

Center for Community-Based Resource Management (CBRM)

Natural Resources Institute, University of Manitoba

CBRM Database

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Case Study Name:	The incident in Dullah Laut: Marine tenure and the Politics of village leadership in Maluku, eastern Indonesia		
Author:	Dedi Supriadi Adhuri		
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Region:	Maluku		
Country:	Indonesia		
Ecosystem Type:	Coastal marine		
Social Characteristics:	Community bordering protected area		
Scale of Study:	Community; Protected area		
Resource Type:	Fisheries		
Type of Initiative:	Community initiative		
Community Based Work:	Resource management; Development planning; Other (conflict around power and resources)		
Keywords:	None		

Summary:

The marine resource management discourse limits its concern for property rights to their role as instruments of resource management. Through the analysis of a conflict over communal marine tenure at Dullah Laut village in Maluku, Eastern Indonesia, this paper highlights the socio-political and economic values of communal marine tenure. It argues that communal marine tenure in Dullah Laut village is not considered merely as an instrument for controlling marine territory and resources but also as a form of 'political capital.' In this role, marine tenure has been used in the power struggle by local elites over control of the village headship. In this circumstance, the practice of communal marine tenure is defined and re-defined to suit the political interests of those involved in the power struggle. As a result, the management aspect of marine tenure is not considered important. In fact, customary property rights were traded for political and economic support from a foreign fishing operation—backed up by military and government officers—which most likely uses cyanide in its operation.