

Class consciousness and class conflict in capture fishery in Indonesia

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Abstrak

This paper discusses about class structure, and then followed by discussion on class consciousness and class conflict in capture fisheries in Indonesia, taking fisheries in Balikpapan, East Kalimantan as the case. Data were collected from January to September 2006 intermittently, mainly through interviews with fisheries, government officials, and NGO activists. This research is a qualitative research. In terms of class structure, there are four classes of fisheries found in Balikpapan, East Kalimantan, namely: labour fisheries, small scale fisheries, intermediate or medium fisheries, and large scale or capitalist fisheries. It is argued that class consciousness of the labour fisheries has not developed yet. Therefore, labour fisheries is only a class in itself, not as a class for itself. There are six factors that contribute to the underdeveloped of the class consciousness of the labour fisheries. In terms of class conflict, there is a significant deviation from the pattern of class conflict described by Marx. In capture fishery, intense and violent conflict more often take place not between the capitalist or owner of the means of production and labour. Instead, it often happens between the small and intermediate with the capitalist fisheries. In such a conflict, there is a strong alliance between the owner of the means of production and the labour in both camps or small and intermediate, and capitalist classes. In other word, small and intermediate fisheries and their labours unite, on the other hand, capitalists and their labours also unite in this conflict.