

The Governor of NTB Supports the Research of the ITI Research Team in Gili Matra



The ITI Research Team and related parties took a group photo with the Governor of NTB, H. Zulkieflimansyah, after an audience at the Governor's Hall of NTB, Monday (23/5). (Voice NTB/ist)

GOVERNOR OF NTB, Dr. H. Zulkieflimansyah welcomed the research plan to be carried out by the Research Team of the Indonesian Institute of Technology (ITI) supported by The North Pacific Marine Science Organization (PICES) on the Human Dimension and Toxic Detection of Ciguatera Fish in the Gili Meno, Air, and Trawangan Islands (Matra).

This was conveyed by the Governor when receiving an audience from the ITI Research Team with PICES in his office, Monday, May 23, 2022. Okay, I agree, it's okay, the important thing is to keep working together. "What we can help with, we will certainly help," said Bang Zul, the nickname of the Governor of NTB.

For information, the ITI Research Team chose Gili Matra as the research location because Gili is one of the tourism icons in NTB Province.

The Coordinator of Research Activities who is also the Main Expert Researcher in the Management of Environmental, Coastal and Marine Fisheries Resources, Prof. Dr. Ir. Suhandar I. Sachoemar, M. Sc., in the audience, said that this research is a collaboration between research institutions and universities, including ITI, BRIN, UI, Mataram University supported by the International Research Institute PICES (The North Pacific Marine Science Organization).

PICES has six members, namely Canada, the United States of America, Japan, the People's Republic of China, South Korea and Russia. According to Suhandar, in addition to research activities, there will also be workshops and technology dissemination supported by experts from PICES members in collaboration with the NTB Provincial Government and SKPD and other related institutions. Including Universities, BKKPN, BRIDA NTB Province, KKP Service, LHK Service, students, coastal communities, environmentalists and other stakeholders.

Suhandar expressed his gratitude for the good response of the Governor of NTB to the research plan that his team will carry out. We want to research Ciguatera on the Gilis. Ciguatera is a kind of microorganism that poses a threat in the aquatic environment. "Alhamdulillah, thank you, Mr. Governor, for being ready to help," said Suhandar.

The person in charge of Ciguatera Research Activities, Shinta Leonita, STP.M. Si conveyed in general the objectives of this research. In general, this research has a goal, among others, to study benthic dinoflagellate

communities that have the potential to cause CFP, with target genera namely *Gambierdiscus*, *Prorocentrum*, *Coolia*, *Ostreopsis*, and *Amphidinium*, and their relationship to habitat conditions and water quality on Gili Matra.

Second, to study the level of pressure from human activities and the potential for economic losses due to the abundance of dangerous Algae / CFP in the Gili Matra area and third, to disseminate information and increase public awareness of the potential dangers of MAB and CFP in the Gili Matra area and the coast of West Lombok.

Dangerous Algae Marak (MAB) is one of 10 outbreaks from the oceans (Plagues of the Seas) whose presence can threaten the balance of ecosystems and people's lives in coastal areas.

Meanwhile, the Chief Executive of the Ciguatera Research, Arief Rachman, M. Bio. Sc added, the location of the Ciguatera Indonesia research was carried out at the Gili Matra Aquatic Tourism Park (TWP), namely Gili Trawangan, Gili Meno, Gili Air. Gili Matra is a tourism and conservation area that has an important role for the community and biota in the coastal waters of West Lombok.

The Gili Matra area is known to have a water conservation area of 2,273.56 ha which includes a variety of important ecosystems for the island's coastal areas, such as mangroves, coral reefs, and seagrasses, where these ecosystems are areas with vital functions for protected charismatic rare animals, such as Black Fin Shark, White Fin Shark, Turtle, Kima, Manta Ray.

However, the pressure of human activities in the Gili Matra TWP area can lead to a decrease in water quality, and trigger the occurrence of the phenomenon of Dangerous Algae and/or Ciguatera Fish Poisoning. Sampling Area Sampling and data collection will be carried out around the waters (in certain zoning) in Gili Trawangan, Gili Meno, and Gili Air. Sampling activities will be carried out 5 times in 1 year (2022-2023), namely in May (Transition I), July (Dry), September (Transition II), November/December (Rain), January/February (End of season rain).

In the hearing, the Governor of NTB was accompanied by the Head of BRIDA NTB, H. Wirawan Ahmad and delegates from other relevant agencies. (r)