

The Answer of ABC NEWS Questioning

People in the fishing village say “the company” by which they mean IMIP, is responsible for a rise in seawater temperatures and declining, polluted fish stocks

Management of Industrial Area, IMIP, continues to cooperate with Morowali’s Government and the surrounding citizens who participate to improve the quality of environment, consonance with efforts to quality, capacity and competence of the citizens. Through inclusive program cooperation, the management is continuously striving to be present in every effort to improve the life of the resident areas outside the industrial area in accordance with its scope of responsibility and authority.

Regarding the rise in sea level temperature, it should be understood that recently it has been a global event caused by a natural phenomenon called global warming. The management of IMIP through the Department of Environment continues to monitor the temperature of the seawater surface that is around it by involving the Environmental Services of the Morowali district as the length of the hand of the state in the aspects of enforcement of the rules through the fulfilment of the implementation standards of the environmental aspects.

PT IMIP has a permit to discharge the liquid waste into the sea based on SK 103/1/KLHK/2021 issued by the Indonesian Ministry of Environment and Forestry. In the regulations stipulates that the quality standards of wastewater that can be discharged into the sea must be below 40 degrees. In the study conducted by the Environmental Department of PT IMIP in September 2023, the model results show that in the morning, the discharge canals wastewater on the heat is at 37.5 degrees (Image 1), and in the afternoon, it is at 33.2 degrees (Image 2).

Wastewater is the seawater sucked using a pump, which is then used to cool the power plant engine. Seawater that has been used, then drained back into the sea through a network of canals over more than 2 kilometers. As a result, the wastewater that has already been distributed through the canals network, the temperature will gradually decrease.

This can be seen clearly on the map (Image 3), on Langala Island and around the settlement, the temperature is already a natural temperature, namely 28–31 °C. The temperature range is still at a normal level, based on the quality standards in government regulation PP No. 22 of 2021 in Appendix VIII copy of PP No. 22 of 2021.

With the increase in population, demand for food raw materials, especially seafood, has increased. The rise in demand for seafood has led fishermen to extend their fishing areas to the middle of the sea, as the fish populations around the coast are no longer able to meet the demands of the people.

That when IMIP was first being constructed the company connected villages to electricity and gave away several boats.

In 2019, IMIP gave 2 units of fishing boats (fiber or motorboats), 2 units refrigerator freezers, 2 units of ice boxes, for two groups of Fishermen in Kurisa, Bahodopi, Morowali, Central

Sulawesi. That was given based on proposal gifted by the community of fishermen on Kurisa.

Fisher people now use these boat to travel miles away to fish in the Banda Sea, but catching fish out there is also not guaranteed because it's harder for them to hook fish in deep waters.

The motorboats provided by the company are then used by residents for sea taxis from Kurisa to Langala Island, as a tourist attraction, which is approximately 150 meters from Kurisa. Langala Island is used as a tourist attraction by IMIP and managed by the Fatufia Government. In addition to there is employees who work in IMIP also use Langala Island for destination to holiday.

In addition, that's boats are also used to distribute clean water ordered by the crews of a large ships around the sea of Bahodopi. They earn up to Rp 500,000/ a day.

From the results of our identification, the fishermen in Kurisa are not fishermen in general. They are usually called fringe fishermen, who only go down to the sea when low tide to look the shells.

They also now need to pay for petrol, and villagers no longer swim in the water surrounding their houses because it gives them itchy skin.

The existence of the Industrial Areas is brings a multiplier effect to the surrounding community, especially those who around the industry. Among them, with the massive wave of workers who came, that's make the demand for flat are increased. This was seen by the community, including the residents of Kurisa, who previously worked as fishermen then they have a new source of income. In addition, the community also built grocery stores to fulfill the daily needs of the employees. Because that more profitable than they worked as a fisherman.

Another community member no longer eats local fish and would buy fish from other villagers if they could but instead they're eating rice or instant noodles

The loss of much of the coastal ecosystem along the trans-Sulawesi road in the Bahodopi district is also due to the practice of landfill made by citizens to fulfil the demands as an area of settlement and the location of enterprises (especially flat business or rental of houses/rooms), has made the water area as the backyard of its residence that directly places the kitchen and bathroom in the back of the house. This has had an impact on the pollution of coastal and they are used as landfills for waste and household garbage which in turn lead to migratory fish capture away from the coastline and the coastal area.

With the increase in population, demand for food raw materials, especially seafood, has increased. The rise in demand for seafood has led fishermen to extend their fishing areas to the middle of the sea, as the fish populations around the coast are no longer able to meet the demands of the people.

The community member now also regularly cleans utensils, plates and furniture because it is covered in coal dust

The operational on Industry areas of IMIP, still fully use power plant to generate electrical energy. Some of the electrical energy produced is also distributed to the community through state electricity company. Even so, in the future, and it will be done soon, the company will slowly replace the power plant with solar panels, or solar power, as the company's efforts to support the government's program towards Net Zero Emission in 2060.

In order to ensure good environmental management, waste dust production is collected through dust separation facilities with each stage of production equipped with good environment protection equipment and desulfurization and denitrification facilities have been arranged to emission standards regulated in the mining regulations and management of the Indonesian government. On fixed emission channels, an online continuous monitoring system (CEMS) has been installed gradually and data is in real time to the Ministry of Environment.

Regarding dust pollution complained by citizens, it is also necessary to understand whether the dust comes purely from within the IMIP industrial area or also due to the dispersion of road dust. As is well known, the Trans-Sulawesi Road is the only infrastructure of the transport sector that exists in Morowali Regency and its surroundings.

With a lot of mining, mineral and C-mining-based industries along the road, the road load factor has become very high. The situation is aggravated by the fact that almost all of the residents' houses standing along the trans-Sulawesi road line are built on a cluster of land that is vulnerable to producing flying dust. Not to mention the fact that the vehicle that passes almost entirely is not in clean condition as it is a mining and industrial operational vehicle.

The management of the IMIP industry area does not operate any material and processed goods vehicles on the trans-Sulawesi road except in the area of crossing along the width of the road and is only at one point. All the vehicles that crossed have carried out the procedure of cleaning the wheels and body of the vehicle in the spraying area that is spread at many points within IMIP industrial area.

The management of IMIP also performs irrigation of the trans-Sulawesi road bodies adjacent to the external boundary of the IMIP Industrial Area. Irrigation takes place three times a day at 09.00, 11.00 and 15.00.

To deal with dust within the IMIP industry area, steps such as water fog irrigation, tent closure in the material accumulation area, installation of dust barrier walls, as well as building construction have been implemented. In addition, to deal with dust in the streets within the Area, actions have been taken such as building a vehicle washing station, vacuum vehicle, road cleaning vehicle, water spraying on the road as well as modification of material transport vehicle.

There are also piles of rubbish littering the roads around IMIP and respiratory diseases are the new norm

The pile of garbage in Bahodopi is caused by the community's low awareness of the environment. Not only that. Another cause is the government hasn't to build an integrated waste management facility and/or landfill, which to this day that does not exist in Bahodopi

Sub-district. In the end, people prefer to dump their waste on the side of the road, in the river, in the sea, and if necessary, they burn it.

IMIP's management has distributed tens of thousands of garbage cans to citizens, distributed 10 units of trash trucks, created environmental hygiene programmes with communities, communities and local governments including the preparation of incinerators in the management of civilian trash outside the IMIP Industrial Area

In almost every moment related to the environment, such as Environment Day or the Global World Clean Up Day which is held in every year, IMIP as an Industrial area collaborates with the local government, Military and Police, as well as the communities and young peoples in Bahodopi, Morowali, Central Sulawesi, to come on the street to clean up the trash that is scattered on the sidewalk of the road or around the residential areas. (**)

Lampiran :

The picture condition of Kurisa (The Fishermen Village) Fatufia Village, Bahodopi, Morowali, Central Sulawesi, and community activity on Kurisa.

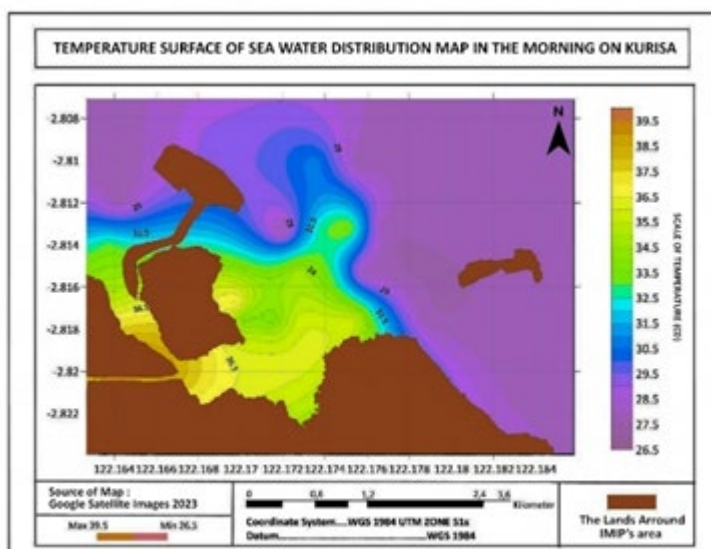


Image 1. Temperature Surface Sea Water Distribution Maps in Sunday Morning