IMPACT OF THE COVID-19 CRISIS ON SMALL-SCALE FISHERIES IN TIMOR-LESTE

Based on the second round of observations from Blue Ventures staff speaking to key informants in six communities in Timor-Leste in July and August 2020. Go to the first round of observations here.

- Marine tourism and associated conservation access fees still low
- Community-based fisheries monitoring groups resume their activities
- General physical distancing restrictions continue to be enforced, but not as strictly as during the State of Emergency
- Fishing activity mostly back to normal
  - Bad weather in some areas continues to disrupt fishing activity
  - Middlemen have not yet started returning to communities
- International borders remain closed so fishermen cannot fish in Indonesian waters
  - Local transport services resume and local consumers begin returning to markets
- Note: State of Emergency (SoE) re-enforced on 6th August 2020
- In general, prices of fish return to normal. In some areas, fishers are overfishing to pay back debts incurred during the State of Emergency (SoE)
- Some communities continue to witness reduced fishing activity as people shift to agriculture (for the rice harvest season)

Timor-Leste

Indonesia

Atauro Island

Beloi

Pala/Biqueli

Iliknamu

Dili

Behau

Ma’abat

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