



APRI
FIELD *Story.*

2026.

January - March



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**Our Field Story From
The *Fisherman***

From this story we bring our
sustainability story in the field

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Survey of Blue Swimming Crab Fishers and Marine Mammals (Dolphins) in the Coastal Waters of Batu Bara Regency



February 23, 2026. For some fishermen, the presence of dolphins in fishing waters is seen as a natural indicator of healthy water conditions. Dolphins are believed to appear only in marine areas that remain healthy and rich in fish resources. This understanding shapes the fishermen’s attitude, leading them to be mindful of their behavior while at sea and to respect the presence of these marine mammals as part of the ecosystem.



Fishermen in Batubara are knowledgeable about dolphin species and never catch them, as they view the animals as indicators of a healthy environment; even when they encounter dolphins, they do not disturb their activities.

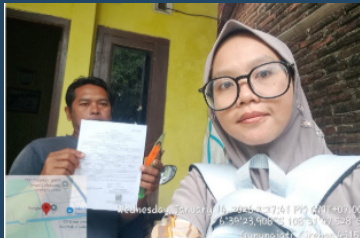


According to Batubara Field Support, fishermen use passive fishing gear and operate at relatively shallow depths. This gear minimizes direct interaction between fishermen and dolphins. Based on the fishermen’s experience, there have been no incidents of dolphins becoming entangled in nets or crab fishing gear. This indicates that crab fishing in this area is relatively safe for marine mammals.

(Sazali S. – Batubara/Author)



Joint Coordination with Field Officers in Cirebon Regency for the E-BKP Process and Fishery Logbook Completion



On Tuesday, March 17, 2026, a meeting was held with a Field officer from the Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries (KKP) at the officer's residence in Adidarma Village, Gunung Jati District, Cirebon Regency. Such meetings are routinely conducted to seek guidance on various fishing activities and to address challenges regarding the processing of fishermen's documentation. This particular meeting was convened to inquire about plans for filling out simplified logbooks and obtaining a Business Identification Number (NIB)—a prerequisite for securing e-BKP certification. Regarding the implementation of simplified logbook recording, the extension officer explained that there were currently no plans or discussions concerning this activity in Gunung Jati District. When asked whether forms similar to the simplified logbook had ever been used, the officer confirmed that no such activity had taken place. Consequently, it was agreed that should plans for simplified logbook recording materialize, the extension officer would be asked to participate alongside APRI in disseminating information about the initiative to the various fishermen's groups.

(Meitha P. - Cirebon/Author)



APRI's field support activities in Cirebon also facilitate the distribution of fish traps in collaboration with several fish processing units (UPIs), such as KBT and SKSA. In addition to maintaining regular coordination with fishers, current field support efforts focus on raising awareness about MMPA and issuing E-BKP documents, working alongside fisheries extension officers and PPN Kejawanan. (Meitha P. – Cirebon/Author)

Unforgettable *Experience* *Having* Communication with Fisher

This was my first experience directly engaging with a fishermen's group in Mertasinga Village, Cirebon Regency. Discussing catch results and experiences with marine mammal sightings, as well as assisting with E-BKP registration, marked a new experience for me in my role as APRI field support, as my previous work had been limited to data collection.

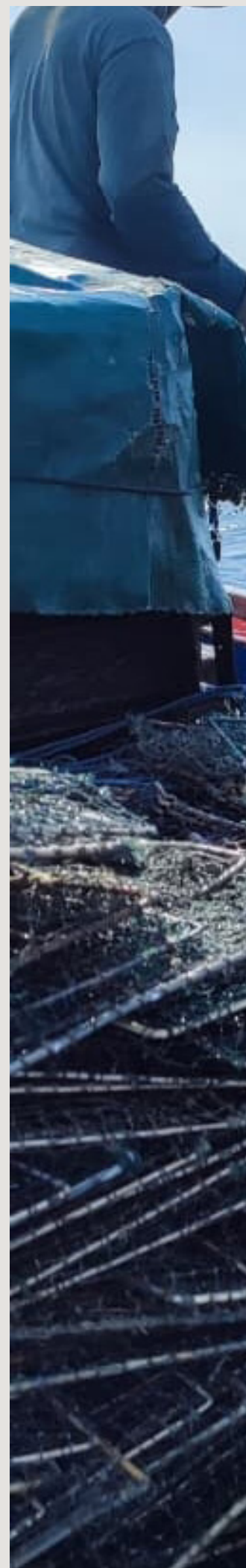


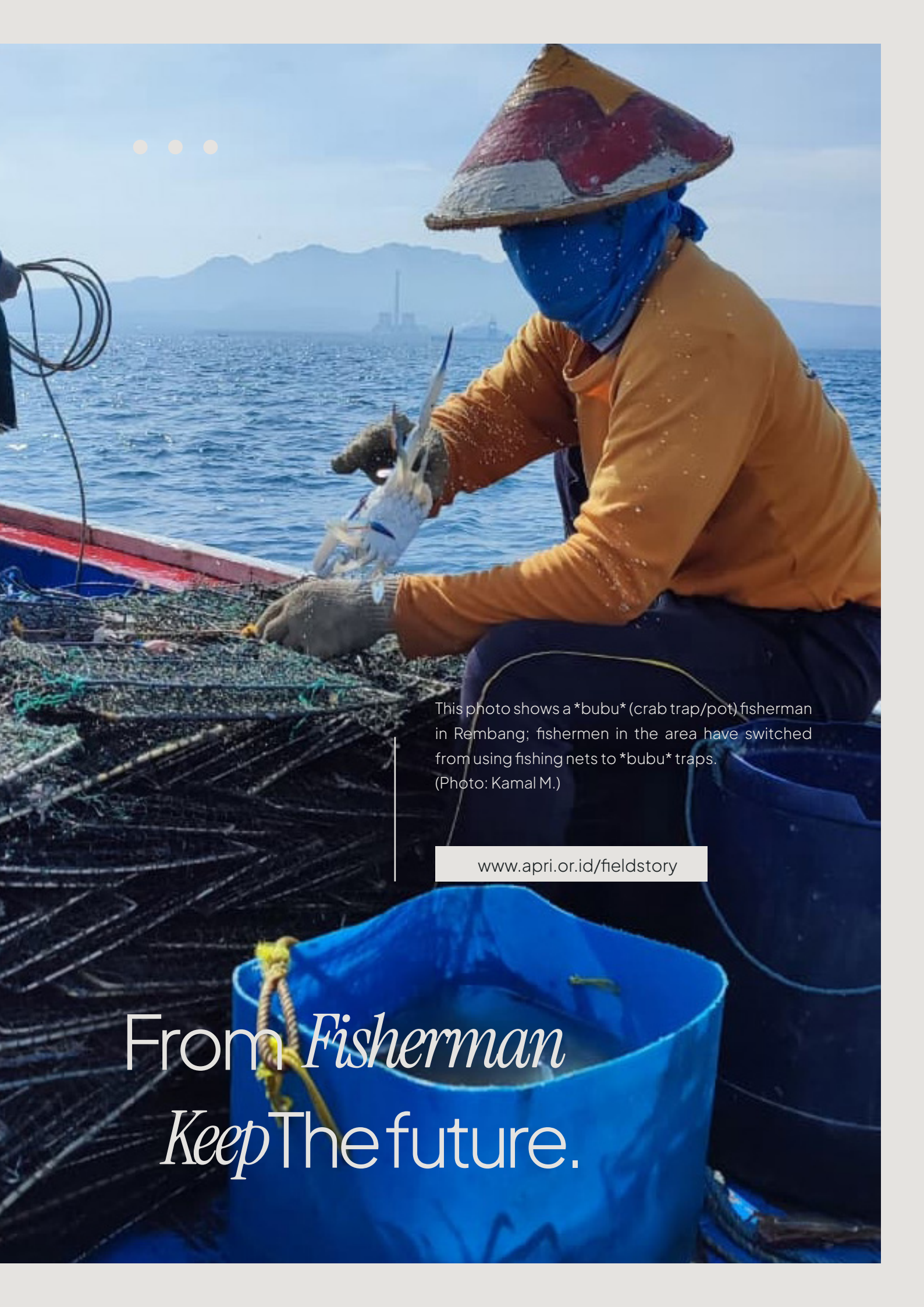
Going to Sea *and* Caring the Sea

“Blue swimming crab apartments” serve as quarantine enclosures for egg-bearing female crabs, allowing their eggs to hatch and the offspring to return to the wild. Establishing these structures is one of the initiatives undertaken by the Indonesian Blue Swimmer Crab Management Association to help fishermen recognize the importance of sustainability for the species. The apartments in Rembang feature a floating design that utilizes drums to buoy a bamboo framework, which is anchored in place to prevent it from drifting away with the waves. They are positioned close to the shore less than one mile out to facilitate daily monitoring and maintenance.

Fishermen in Rembang typically catch blue swimming crabs in local waters, ranging from 1 to 12 miles offshore. The further out to sea they venture, the larger the crabs tend to be. However, catch volumes are largely seasonal; during the rainy season or the onset of the west monsoon, catches generally increase. This rise occurs because strong seabed currents effectively rouse the crabs from their burrows, prompting them to swim and relocate. It is during this migration that the crabs forage for food and subsequently enter the fishermen’s traps (*bubu*).

(Kamal M. – Rembang/Author)





This photo shows a *bubu* (crab trap/pot) fisherman in Rembang; fishermen in the area have switched from using fishing nets to *bubu* traps. (Photo: Kamal M.)

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From *Fisherman*
Keep The future.



Pamekasan Place for *Blue Swimming Crab* Fisheries Management

Coordination with stakeholders is crucial to ensure that the management of marine and fishery resources is optimal, sustainable, and compliant with established regulations. This effort also aims to enhance service synergy, thereby strengthening communication between business operators—such as fishers—and field

technical staff to discuss issues, challenges, or needs encountered in the field.

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Lailatul Q.—affectionately known as Ila—is an APRI Field Support officer in Pamekasan who is highly active in providing guidance to local fishermen. She is well-known among several fishing groups in the area and has been a driving force behind various initiatives related to sustainable blue swimming crab management.

On February 9, 2026, field support personnel, together with extension officers from the Fisheries Agency, coordinated with the Pagagan Village administration. They provided information regarding the “Gerai Pelangi” (Rainbow Service Outlet) initiative—an activity organized by the fisheries extension officers—and requested permission to use the village hall as a ser-

vice hub for the Pagagan community on February 11, 2026. This event would also include the hand-over of issued *Pas Kecil* (small vessel registration certificates). The Village Head of Pagagan welcomed the initiative and pledged support for the well-being of the local community.



Regular *Meeting* Fisherman Group “*Capit Biru*”

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A group meeting was held on March 8, 2026, attended by 14 fisherfolk members, who also shared an *iftar* (breaking-of-the-fast) meal together. The extension officer was unable to attend or facilitate the meeting. The topics discussed included the balances of the fisherfolk group’s treasury and the fisherfolk shop.

(Ila - Pamekasan/Author)

Supporting APRI Members During the Distribution of Crab Trap (Bubu) Gear in Lamongan



Participation in a trap distribution event held at the UD Dua Bidadari mini-plant (owned by Mr. Najih) for blue swimming crab fishermen from Paciran, Lohgung, and Sedayulawas villages in Paciran District, Lamongan Regency, East Java. The event was attended by Mr. Rustam from the Lamongan Regency Fisheries Agency. A total of 1,100 traps were distributed to 110 blue swimming crab fish-

ermen across the three villages, with the aim of fostering sustainable blue swimming crab fisheries in response to US export policy requirements affecting Indonesian crab products. In alignment with the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA)—which emphasizes the use of trap-based fishing gear—APRI and its members continue to promote the transformation of fishing gear across Indonesia. The “Fishing Gear Swap” program is expected to secure the continuity of Indonesia’s blue swimming crab supply chain while protecting marine ecosystems. **(Pahad M. - Gresik/Author)**

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Tanjung Pinang

Fishing *Trip*

To Catch *Blue Swimming Crab*



Cardin, an APRI Field Support officer in Tanjung Pinang who actively promotes the #GTK5Menit program, learned firsthand that catching blue swimming crabs is no easy feat. The operation was fraught with challenges due to unfavorable weather; strong winds and rough seas were already making themselves felt, as this month marks the peak of the “West Monsoon” season, characterized by intense winds and high waves.



At 05:50 WITA, we arrived at the fishing boat dock, only to be halted by the weather conditions; we were forced to wait about an hour for things to improve. After hauling in the crab traps—a process taking roughly two hours—we headed to the landing site at 09:15 WITA. We landed back in Tanjung Pinang Village with a catch of 2.7 kg of blue swimming crabs. **(M. Cardin. – Muna Barat/Author)**

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Our Story



January - March

2026

fieldstory

“Field Story” is a popular article series based on the experiences of APRI Field Support staff in the field and the engaging activities conducted with fishers at blue swimming crab data collection sites.