

# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Background

Nowadays, environmental issues are becoming a significant issue in the world. The issues are the loss of biodiversity due to overfishing, climate change, pollution, and much more.<sup>1</sup> However, these kind of cases takes a long time to resolve them. Slowly but surely, it will affect our own basic life. Thus, as a human being who enjoys all the resources of nature, we must ensure that all areas of the environment can be sustained into the future with the same quality.

Besides that, conflict over resource exploitation and territorial disputes with one or more neighboring countries is a severe problem in the Asia Pacific.<sup>2</sup> The Asia Pacific region comprises countries throughout Southeast Asia, East and South Asia, and Oceania. It is located near the Western Pacific Ocean, which means that Indonesia and the Philippines are the countries of Southeast Asian region that have the potential to experience such problems, especially overfishing.

According to EDF (Environmental Defense Fund), marine habitats and fisheries are increasingly under threat from overfishing.<sup>3</sup> The fact that 12 percent

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<sup>1</sup> Harris, Frances. *Global Environmental Issues*. Library of Congress Cataloging in Publication Data, John Wiley and Sons, (2004), 3.

<sup>2</sup> Anwar, Dewi Fortuna, "Resource Issues and Ocean Governance in Asia Pacific: An Indonesian Perspective," *Contemporary Southeast Asia* 28, no. 3 (2006): 468-469, <https://www.jstor.org/stable/25798801>.

<sup>3</sup> EDF. "Environmental Defense Fund," EDF Online. 2018. Home page on-line. Available from <https://www.edf.org/oceans/overfishing-most-serious-threat-our-oceans>; accessed February 21, 2020.

of the world's population depends on fisheries and agriculture for their living.<sup>4</sup> More than half of the world's population gets its essential protein source from fish and other seafood.<sup>5</sup> Environmental issues, especially the marine environment, need special attention and to be protect. All countries in the world, especially archipelagic countries, must pay attention to the sustainable empowerment of marine areas.

In order to be able to discuss the protection of our marine environment, I would like to understand how archipelagic countries from Southeast Asia such as Indonesia and the Philippines is dealing with the problem, especially the overfishing of certain species and more specifically tuna, a highly migratory. Therefore, in this thesis, I will explore about the case of Highly Migratory Fish, particularly Tuna.

As we can see from name 'highly migratory', these species ordinarily move across domestic and international boundaries. Highly migratory species include tunas, swordfish, sharks, and billfish.<sup>6</sup> Because of this, tuna must be moves thousands of miles across international boundaries, so marine habitats are very crucial for them. Their species depends on marine habitats for their very survival in finding food, reproducing, and avoiding predators.

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<sup>4</sup> DeRidder, Kim J, and Santi Nindang. "Southeast Asia's Fisheries Near Collapse from Overfishing." March 28. Available from <https://asiafoundation.org/2018/03/28/southeast-asias-fisheries-near-collapse-overfishing/>: Accessed February 22, 2020.

<sup>5</sup> DeRidder, Kim J, and Santi Nindang. "Southeast Asia's Fisheries Near Collapse from Overfishing."

<sup>6</sup> NOAA Fisheries. "Atlantic Highly Migratory Species," Accessed February 21, 2020. <https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/topic/atlantic-highly-migratory-species>.

Furthermore, the causes of fish migration itself is because the species need to get suitable food, to reproduce, to survive from extreme climatic conditions, and also for protection from predators.<sup>7</sup> Basically, the migration is for the fish to reproduce and grow.

As you can see from this thesis's title, I will explore more about Indonesia and the Philippines as two of the largest archipelagic countries in the world, located in the Southeast Asian region. According to the data, Indonesia is a vast archipelagic country that is surrounded by 17,508 islands.<sup>8</sup> On the other hand, The Philippines covers an archipelago with more or less 7,107 islands.<sup>9</sup> The population of highly migratory species that are rich and living in the ocean within the territory of these two countries.

According to Kompas News, it is said that large tuna no longer exist in the Philippines, since they may have all migrated to the Pacific, as tuna is known as a long-migratory fish.<sup>10</sup> The news also said that Indonesia is still lucky because there are tuna colonies that are thought to have settled and did not migrate too far or do not mix with other populations.<sup>11</sup> Tuna colony lives in the area of Wakatobi in Southeast Sulawesi. As we have know, the Philippines and Indonesia are neighboring countries. So, in my opinion, they must be sharing same resources,

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<sup>7</sup> Tsukamoto, Katsumi, Michael J Miller, Aya Kotake, Jun Aoyama, and Kazuo Uchida. "The origin of fish migration: the random escapement hypothesis," *American Fisheries Society* (2009): 48-49.

<sup>8</sup> Kuipers , Joel C. "Indonesia is a country study," Edited by William H Frederick and Robert L Worden. *Federal Research Division Library of Congress* (2011): 98.

<sup>9</sup> Official Website of the Philippines. "General Information about Philippines," Accessed February 21, 2020. <http://www.gov.ph/aboutphil/general.asp>

<sup>10</sup> Yusuf, Muhammad. "Sub Populasi Ikan Tuna di Indonesia." Accessed August 11, 2020. <https://www.kompasiana.com/ucumksr/56b76aae307a61b709c877ef/sub-populasi-ikan-tuna-di-indonesia>.

<sup>11</sup> Yusuf, Muhammad. "Sub Populasi Ikan Tuna di Indonesia."

then these two countries should have a close relation in order to cooperate this such a case.

Due to overfishing and fish migration that occurred between these two countries, it is important to remember that the most important export of fishery products in Indonesia is tuna. The main types of tuna in Indonesia are mostly yellowfin, bigeye, and skipjack.<sup>12</sup> The former Minister of Maritime Affairs and Fisheries, Susi Pudjiastuti, confirmed that Indonesia would strengthen its big advantage in the global tuna industry.<sup>13</sup> Moreover, Director General of Capture Fisheries at Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries acknowledged the statement of the former Minister of Maritime Affairs and Fisheries Pudjiastuti that the main challenge for Indonesia is about the preservation of fish resources, especially tuna.<sup>14</sup>

Therefore, Indonesia implements conservation of tuna resources. One of Indonesia efforts is through the ratification of the 1995 UNIA (United Nations Implementing Agreement). Indonesia has committed to cooperate with different countries in the context of sustainable tuna management.<sup>15</sup> This ratification aims to ensure the long-term conservation and sustainable use of migratory fish stocks

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<sup>12</sup> Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN. "Fishery and Aquaculture Country Profiles: The Republic of Indonesia." Accessed February 22, 2020. <http://www.fao.org/fishery/facp/IDN/en>.

<sup>13</sup> Afridah, Marlis Herni . 2017. *Susi Pudjiastuti, Minister of Maritime Affairs and Fisheries, Indonesia*. December 15. <https://govinsider.asia/security/susi-pudjiastuti-minister-maritime-affairs-fisheries-indonesia/>.

<sup>14</sup> Firdaus, Maulana. "The Profile of Tuna and Cakalang Fishery in Indonesia," *Balai Besar Riset Sosial Ekonomi Kelautan dan Perikanan* (2018): 25.

<sup>15</sup> Firdaus, Maulana. "The Profile of Tuna and Cakalang Fishery in Indonesia."

through the effective implementation of the relevant provisions of UNCLOS 1982.<sup>16</sup>

Moving on to the Philippines' information and data, the fact that cannot be forgotten is that the Philippines was dubbed as the largest tuna producing country since the 1970s.<sup>17</sup> At this point, the Philippines still has a significant role in the tuna industry's world. The Philippines is the second-highest producer of tuna in the world after Indonesia. The main types of tuna in the Philippines are yellowfin, skipjack, bigeye tuna, frigate tuna, and eastern small tuna.<sup>18</sup>

Recognizing the advantages that the Philippines has in the fisheries sector, Greenpeace Philippines campaigner Vince Cinches stated that the Philippines will conduct an important role in securing tuna fish to remain swimming around the Philippine sea.<sup>19</sup> Hence, we can see from this case between Indonesia and the Philippines that share similar advantages in producing tuna. Tuna is an essential economic lifeline for their countries.

Talking about achieving the goal of Sustainable Development about Life below water in the 15th principles, the states need to establish regional cooperation concerning Sustainable Highly Migratory Fish, which is the only way to ensure

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<sup>16</sup> WCPFC. *Indonesia Annual Report to The Commission Part 1: Information on Fisheries, Research, and Statistics*. Scientific Committee Tenth Regular Session, Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries, (WCPFC The Republic of Indonesia: 2014).

<sup>17</sup> Vera, Cesar Allan , and Zarina Hipolito. "The Philippines Tuna Industry: A Profile." SAMUDRA Monograph. *International Collective in Support of Fishworkers* (2006): 15-16.

<sup>18</sup> Greenpeace Philippines. "Philippines set to lead global tuna industry to sustainability and Go Green." Accessed February 22, 2020. <https://www.greenpeace.org/philippines/press/1171/philippines-set-to-lead-global-tuna-industry-to-sustainability-and-go-green/>.

<sup>19</sup> Greenpeace Philippines. "Philippines set to lead global tuna industry to sustainability and Go Green."

everyone can get a share of tuna steak.<sup>20</sup> One of the international organizations that Indonesia and the Philippines joined, it is a treaty-based organization which is WCPFC (The Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission).

Indonesia has been a member of the WCPFC since late 2013 with intention of enhancing international relations and helping to secure the livelihoods of its small-scale fisheries.<sup>21</sup> The Philippines has been a member of the WCPFC since 2005.<sup>22</sup> The purpose of this thesis is to know how archipelago countries like Indonesia and the Philippines in the Southeast Asian Region manage tuna which is considered to be highly migratory species, and whether there is cooperation between these two countries in handling this particular Highly Migratory Species case.

Furthermore, we need to know what is WCPFC. WCPFC, Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission was formed on 19 June 2004 by the Convention for the Conservation and Management of Highly Migratory Fish Stocks in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean.<sup>23</sup> It was formed to constitute an important decision-making constitution for managing tuna fishing in the Western and Central Pacific Oceans.<sup>24</sup> The WCPF Commission has a broad mandate in terms of marine environment protection and marine biodiversity.

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<sup>20</sup> Greenpeace Philippines. "Philippines set to lead global tuna industry to sustainability and Go Green."

<sup>21</sup> Kementerian Kelautan dan Perikanan Indonesia. "Indonesia Fisheries in WCPFC Convention Area." *WCPFC Scientific Committee Twelfth Regular Session* (2017): 4.

<sup>22</sup> Codera, William Barry V, and Jomar H Mendoza. "The WCPFC Tuna Fishing Ban: Compliance of The Local Government and The Tuna Fishing Industry of General Santos City, Philippines." *International Journal of Advance Research* (2015): 32.

<sup>23</sup> WCPFC. "Western & Central Pacific Fisheries Commission". Accessed February 20, 2020. <https://www.wcpfc.int/>.

<sup>24</sup> WCPFC. "Western & Central Pacific Fisheries Commission".

There are a lot of 26 official members of WCPFC. They are Vanuatu, Australia, the United of States of America, China, Chinese Taipei, European Union, Tuvalu, Canada, Tonga, Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Solomon Islands, Fiji, Samoa, France, Philippines, Indonesia, Papua New Guinea, Japan, Palau, Kiribati, Niue, New Zealand, Republic of Marshall Islands and Republic of Korea.<sup>25</sup>

As we have seen, there is a lot of countries coming from different parts of the world that have become involved under WCPFC, I think it is good for Indonesia and the Philippines as developing and archipelagic countries involved and participated in this organization to assist them in improving tuna management. Therefore, in this thesis, I want to analyze the cooperation between Indonesia, the Philippines and WCPFC as International Organization cooperated in managing tuna migration.

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<sup>25</sup> WCPFC. “Western & Central Pacific Fisheries Commission”.

## **1.2 Research Questions**

Based on the information that was previously mentioned, the writer suggests the following research question:

1. What is the role of WCPFC in managing tuna considered to be a highly migratory fish?
2. What are the roles of Indonesia and the Philippines as the archipelagic countries in the WCPFC?

## **1.3 Research Objective**

The objectives of this writing are:

1. To know the role of WCPFC in managing tuna considered to be a highly migratory fish.
2. To know and comprehend the roles of Indonesia and the Philippines in the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission in managing tuna that is considered to be Highly Migratory Species.

#### **1.4 Significance of Research**

The results of this study are focused on providing an understanding of the importance of building relationships between countries at the regional and international levels for the management of Highly Migratory Fish, especially tuna. This research will explore more on how International organizations like WCPFC are handling tuna. Moreover, this study will explore more on each country's roles of Indonesia and the Philippines as archipelago countries and members of the WCPFC in dealing with High Migratory Fish. Therefore, I hope that with this analysis and report, international relations scholars and those interested in this topic, and general readers can understand and learn about multilateral relations about migratory tuna. A country's role is needed, and International organizations, such as WCPFC as a place for countries to discuss and resolve common issues, and make it easier and more effective for countries involved in the same problems.

## **1.5 Structure of Writing**

The first chapter is the introduction, talks about the background of the thesis topic, research question that the research will address, the purpose of the research and the significance of the research.

The second chapter is the Literature review on theoretical frameworks, the international relations theory and concepts that will be used as framework to analyze the cooperation between Indonesian, the Philippines and WCPFC in managing highly migratory fish, especially tuna. It comprises several studies on the concept of Environmental issues, International Treaties regarding protecting the seas, Global Community Cooperation as International Organization, and Maritime Diplomacy in understanding this research.

The third chapter, the methodology, explains how the research approach, research being approach, research method used, data collection technique, and data analysis technique used in gathering data and information for the research.

The fourth chapter is the analysis, and the main part of this thesis. This chapter analyzes and presents all the data gathered regarding the roles of Indonesia and the Philippines with WCPFC and how they managed the Tuna fish. The result of the analysis can then be used to answer the research question of this thesis.

The fifth chapter is the conclusion from the analysis done in chapter IV following recommendation that, summarizes the analysis from the previous chapters.

After the chapter of introduction, the discussion will be continued by discussing the second chapter of Literature Review and Framework of Thinking.