**VULNERABLE WOMEN’S ROLES IN SECURING HOUSEHOLD INCOME UNDER THE CIRCUMSTANCES OF CLIMATE CHANGE IN BRACKISH WATER POND BUSINESSES IN PATI REGENCY, CENTRAL JAVA-INDONESIA: TOWARDS AN ADAPTATION AND MITIGATION STRATEGY**

Fitria Majid\*, Indah Fitri Purwanti and Indah Susilowati

Faculty of Economics and Business - Diponegoro University

Jl. Erlangga Tengah 17 Semarang 50421-Indonesia

\*presenting author’s email: fitria.majid@rocketmail.com

Indonesia is a maritime country, comprised of 17,500 islands and with a total population of close to 245 million. Central Java province is considered the most densly populated province in Indonesia, with a population of about 37 million persons. This province played a significant role in providing man-power for the fisheries sector in Indonesia. The brackish water ponds used in Central Java are producing at only about 35% of their total capacity, while the capacity for brachish water ponds for Indonesia as a whole is only 23% (Fisheries Statistics, 2011). Pati regency was our study area. It lies on the northern-east coast of Central Java and is well-known as a milkfish producing area in Indonesia. The milkfish produced from Pati Regency is called *“Bandeng Juwana”.* It has a special taste, which is different from that of milkfish produced from brackish water ponds in other regions.

Lately, the brackish water ponds in the study are showing decreases in productivity. Similar to the capture fisheries resource, the pond resources seem to be over-exploited. A lots of efforts have been put into managing both fisheries and brackish water pond resources. Several conventional fisheries management approaches have been employed but they might not have performed effectively due to the adverse effects due to climate change. Many parties have not been prepared yet to adapt because of the uncertain situation. However, how will the remaining fish-farmers in the study area survive and secure their household expenditure while suffering from climate change? One of the important factors in overcoming this uncertain situation may lie with the women’s role in their families.

The main objective of the study is to set up an adaptation and mitigation strategy for women (as housewives and/or daughters) in the brackish water ponds business so as to secure their household expenditures in order to cope with climate change conditions. To design a favorable set-up for an adaptation and mitigation strategy for women, this study has explored how vulnerable fishers cope with the vulnerable fisheries resources. Primary data were collected from the relevant parties or stakeholders. In-depth interview and Focus Group Discussions were held with key-persons and other competent informants, while secondary data were used to enrich the analysis. The study employs mixed-methods with quantitative and qualitative components.

The research indicated that several signs of climate change were found to some extent in the brackish water pond businesses. The impacts of climate change on vulnerable fisheries in the study areas are significant and women’s roles are found necessary to secure household income.