORITY IN MARITIME INDONESIA: SOCIAL DYNAMICS UNDER THE REGIONAL AUTONOMY POLICY**

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This poster presentation will describe and analyze the process of creating a new local autonomous body among small-scale fishing communities along the Spermonde Archipelago, South Sulawesi, Indonesia. First, I describe the historical background of maritime resource foraging. I go on to discuss the effects of the continuous exploitation of maritime resources. The exploitation of maritime resources is connected with the creation of socio-economic networks between maritime people in the Spermonde Archipelago and the descendants of Chinese traders, mainly in Makassar, South Sulawesi. Under the regional autonomy policy that is widespread in Indonesia today, the populations of remote fishing communities are becoming aware of their economic contribution to mainland revenues. Along with this awareness, they have become increasingly interested in political participation. The beginnings of a movement toward political unification and solidarity among subordinate islands, in the context of the wider socio-political dynamics of the Spermonde Archipelago, is also described and analyzed.

**Keywords:** Spermonde Archipelago, Socio-cultural dynamics, Natural resource management, Maritime Indonesia, Regional autonomy.