

# Reconstruction of Coastal and Marine Resource Management Based on Seven Pillars: Efforts to Address Legal Complexities and Authority in the Era of Decentralization

## *Rekonstruksi Pengelolaan Sumber Daya Pesisir dan Laut Berdasarkan Tujuh Pilar: Upaya Mengatasi Kompleksitas Hukum dan Kewenangan di Era Desentralisasi*

Tripanji Aryawardhana <sup>1</sup>, Lazarus Tri Setyawanta <sup>2</sup>, Lita Tyesta Addy Listya Wardhani <sup>3</sup>

<sup>1, 2, 3</sup>Universitas Diponegoro, Semarang, Indonesia

Corresponding Author: [tripanjiaryawardhana@students.undip.ac.id](mailto:tripanjiaryawardhana@students.undip.ac.id)

### Abstract

The complexity of coastal and marine resource management in Indonesia is often caused by overlapping authorities between institutions and sectoral regulatory disharmony. This phenomenon has resulted in legal uncertainty, marginalization of coastal communities, and marine environmental damage. The research aims to reconstruct a governance model that promotes legal certainty, justice, and sustainability. Using a normative legal research method supported by statutory, conceptual, case, and historical approaches, this article analyzes the distribution of authority and its implications for coastal governance in the post-decentralization era. The findings reveal that the withdrawal of maritime authority from districts to provinces has created administrative gaps, weakened local participation, and increased legal uncertainty. This article offers a reconstructive approach based on seven pillars that integrate the principles of the rule of law, balance between central and regional relations, revitalization of assistance tasks, internalization of Pancasila values of justice, strengthening of local institutions, utilization of Geographic Information System (GIS) technology, and mainstreaming of ecological awareness and legal spirituality. Using a normative legal approach, this article argues that the seven pillars constitute a conceptual and operational framework for restructuring a coastal resource management system that is equitable, effective, and sustainable.

### Keywords

Reconstruction; Coastal Resource Management; Decentralization.

### Abstrak

Kompleksitas pengelolaan sumber daya pesisir dan laut di Indonesia seringkali disebabkan oleh tumpang tindih kewenangan antar lembaga dan disharmoni regulasi sektoral. Fenomena ini telah mengakibatkan ketidakpastian hukum, marginalisasi masyarakat pesisir, dan kerusakan lingkungan laut. Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk merekonstruksi model tata kelola yang mendorong kepastian hukum, keadilan, dan keberlanjutan. Menggunakan metode penelitian hukum normatif yang didukung oleh pendekatan perundang-undangan, konseptual, kasus, dan historis, artikel ini menganalisis distribusi kewenangan dan implikasinya terhadap tata kelola pesisir di era pasca-desentralisasi. Temuan tersebut mengungkapkan bahwa penarikan kewenangan maritim dari kabupaten ke provinsi telah menciptakan kesenjangan administratif, melemahkan partisipasi lokal, dan meningkatkan ketidakpastian hukum. Artikel ini menawarkan pendekatan rekonstruktif berdasarkan tujuh pilar yang mengintegrasikan prinsip-prinsip negara hukum, keseimbangan hubungan pusat dan daerah, revitalisasi tugas bantuan, internalisasi nilai-nilai keadilan Pancasila, penguatan lembaga lokal, pemanfaatan teknologi Sistem Informasi Geografis (SIG), serta pengarusutamaan kesadaran ekologis dan spiritualitas hukum. Menggunakan metode hukum normatif, artikel ini menunjukkan bahwa tujuh pilar ini dapat berfungsi sebagai dasar konseptual dan operasional untuk merestrukturisasi sistem pengelolaan sumber daya pesisir yang adil, efektif, dan berkelanjutan.



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### Kata Kunci

Rekonstruksi; Pengelolaan Sumber Daya Pesisir; Desentralisasi.

## 1. Introduction

As the world's largest archipelagic country, Indonesia has enormous coastal and marine resources (Delvina et al., 2024). However, the complexity of managing maritime, coastal, and small island areas often leads to regulatory and institutional conflicts. Overlapping authorities between the central and regional governments, weak spatial data integration, and suboptimal recognition of local communities have resulted in various sectoral, partial, and unsustainable policies (Widjaja, 2025).

The above conditions show that the management of coastal and marine resources in Indonesia faces high complexity due to overlapping authorities among institutions and the disharmony of sectoral regulations. Indonesia, as an archipelagic country with a vast maritime territory, clearly needs solid cross-sectoral and intergovernmental coordination. However, in practice, the regulation and implementation of authority between the central government, provinces, and districts/cities are often not synchronized. Law No. 23 of 2014, for example, despite aiming to streamline the structure of authority, has instead created new confusion, especially at the regional government level. District/city governments, which previously had authority over maritime areas up to 4 miles, no longer possess this authority but still have responsibilities over the coastal land, creating a coordination gap in the integrated management of coastal areas (Supratikta, 2015). These conditions demonstrate the urgency of conducting this study, as the persistence of unclear authority not only disrupts coordination among government levels but also threatens the rights and welfare of coastal communities and contributes to environmental degradation.

The imbalance in the relationship between the provincial government and the district/city governments has led to a decline in the degree of regional autonomy and weakened the capacity of district/city governments to protect the interests of their coastal communities. The case of sea fences in the waters of Bekasi Regency is a clear illustration of how the absence of regency/city governments in decision-making on marine management has contributed to environmental damage, socio-economic disruption, and a decline in public trust in the government. The phenomenon of sea fences in the coastal area of Bekasi Regency, West Java, further highlights this issue. This case came to light after the discovery of land ownership certificates in the coastal waters of Segara Jaya Village, Tarumajaya District. These certificates were issued illegally by falsifying maps and sea coordinates, which were then used as collateral for banks and land for illegal reclamation. This incident involved village officials and employees of the National Land Agency (BPN) and demonstrates the weak supervision and coordination between levels of government in the management of marine areas (Kompas, 2025; Antara News, 2025). This coastal fence case is clear evidence that the removal of regency/city authority has actually widened the legal loopholes that can be exploited by certain parties for personal gain, without effective oversight from local governments that are closer to the community (Supratikta, 2015).

The lack of regulatory harmony between sectors also exacerbates the situation, where each ministry or agency tends to issue sectoral policies that are not always integrated with one another, such as the Ministry of Maritime Affairs and Fisheries, the Ministry of Environment and Forestry, the Ministry of Transportation, and the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources. This has led to the emergence of various conflicting or overlapping regulations, especially regarding the use of marine space for fishing, conservation, maritime transportation, and mining activities. This situation clearly creates legal uncertainty for business actors and coastal communities, as it is unclear which authority is empowered to grant permits or resolve conflicts of interest.

Amidst this diversity of sectoral interests, coastal communities and traditional fishermen are the most affected groups (Suwandi & Prihatin, 2020). National strategic projects often ignore their rights to their living space. Therefore, it is necessary to reconstruct the legal system and institutional management of coastal resources that is not only based on legal formalities but also prioritizes values, awareness, and technology.

The overlap of authority and sectoral regulations shows the need for more integrated and equitable coastal and marine management policy reform. Synergy between government agencies is needed, with strengthened coordination and harmonization of regulations. In addition, a region and ecosystem-based management approach, which actively involves local communities, is key to realizing sustainable and inclusive marine governance in Indonesia. Without serious improvements in institutional and policy aspects, Indonesia's enormous marine potential will instead become a source of conflict and prolonged environmental degradation.

To explain this phenomenon, this study draws upon a theoretical reconstruction built on seven pillars. The first is the rule of law, which emphasizes legal certainty, clarity of authority, and protection of community rights. The second is the model of balanced central regional relations (relative autonomy), highlighting the importance of subsidiarity and contextual decision-making. The third pillar, revitalization of medebewind, positions delegated tasks as mechanisms for collaboration and capacity strengthening rather than as an administrative burden. The fourth, internalization of Pancasila justice values, places social justice and ethical governance at the core of coastal management. The fifth pillar, strengthening local institutions, recognizes the importance of customary systems, fisher cooperatives, and community forums as legitimate actors in resource governance. The sixth pillar involves the integration of Geographic Information Systems (GIS) as a permanent archive to reduce spatial conflicts, ensure transparency, and support evidence-based policy. The final pillar, cosmic consciousness and legal spirituality, provides an ethical-ecological orientation that reframes marine resources not merely as economic commodities but as components of a larger ecological and moral order.

These seven pillars provide a comprehensive theoretical lens to interpret the complexities arising in Indonesia's coastal governance and offer a normative foundation for designing a more just, effective, and sustainable management system. Therefore, this study is urgent not only for addressing current legal and governance gaps but also for shaping future policy directions that are aligned with constitutional values, community rights, and environmental sustainability.

Based on the above conditions, this paper will further examine the concept of the appropriate relationship between the provincial and regency/city governments in the management of coastal and marine resources, based on seven pillars, written in the form of an article entitled "Reconstruction of Coastal and Marine Resource Management Based on Seven Pillars: Efforts to Address Legal Complexities and Authority in the Era of Decentralization".

## 2. Methods

This research is classified as normative legal research, as it analyzes the regulations governing authority in coastal and marine resource management. The research approach used in this study combines a legal approach, a case approach, a historical approach, and a conceptual approach.

The legal materials in this study consist of primary legal materials, secondary legal materials, and tertiary legal materials, all of which are related to the regulation of authority in the management of coastal and marine resources. All of these legal materials were collected through a literature study. All legal materials collected

through literature studies were then systematically organized for discussion and further qualitative analysis, without using statistical data, and presented in descriptive form to address the issues discussed. The results were presented in the form of an article.

To ensure data validity, this study employed several verification techniques commonly applied in normative legal research. First, source triangulation was conducted by comparing statutory norms with scholarly interpretations and empirical cases reported in credible legal publications. Second, consistency checking was carried out by examining the alignment between higher-level regulations and their derivative rules to avoid misinterpretation. Third, systematic interpretation was used to validate the coherence of legal norms within the broader constitutional and decentralization framework. Additionally, the credibility of secondary sources was ensured by prioritizing peer-reviewed journals, official government publications, and academic books from reputable publishers. All validated materials were then analyzed qualitatively and presented descriptively to answer the research questions.

### 3. Results and Discussion

Legal issues related to changes in the regulation of authority over the management of natural and marine resources in Indonesia are complex and reflect the tug-of-war between the interests of the central and regional governments, as well as between economic interests and environmental sustainability. Since the enactment of regional autonomy through Law No. 22 of 1999, which was later refined by Law No. 23 of 2014 on Regional Government, there have been significant changes in the division of authority between the central and regional governments, including in the management of natural and marine resources. One of the most crucial changes is the withdrawal of marine management authority from district/city governments to provincial governments and, for the most part, to the central government (Delvina et al., 2024).

This change has raised legal issues because it affects the ability of regions to manage their local potential, especially coastal regencies and cities that previously had the authority to manage maritime areas up to 4 miles from the coastline. When this authority is transferred to the provinces, second-level regions lose their source of income and control over strategic areas that have been an important part of local maritime-based development. This is often not accompanied by capacity building for provincial governments or a clear transition, leading to legal uncertainty, overlapping licensing, and conflicts of interest between local and central governments (Wirawan, 2024).

Within the framework of the rule of law, as stipulated in article 1, paragraph (3) of the 1945 Constitution, all forms of policy changes, especially those concerning natural resources vital to the welfare of the people, should be carried out in a democratic, transparent, and accountable manner. The rule of law requires legal certainty that is fair to all parties, including indigenous peoples, traditional fishermen, and areas affected by these policies. However, in practice, these regulatory changes often do not involve adequate public participation and result in injustice, especially for local communities whose livelihoods depend on marine resources.

The value of justice in Pancasila, particularly the 5th principle, "Social justice for all Indonesian people," demands that natural resources be managed for the greatest prosperity of the people, not just for the interests of certain groups or short-term economic gains. This justice includes the equitable distribution of benefits, recognition of the rights of local and indigenous communities, and environmental sustainability for future generations. However, in practice, the top-down approach

to policy-making and the high orientation towards economic exploitation often ignore this principle of substantive justice (Juliana et al., 2023).

Thus, the legal problems in the management of natural and marine resources in Indonesia are not only technical administrative issues or overlapping authorities but also touch on the fundamental aspects of the rule of law and social justice. The solution required is not only through regulatory revisions but also through a paradigm shift in the meaning of development and people's sovereignty over their natural resources. Harmonious synergy between the central and regional governments, active community participation, and consistent law enforcement are needed to ensure that Indonesia's natural wealth is truly managed fairly, sustainably, and in accordance with the mandate of the constitution and the values of Pancasila.

The concept of the rule of law in the Indonesian context emphasizes the importance of substantive justice and the role of Pancasila values in every public policy. Studies on decentralization and resource management show the need for a balance between regional autonomy and national coordination. Geographic Information Systems (GIS) have proven to be an important tool in mapping and archiving marine areas (Saputra et al., 2006). Legal spirituality has become a new approach to viewing law as an instrument of balance between humans, nature, and God. The concept of Pancasila Justice needs to be mainstreamed into the normative framework in the formulation of legal policies on marine governance and decentralization in Indonesia. Future academic studies in the field of governance law need to expand the elaboration of the application of Pancasila-based justice principles in the design of intergovernmental authority relations in order to strengthen the structure of Indonesian legal theory rooted in constitutional values and national socio-political realities.

The concept of justice based on Pancasila, particularly the fifth principle of "social justice for all Indonesian people," is a normative foundation that must serve as the main reference in the formulation and implementation of maritime zone management policies in Indonesia. Justice in this context is not merely the equitable distribution of the benefits of marine resource utilization, but also concerns equality of access, participation in decision-making, and protection of the rights of coastal communities, which have historically been the primary actors in the utilization and preservation of the sea. In this regard, Pancasila requires that marine management not only be based on economic and political considerations but also on ethical and humanistic considerations that take into account the values of humanity, togetherness, and environmental sustainability.

However, in practice, the enactment of Law No. 23 of 2014 on Regional Government has caused a major shift in the distribution of governmental authority, including in the maritime and fisheries sectors. One of the most significant changes is the transfer of authority over the management of the 0-12 nautical mile maritime zone from district/city governments to provincial governments (Delvina et al., 2024). The consequences of this change are not only administrative in nature but also greatly affect the structure of the relationship between coastal communities and their local governments. Regencies/cities, which were previously the main actors in the service, supervision, and utilization of marine resources, now have only limited authority, such as empowering fishermen, managing fish landing sites, and implementing social activities related to fisheries.

As a result, there is a structural disconnect between coastal communities and the local governments closest to them. When conflicts arise over fishing grounds, environmental damage, or the distribution of aid, communities can no longer directly convey their complaints and obtain solutions from district governments, because substantive authority has been transferred to the province. This is



exacerbated by the limited institutional capacity and human resources at the provincial level to handle the complexity of issues in the field, as well as the limited mechanisms for community participation in the planning and implementation of marine programs at the provincial level.

In this context, the idea of multi-stakeholder participation and agreement becomes very important (Kirana et al., 2025). Pancasila justice in future marine management can only be realized if all parties, including fishermen, coastal indigenous peoples, coastal women, academics, NGOs, local governments, and the private sector, are actively involved in the decision-making process. This participation should not be symbolic; it must be institutionalized in the form of formal forums, deliberations based on local wisdom, open public consultations, and participatory evaluation mechanisms for marine programs and policies.

Furthermore, the formulation of future marine policies must be based on the principle of "subsidiarity," which gives authority to the level of government that is closest and most familiar with the local context, as long as they have the capacity and commitment (Hanafi et al., 2025). This means that, in some aspects, there should be a reconstruction of authority that allows districts and cities to continue to play a substantive role in the management of marine areas, especially those that have a direct impact on local communities. This is not merely a matter of bureaucratic efficiency but rather a matter of fulfilling the basic rights of citizens to natural resources that are part of their living space.

By integrating the values of Pancasila justice, active stakeholder participation, and strengthening local institutions, the direction of future maritime authority management policies will not only address technical administrative issues but also build an inclusive, fair, and sustainable system. This is an important prerequisite for the realization of Indonesia's maritime sovereignty, which is not only oriented towards blue economy development but also deeply rooted in the values of social justice, local culture, and the sustainability of Indonesia's marine environment.

The concrete manifestation of the values of social justice, preservation of local culture, and marine environmental sustainability in the context of maritime authority in Indonesia requires real implementation that goes beyond normative regulations in the law. This must be demonstrated through policy measures, institutional arrangements, and collaborative actions between the government, the community, and other sectors so that it does not merely become a development slogan, but is truly felt by the community, especially coastal communities and small-scale fishermen.

From a social justice perspective, one concrete manifestation of this is the provision of fair access to marine resources. In this framework, the government needs to ensure that small-scale and traditional fishermen have equal rights and protection of their fishing grounds, including legal certainty over traditional fishing zones, priority in obtaining fishing permits in certain areas, and protection from destructive practices such as illegal fishing by large vessels. Justice also means fair distribution of benefits, for example, in the form of targeted subsidies, assistance with environmentally friendly fishing equipment, adequate fish landing facility infrastructure, and access to capital that favors vulnerable groups in coastal areas. All of this must involve regencies/cities even though formal authority lies with the provinces, so that services remain responsive and close to the community. In an effort to build a fair and sustainable reconstruction of coastal and marine resource management, the following theoretical framework is used to underpin the seven main pillars.

### 3.1. Compliance with the Principles of the Rule of Law (*Rechtsstaat*)

The rule of law, as affirmed in article 1, paragraph (3) of the 1945 Constitution, places the law as the basis and main reference in all government administration. This principle asserts that the state must be governed by law rather than by arbitrary decisions; therefore, all actions of government institutions must be grounded in clear, consistent, and fair legal norms. In the context of coastal and marine resource management, the principle of the rule of law requires that all authorities exercised by the central and regional governments be based on written laws that are clear, fair, and not in conflict with the constitution. This does not only concern the existence of legislation but also emphasizes the importance of the quality of the law, namely laws that are able to guaranty certainty, justice, and the protection of the rights of citizens, including the rights of coastal and indigenous communities over the natural resources that they have managed for generations.

The division of authority in coastal and marine area management must fulfill the principles of vertical clarity (between the central government, provinces, and districts/cities) and horizontal clarity (between related sectors). However, in practice, regulatory changes such as Law No. 23 of 2014, which transfers authority over marine management from districts/cities to provinces, are often carried out without adequate transitional arrangements and without cross-sectoral synchronization. This has led to legal disharmony, uncertainty in implementation in the field, and confusion over who is responsible for various aspects of management, from licensing and supervision to coastal ecosystem protection. This lack of clarity ultimately has the potential to violate the principle of the rule of law because it gives rise to policies that are not measurable and are prone to abuse.

Coastal governance in Indonesia has undergone significant legal and institutional transitions over the past three decades. Under Law No. 22/1999, districts and municipalities were granted authority over marine areas extending up to four nautical miles, enabling local governments to regulate licensing, conservation, and resource use in ways that are closer to community needs. [Delvina et al., \(2024\)](#) emphasize that this arrangement strengthened administrative responsiveness and allowed local institutions to participate in coastal management. However, Law No. 23/2014 radically altered this structure by reallocating control over the entire 0–12 nautical mile coastal zone to provincial governments. While the rationale was to streamline governance, [Widjaja \(2025\)](#) shows that the shift occurred without adequate preparation, leaving major gaps in institutional readiness, regulatory harmonization, and intergovernmental coordination. This transitional vacuum created uncertainty in roles and responsibilities, contradicting the rule-of-law requirement for clarity of authority.

The principle of compliance with the law as the foundation of the rule of law also requires that all regulations issued must reflect the constitutional spirit, namely that natural resources are controlled by the state and used as much as possible for the prosperity of the people ([Ghafur, 2021](#)). This means that the state not only acts as a regulator and supervisor, but must also be actively present in ensuring the fair distribution of benefits and protection for the affected communities. Compliance with this principle is the main foundation in efforts to reconstruct coastal and marine resource management to be more inclusive, sustainable, and equitable. This reconstruction must be directed at strengthening the role of local and indigenous communities, involving them in the planning and decision-making processes, and recognizing traditional rights that have often been neglected in the development process.

A core requirement of the rule of law is coherence among legal norms ([Ghafur, 2021](#)). Although consistency is essential to prevent conflicting interpretations and arbitrary decisions, Indonesia's coastal governance framework remains fragmented.

Ministries overseeing fisheries, shipping, energy, environment, and marine spatial planning issue overlapping regulations that often lack explicit normative alignment (Wirawan, 2024). Identifies multiple instances where sectoral regulations contradict one another or operate in silos, producing confusion among implementing agencies. The absence of harmonized norms leads to enforcement inconsistencies and regulatory conflict. This violates two pillars of rule of law theory: legal certainty and predictability. When legal frameworks are inconsistent, coastal communities, businesses, and local governments cannot reliably determine their rights and obligations, encouraging bureaucratic discretion and potential misuse of authority.

Talk about case illustration, the Bekasi sea-fence scandal exemplifies the dangers of weak rule-of-law implementation. Investigations by Kompas (2025) and Antara News (2025), revealed that fraudulent land certificates were issued for maritime areas through falsified maps and manipulated spatial data. These illegal certificates enabled unauthorized reclamation, resulting in environmental degradation and social conflict. Supratikta (2015) notes that this incident reflects the vacuum of authority created after districts lost maritime jurisdiction; local governments closest to the problem no longer possess the mandate to prevent or correct irregularities. The incident underscores the need for a stronger and more coherent legal framework to safeguard coastal resources.

Building fair and sustainable coastal resource management within the framework of the rule of law means placing the law as a tool for social transformation, not merely as an administrative instrument. The law must be able to bridge the interests of economic growth, environmental preservation, and the welfare of coastal communities. Therefore, regulatory arrangements must be made in a participatory manner, involving all stakeholders and ensuring that the resulting policies truly favor the community and the environment. The principles of legality, accountability, and social justice, which are the pillars of the rule of law, must always guide every step of Indonesia's maritime policy.

Thus, building a fair and sustainable coastal and marine resource management system requires a strong commitment to the principles of the rule of law. Compliance with fair and constitutional laws is not merely a formality, but rather an ethical and normative foundation for building people's sovereignty over their natural resources. This is an important step in avoiding exploitation that is detrimental to society and the environment, while ensuring that the management of Indonesia's marine wealth truly becomes a path to social justice as mandated in Pancasila and the 1945 Constitution.

### 3.2. A Balanced Central-Regional Relationship Model (Relative Autonomy)

Healthy decentralization in Indonesia's constitutional system is not merely about the delegation of authority but also about building a responsive, fair, and community-oriented system of government (Noor, 2012). In the context of coastal and marine resource management, this is particularly relevant because coastal areas are the living spaces for millions of local communities who depend on the sea and all its potential for their livelihoods. The principle of subsidiarity, an important part of decentralization, emphasizes that government affairs, including natural resource management, should be handled by the government unit closest to the community and most capable of implementing them effectively. In this case, district/city governments have a strategic position because they are at the forefront of public services and have direct interaction with coastal communities.

However, in practice, decentralization in the maritime sector has regressed. The transfer of authority over the management of the 0-4 nautical mile maritime zone from district/city governments to provincial governments based on Law No. 23 of



2014 has created imbalances in the structure of authority. The shift in authority brought by Law No. 23 of 2014 also reflects a deeper structural issue in Indonesia's decentralization framework, namely the tension between national uniformity and regional diversity. As highlighted by [Delvina et al., \(2024\)](#) the law intended to streamline marine governance by strengthening provinces as the sole subnational maritime authority. However, this centralizing tendency often neglects the nuanced ecological and socio-cultural variations that define coastal zones across Indonesia. Provinces, despite their broader territorial jurisdiction, remain institutionally distant from daily interactions with coastal communities. District governments, by contrast, possess more historical experience in managing coastal livelihoods, fisheries, and traditional resource systems. When marine management is transferred to a higher level without considering the local context, there is a risk that policies will be misguided, non-contextual, and even potentially cause resource conflicts with communities that feel they have lost their rights to their living space. Furthermore, the removal of district-level marine authority has led to the dissolution or weakening of participatory institutions that were once central to community-based coastal governance. Prior to 2014, many districts had established local marine task forces, coastal zoning councils, and community-based conservation committees. According to [Widjaja \(2025\)](#), these participatory forums became less relevant after authority shifted to the provinces, thereby diminishing institutional spaces where local voices could influence decision-making. As a result, provincial planning processes risk being technocratic, top-down, and less responsive to local aspirations.

In developing fair and sustainable coastal resource management, it is crucial to prioritize a balanced central-regional relationship model, known as the principle of relative autonomy ([Said, 2016](#)). This model does not emphasize the dominance of either party but rather builds a constructive partnership between the central and regional governments with a proportional, complementary division of authority based on local capacity and needs. This principle allows the central government to carry out its coordinating and regulatory functions at the national level, while local governments execute policy implementation and adaptation functions in accordance with the local context. Thus, vertical justice in governance can be achieved, while strengthening public trust in the state as the protector and manager of shared resources.

The reconstruction of coastal governance based on the principle of relative autonomy is also in line with the spirit of regional autonomy as stipulated in the 1945 Constitution and elaborated in various derivative regulations. This is crucial given the highly diverse characteristics of coastal areas, including ecological, social, cultural, and economic aspects. A centralized approach that is too uniform will not be able to address the specific challenges in each region. Therefore, it is necessary to develop legal and policy mechanisms that are flexible but still within the framework of a unitary state by promoting the principles of justice, sustainability, and active participation of local communities.

A balanced model of relative autonomy also requires the recognition that effective coastal management cannot be achieved solely through hierarchical authority structures. Instead, it requires a polycentric arrangement where decision-making power is distributed across multiple levels of government, communities, and non-state actors. This aligns with [Said \(2016\)](#) view that relative autonomy ensures complementarity allowing central government authority to provide legal coherence and national strategy, while local governments adapt and operationalize policies in ways that reflect local realities. The failure to adopt such polycentric arrangements has contributed to policy mismatches, enforcement gaps, and weakened institutional legitimacy in coastal governance.

From a governance perspective, the regression of decentralization has implications for public accountability. When authority is concentrated at the provincial level, the distance between policymakers and affected communities increases. [Kirana et al., \(2025\)](#) argue that accountability mechanisms function best when government authority aligns with proximity to citizens. For coastal communities whose livelihoods depend on timely and responsive governance, this distance exacerbates feelings of exclusion and distrust. In some regions, this has triggered local conflicts over licensing, marine zoning, or marine protected areas, especially when decisions are perceived as prioritizing industrial or external interests over community welfare.

In terms of economic development, the principle of relative autonomy supports diversified governance strategies. Many coastal economies, including small scale fisheries, seaweed cultivation, ecotourism, and traditional marine tenure systems, represent specific contexts. Local governments, with their comparative familiarity with local conditions, are better positioned to facilitate adaptive innovations, resolve local disputes, and integrate customary systems into modern legal frameworks. At the macro level, reinforcing relative autonomy can also support Indonesia's broader maritime vision, including the concept of Indonesia as a Global Maritime Fulcrum. Maritime security, blue economy, and conservation must be translated effectively at the local level to succeed. Indeed, the province alone cannot bridge this national local gap; district-level governments and community institutions are indispensable partners in operationalizing maritime policy across Indonesia's diverse coastal landscapes.

Finally, strengthening relative autonomy enhances resilience in the face of climate change. Coastal communities are among the most vulnerable to sea-level rise, coastal erosion, and extreme weather events. Local governments possess detailed knowledge of local vulnerabilities, making them essential frontline actors in adaptation strategies. Centralizing authority without restoring the complementary role of local governments diminishes the adaptive capacity of the governance system as a whole.

In this sense, relative autonomy is not merely a normative ideal but a practical framework for aligning constitutional principles, environmental realities, and community needs. It requires the creation of new cooperative mechanisms, including co-management platforms, multi-level marine councils, joint licensing procedures, and integrated coastal zone management frameworks that institutionalize collaboration between central, provincial, and district governments. These mechanisms ensure that authority is not simply divided but coordinated, harmonized, and exercised proportionally.

Thus, the development of a fair and sustainable coastal and marine resource management system requires the courage to revise overly centralized approaches towards a more decentralized and adaptive system. The principles of subsidiarity and relative autonomy are not merely technocratic solutions but manifestations of justice in central-regional relations, as well as respect for local wisdom and the rights of coastal communities to manage their living spaces. Within the framework of the rule of law and Pancasila democracy, this is an important step to ensure that marine resources are not only instruments of economic growth but also tools for fulfilling social justice and intergenerational sustainability.

### 3.3. Revitalization of the Medebewind Instrument

The importance of revitalizing medebewind in coastal governance becomes even clearer when viewed through the lens of Indonesia's long history of administrative arrangements. Historically, medebewind was designed as a pragmatic mechanism enabling the central government to execute national functions while still recognizing the practical strengths of local governments ([Koesoemahatmadja, 2019](#)). In the

coastal context, where ecological conditions vary dramatically from one region to another, medebewind offers a flexible governance tool that bridges national priorities with local realities.

In Indonesia's system of government, which adheres to the principles of a unitary state with decentralization, one of the important instruments in the relationship between the central and regional governments is the task of assistance (medebewind). The task of assistance is the delegation of tasks from the central government to regional governments to carry out some of the administrative affairs that are under the authority of the central government (Mahanani, 2017). In the context of coastal and marine resource management, the revitalization of assistance tasks is crucial as one of the main pillars in reconstructing a more equitable and sustainable governance system. This is important because, so far, the implementation of assistance tasks has often been perceived as merely an administrative burden rather than a means of empowering regions.

The revitalization of delegated tasks must be interpreted as a strategy for guidance, not domination. The central government should not only issue orders through technical regulations but also actively guide, mentor, and facilitate regions in carrying out these tasks. In this case, the approach used must be functional and collaborative, not hierarchical and bureaucratic. Coordination between central ministries/agencies and regional apparatus must be based on the principles of equality and shared responsibility for the management of resources that affect the livelihoods of the wider community, such as coastal and marine areas. Regions are not merely implementers of central government policies but active partners in the realization of national goals at the local level.

Within this framework, the revitalization of assistance tasks must be directed towards strengthening technical, institutional, and human resource capacities at the regional level. Many district/city governments have local knowledge, experience, and relevant institutional infrastructure for managing coastal areas. However, this potential is often marginalized due to the centralization of authority and weak support in the implementation of assistance tasks. If assistance tasks are positioned as a form of strategic partnership, then the central government is obliged to provide the budgetary support, training, data access, and technology needed by the regions to carry out these authorities effectively and contextually.

If medebewind were revitalized, it could serve as a structured mechanism for incorporating such local knowledge into national planning. Furthermore, in the context of sustainable coastal and marine resource management, assistance tasks can be an important vehicle for implementing a region-based ecosystem approach and ensuring the involvement of local communities in decision-making. With the active involvement of regions and communities, the implementation of assistance tasks can strengthen the legitimacy of public policies, increase the effectiveness of monitoring resource exploitation practices, and reduce development gaps between regions. In this case, the revitalization of assistance tasks is in line with the principles of ecological justice and social justice mandated by Pancasila and the 1945 Constitution.

A recurring problem in Indonesia's administrative culture is the perception that delegated tasks are synonymous with administrative burdens. Regions frequently receive new responsibilities without adequate budget allocations or training. This is inconsistent with good governance principles and undermines the potential of medebewind to equalize regional development. The empirical study conducted by Bailey & Pomeroy (2020) from Maluku, Flores, and West Papua shows that when communities are integrated into delegated management, compliance rates increase and ecological outcomes improve.

Thus, making the revitalization of assistance tasks one of the pillars in the reconstruction of coastal and marine resource governance means shifting the paradigm from merely delegating administrative tasks to a strategy of systematic regional guidance and empowerment. This not only creates more adaptive and participatory governance but also ensures that national marine development is strongly rooted in the regions and favors coastal communities as subjects of development. This approach also affirms the role of the state in bridging disparities and promoting interregional justice in accordance with the spirit of decentralization and the basic values of a democratic state based on the rule of law.

Ultimately, medebewind is not merely a legal mechanism; it is a democratic and constitutional mandate to ensure that the management of marine resources remains connected to the lives of coastal communities. Revitalizing medebewind affirms ecological justice (protecting ecosystems); distributive justice (ensuring fair access and benefits); and procedural justice (ensuring participation and accountability).

### 3.4. Internalization of Pancasila Values of Justice

Justice according to Pancasila has a meaning that far exceeds the boundaries of procedural justice, which focuses solely on legality and compliance with formal rules. Pancasila justice is substantive justice, namely justice based on the noble values contained in each principle of Pancasila: Belief in God, Humanity, Unity, Democracy, and Social Justice (Herawati, 2014). In the context of coastal and marine resource management, the internalization of these values is very important as a normative foundation for developing governance that is not only administratively legal but also morally and ethically valid, because it supports human welfare, environmental sustainability, and national integrity.

Substantive justice in the Pancasila framework emphasizes that the goal of governance is not simply compliance with regulations but the pursuit of human dignity, environmental balance, and collective welfare. Justice in coastal governance cannot be reduced merely to efficient licensing systems, legal certainty, or institutional hierarchy. It must extend to restoring the balance between humans and nature, ensuring the continuity of livelihoods, and protecting vulnerable populations living in coastal zones. In this sense, Pancasila justice becomes the philosophical anchor for responding to maritime inequality, ecological degradation, and exploitative resource extraction.

The value of Belief in God reminds us that humans have a spiritual and moral responsibility to treat nature as God's creation, not merely as an economic commodity. Therefore, coastal resource management must be carried out with full awareness of ecological responsibility and respect for the rights of indigenous and local communities, which often have religious and cultural values embedded in traditional sea management practices. This reflects the value of Humanity, which demands the protection of human dignity and basic rights, including the rights of coastal communities to living space, access to natural resources, and participation in policy-making processes that affect their livelihoods.

The spiritual dimension of Pancasila's first principle reinforces the moral obligation to uphold ecological ethics. Many coastal communities in Maluku, Papua, Bali, Lombok, and Sulawesi maintain customary marine governance systems *sasi laut*, *awig-awig*, *rombong adat*, *mane'e* which embody stewardship principles rooted in spirituality. Studies by Novaczek et al., (2001), Mangubhai, (2015), and Johannes (1998) show that these systems significantly reduce overfishing, restore coral reefs, and sustain fish populations. These findings affirm the Pancasila view that spirituality is not an abstract moral call but an operational principle embodied in centuries-old ecological wisdom.

Respect for human dignity is particularly relevant because coastal communities often encounter structural marginalization. According to the 2023 Marine and Fisheries in Figures report (KKP), more than 2.7 million small-scale fishers remain economically vulnerable and geographically isolated. Many of them face displacement pressures due to industrial fisheries, coastal reclamation, maritime tourism, and extractive industries. The principle of Humanity requires the state to ensure that these communities are not treated as obstacles to development but as rights-bearing citizens whose livelihoods must be protected.

The value of Unity teaches the importance of building harmony in marine governance, avoiding the domination of central interests over regions or corporations over local communities. Fair governance must strengthen social cohesion and solidarity between regions and prevent the emergence of structural inequalities resulting from uncontrolled exploitation. The principle of Democracy in Pancasila emphasizes the importance of active and equal community involvement in decision-making, including in the process of drafting regulations, licensing marine businesses, and monitoring policy implementation in the field. Justice will not be realized without authentic and inclusive participation from coastal communities as key stakeholders.

The principle of Unity highlights the imperative of preventing fragmentation and domination in marine governance. Unequal power relations between the state, corporations, and local communities often lead to resource conflicts, particularly in areas with overlapping claims such as fisheries zones, mining concessions, aquaculture licenses, and conservation areas. From the Pancasila perspective, these conflicts signal a breakdown of unity and solidarity. Authentic unity requires symmetrical respect between levels of government and across sectors. The excessive centralization of marine authority under Law No. 23/2014 has, in many cases, distanced governance from the communities most affected by marine policies. Pancasila Democracy demands the correction of such imbalances by strengthening deliberative processes.

The pinnacle is the principle of Social Justice for All Indonesian People, which is the main direction in every public policy, including in the maritime sector. Social justice in this context demands that the results of coastal resource management be enjoyed equally, not concentrated in the hands of a handful of parties who have capital and access to power. The internalization of the values of Pancasila justice requires the state to be actively present to ensure the redistribution of benefits, to provide protection to vulnerable groups such as traditional fishermen, coastal women, and indigenous peoples, and to ensure that environmental sustainability is not sacrificed for short-term gains.

Social justice is a central ethical principle underpinning Indonesia's maritime vision. However, significant structural inequalities persist in practice. According to the [Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries \(2022\)](#), 62% of income from marine economic activities is captured by medium to large scale industries, while small scale fishers, who constitute more than 95% of the fisher population receive less than 15%. This imbalance raises critical concerns regarding the realization of the Pancasila principle of distributive justice. Access to coastal space is also unequal: coastal reclamation projects have displaced over 30,000 small scale fishers across Java and Sumatra in the last decade ([Wijayanti et al., 2022](#)).

Thus, making the values of Pancasila justice a pillar in the reconstruction of coastal and marine resource management means placing justice as a principle of national and state life, not merely a formal legal aspect. This encourages a paradigm shift from purely economy-based management towards management based on social ethics and ecological sustainability. Laws and policies formulated in the spirit of Pancasila will be able to create a system that favors humans and nature,



strengthens participatory democracy, and ensures intergenerational sustainability. This is the face of governance that is not only legally valid but also morally, socially, and ecologically just, as envisioned in the foundations of the Indonesian state.

Governance paradigm based on Pancasila values requires recalibrating national marine policies to uphold intergenerational justice. The sustainability of Indonesia's coastal resources has been threatened by climate change, sea-level rise, and declining fish stocks. [The Indonesian Institute of Sciences LIPI \(2021\)](#) warns that 34% of coral reefs and 40% of mangroves are degraded. Pancasila justice mandates that current generations must not exhaust ecological capital at the expense of future generations. This vision aligns with global frameworks such as the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) point 14: Life Below Water, and the FAO Voluntary Guidelines on Small-Scale [\(Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, 2015\)](#) which emphasize equity, participation, ecosystem sustainability, and human rights. Indonesia's maritime governance, when rooted in Pancasila, can serve as a model of ethical, inclusive, and ecologically grounded development.

### 3.5. Strengthening Local Institutions

In developing fair and sustainable coastal and marine resource governance, strengthening local institutions is a strategic pillar that cannot be ignored. Local institutions, such as customary institutions, fishing cooperatives, and community forums, are manifestations of living law, which is law that exists within society and is formed through social practices passed down from generation to generation. The existence of these institutions reflects a system of values, local knowledge, and resource management mechanisms that have been socially and ecologically tested. In the context of a democratic state based on the rule of law, the recognition and strengthening of local institutions are important not only for cultural reasons but also as a concrete step towards achieving social justice and environmental sustainability.

In coastal regions, where ecological changes occur rapidly and livelihood systems are highly dependent on natural cycles, living law provides adaptive mechanisms that are responsive, contextually grounded, and socially legitimate. This characteristic aligns with the broader framework of adaptive governance promoted by [Ostrom \(2015\)](#), which emphasizes the importance of polycentric systems that empower local communities as co-managers of natural resources. Thus, strengthening local institutions is not merely symbolic; it strengthens Indonesia's capacity to govern its marine territory in ways that are agile, culturally embedded, and ecologically sound.

Often, in the practice of overly centralized and technocratic marine governance, local institutions are marginalized. Formal regulations often do not recognize the role of customary law or community structures that have regulated the sustainable use of resources, such as the *sasi* system in Maluku, *awig-awig* in Bali, or *lubuk larangan* in Sumatra. In fact, these institutions have played an important role in maintaining a balance between resource use and conservation, as well as in preventing horizontal conflicts between community members. When the state fails to recognize and integrate these systems into the national legal framework, the result is the marginalization of local communities and the opening of space for the domination of outside actors, whether corporations or local elites with access to power.

Evidence from various regions supports the argument that ignoring local institutions results in resource degradation and increased conflict. A study by [Mangubhai \(2015\)](#) in Maluku shows that the weakening of the *sasi* system, following the expansion of commercial fisheries, led to declining fish stocks and higher rates of

intra-community disputes. Similarly, in Bali, *awig-awig* regulations contributed significantly to reef conservation; yet, their authority diminished when tourism-driven coastal development accelerated without community consultation (Sardiana, 2018). These findings highlight the persistent tension between centralized decision-making and local autonomy.

Strengthening local institutions is also an effective strategy to prevent the monopolization of resources by elites or large investors. Fishermen's cooperatives and community forums, for example, can be tools for more equitable economic distribution. They play a role in strengthening the bargaining position of small-scale fishermen in the market, facilitating access to assistance and technology, and providing a space for deliberation in consensus-based decision-making. In addition, strong local institutions can be strategic partners for the state in implementing monitoring, conservation, and climate change mitigation in coastal areas because they have contextual knowledge that external actors do not possess.

Fishing cooperatives (*koperasi nelayan*) historically serve as economic stabilizers for coastal households by providing collective bargaining power, shared infrastructure, and pooled resources for capital-intensive activities. However, the cooperative model began to weaken when industrial fisheries expanded into small-scale fishing grounds, as indicated by FAO (2020), which documented declining profit margins for small-scale fishers across Southeast Asia due to competition with large fleets. Strengthening fishing cooperatives through access to microfinance, cold-chain facilities, collective marketing schemes, and government-backed insurance aligns with Pancasila's principle of economic democracy.

When institutions are strong, they become custodians of ecological knowledge, cultural values, and collective memory assets that state agencies or corporations cannot replicate. In this regard, strengthening local institutions enables Indonesia to operationalize climate-resilient, community-centered marine governance.

Within the framework of sustainable marine governance, strengthening local institutions is also a tangible manifestation of the values of Pancasila, particularly social justice and democracy. It creates a space for genuine participation, not just symbolic participation. The state cannot manage marine resources on its own; it needs the collective hands of the communities that have long lived alongside the sea. Therefore, national regulations must begin to recognize local institutions not as complementary but as legitimate and strategic legal entities. This can be done through the legal recognition of customary institutions, integration of local mechanisms in the licensing process, and provision of space for co-management between the government and local communities. Genuine participation requires more than public consultations or socialization sessions; it requires shared authority. The principle of Pancasila Democracy emphasizes deliberation and shared responsibility, values that resonate deeply with co-management literature.

Thus, strengthening local institutions as a pillar in the reconstruction of coastal and marine resource governance is a strategic and normative step. It is strategic because it addresses the issue of inequality and promotes the effectiveness of community-based management. It is normative because it is in line with the spirit of the constitution and the values of Pancasila, which place humanity, society, and the environment in a single ethical unity. Amidst the challenges of the ecological crisis and economic inequality, strengthening local institutions is the path towards the people's sovereignty over their living space, as well as the foundation for a more just, democratic, and sustainable future for Indonesia's marine sector.

The notion of people's sovereignty over their living space becomes more urgent as Indonesia faces accelerating ecological crises. Sea-level rise threatens more than 199 coastal districts; fish stock recovery remains slow; and mangrove degradation, though improving, still affects thousands of households. Local institutions are the

frontline defenders of ecological stability. Their ability to mobilize communities, enforce customary norms, and maintain social cohesion makes them invaluable assets in safeguarding marine ecosystems.

Therefore, strengthening local institutions is both a moral necessity and a strategic investment. In the long term, Indonesia's maritime resilience will depend not only on national policies but also on the vitality of the institutions that stand closest to the sea and the people who depend on it.

### 3.6. Integration of GIS Technology as a Permanent Archive

In the digital age, and with the increasing complexity of coastal and marine resource management, the integration of Geographic Information Systems (GIS) has become a key pillar that cannot be ignored. GIS serves as a vital tool for recording, storing, managing, and analyzing spatial data related to coastal and marine areas (Isawisuda, 2013). More than just mapping technology, GIS is a bridge that connects the narrative dimension of law with the visual and analytical reality of geography. In the context of reconstructing fair and sustainable marine governance, GIS functions not only as an administrative tool but also as a Permanent Archive that stores historical, social, ecological, and legal traces integrated into an accurate and transparent information system.

One of the main problems in coastal management so far has been the weakness of spatially accountable documentation. Many coastal agrarian conflicts and maritime disputes arise due to the absence of valid maps or discrepancies between technical maps and administrative legal decisions. This is where GIS plays an important role. Through GIS, data on customary boundaries, conservation zones, fish migration routes, traditional fishing areas, and marine business permits can be recorded and visualized transparently and accurately. This makes GIS not only a technical tool but also an instrument of spatial justice that strengthens legal legitimacy and protects the rights of local communities.

GIS fundamentally transforms legal governance by providing spatial clarity that written law alone cannot achieve. Many marine laws, such as zoning regulations, fishing rights, and conservation boundaries, require precise geographic interpretation. Without GIS, legal provisions become ambiguous. Coastal boundaries, for instance, frequently shift due to erosion, deposition, and tidal dynamics. GIS allows continuous updates, ensuring that legal instruments reflect real conditions.

As a permanent archive, GIS also supports sustainable governance. Spatial information stored systematically in GIS enables more accurate long-term planning that is adaptive to change. For example, in dealing with the impacts of climate change, such as sea level rise or coastal erosion, GIS can provide historical data and spatial projections that are essential for developing evidence-based mitigation and adaptation policies. Moreover, the integration of GIS into the government system enables data synchronization between the central and regional governments, between sectors, and between national policies and local needs.

From the perspective of social justice and recognition of coastal communities, GIS also serves as a tool for democratizing information. When spatial data is made public and accessible to the community, there is transparency in the licensing, monitoring, and evaluation processes. Fishermen, indigenous communities, and local cooperatives can use this data to advocate for their rights, reject business permits that violate traditional fishing grounds, or propose conservation zones based on local knowledge. This makes GIS a tool for empowerment, not just an elite technology controlled by bureaucracies or large corporations.

Thus, the integration of GIS technology as a permanent archive not only strengthens the technical aspects of coastal management but also becomes a

normative and strategic foundation for building a fair and sustainable governance system. GIS will provide a scientific, legal, and participatory information framework in a single, integrated system. In the spirit of the rule of law and Pancasila values, particularly social justice and democracy, GIS enables data-driven decision-making that favors a balance between exploitation and preservation, between the rights of the state and the rights of the people, and between development and sustainability. This is the true embodiment of technology that is not only sophisticated but also fair, open, and oriented towards a shared future.

### 3.7. Cosmic Consciousness and Legal Spirituality

Cosmic consciousness is a worldview that places humans as an inseparable part of the universe, not as its absolute rulers (Purwanto, 2023). In this perspective, humans are not entities that stand above nature but are part of a larger network of life whose balance must be maintained. Cosmic consciousness gives rise to a perspective that respects nature as a partner in life, not merely as a resource. In the context of coastal and marine resource management, this awareness is very important because coastal areas are fragile ecosystems that contain extraordinary biological wealth and are also the living spaces of millions of people. However, management approaches have been dominated by exploitative and purely economic logic, ignoring the deeper ecological values of balance.

This is where the importance of integrating legal spirituality as a normative and ethical foundation in rebuilding a civilized governance system lies. Legal spirituality does not mean narrowly mixing law with religion, but rather instilling moral values, ecological ethics, and spiritual awareness in every process of formulating and implementing laws. Law should not merely be a tool of power or economic interests, but must be a way for humans to serve others and the earth as our shared home. In this context, law must be able to glorify life, uphold human values, and preserve the sustainability of creation. This is what makes law truly alive and civilized, not just written rules, but a reflection of collective moral consciousness.

Coastal degradation in Indonesia, whether through overfishing, destructive practices, coral mining, reclamation, or pollution, stems from an anthropocentric mindset that treats the sea merely as an economic frontier. Cosmic consciousness fundamentally challenges this worldview. It situates humans as embedded beings within the cosmos, whose existence depends on maintaining harmony with natural forces. Such awareness shifts the purpose of marine governance from maximizing extraction toward sustaining life. This approach resonates with many indigenous coastal philosophies in Indonesia, where the sea is treated as a sentient entity with moral standing. Communities in Maluku speak of the sea as *inan tanah* (the mother of land), while Bajau peoples embrace a cosmology where humans, sea spirits, and marine species form a relational community. These perspectives offer a more ethical foundation than classical resource-management paradigms that prioritize profit or state control.

Building coastal and marine resource management with a cosmic awareness and legal spirituality approach means laying a solid ethical foundation in the entire policy-making process. Marine policy should not be based solely on economic data and formal law, but must also consider ecosystem balance, the rights of other living beings, and the voices of local communities, who are often the guardians of cosmic values passed down from generation to generation. In many indigenous coastal communities in Indonesia, the sea is not only seen as a source of food but as a living entity that is respected and protected through rituals, customary prohibitions, and conservation practices based on spirituality. These values should not be dismissed by state law but rather integrated as an ethical heritage that enriches national governance.

Legal spirituality provides the moral compass needed to translate cosmic consciousness into regulatory frameworks. It emphasizes that law must restrain destructive human impulses, elevate collective welfare, and embed compassion into decision-making. This aligns with contemporary “earth jurisprudence” and “ecocentric” law theories, which argue that nature possesses intrinsic value and that legal protection should reflect that value.

Furthermore, the application of the principles of cosmic consciousness and legal spirituality also serves as a corrective to overly technocratic and materialistic approaches to development. Amidst the global environmental crisis and climate change that threaten the future of humanity, we need a legal framework that is not only rational but also wise. The awareness that environmental damage is a form of ethical and spiritual violation of the cosmic order can be a transformative force in designing a more holistic legal system. Within this framework, coastal and marine development is no longer seen solely as an economic project, but as a collective effort to maintain harmony between humans, nature, and the Creator.

Integrating cosmic consciousness into coastal and marine governance demands a fundamental transformation in how the state, policymakers, and society view the relationship between human beings and the marine environment. While contemporary governance frameworks often rely heavily on economic indicators and measurable outputs, cosmic consciousness calls for a deeper ontological shift: from governance for control to governance for harmony. This shift is crucial because coastal ecosystems coral reefs, mangroves, seagrass meadows, and estuaries are not merely ecological assets but interdependent life systems whose health determines the wellbeing of millions of people and the stability of the planet.

Thus, making cosmic consciousness and legal spirituality pillars in the reconstruction of coastal and marine resource management means building a legal civilization based on wisdom, not merely power. This is an effort to restore the law to its true identity as the protector of life and guardian of the balance of the universe. Amidst global challenges and local inequalities, this approach provides a new direction towards a fair, sustainable, and dignified governance system one that is not only legally valid but also consistent with universal ethical values and cosmic wisdom.

Throughout the Indonesian archipelago, indigenous cosmologies have long guided marine stewardship. Communities in Maluku practice *sasi*, communities in Nusa Tenggara honor *oro wone* and *tana pu’u*, Papuan tribes view the sea as a spiritual elder, and Balinese customary law sees the ocean as one of the sacred realms of *Tri Hita Karana*. These traditions emphasize balance, harmony, reciprocity, and ritual care. Cosmic consciousness aligns perfectly with these practices. The challenge is how national law can recognize and institutionalize them without reducing their spiritual essence.

Based on the description of the seven main pillars in building a fair and sustainable reconstruction of coastal and marine resource governance, as outlined above, concrete and measurable steps need to be taken immediately by the government, civil society, and all stakeholders, including:

1. The government needs to conduct regulatory audits and harmonize policies related to coastal and marine area management that have been overlapping or even contradicting the principles of substantive justice and the spirit of decentralization. Policy revisions, especially after the enactment of Law No. 23 of 2014, which revokes the authority of regencies/cities, must reconsider the principles of subsidiarity and relative autonomy. This can begin with the formulation of government regulations or affirmative policies that return some of the authority for marine management to the regions, along with capacity building.



2. A concrete functional coordination system needs to be established between the central government, provinces, and districts/cities in the form of a joint governance forum, particularly for the implementation of assistance tasks in the coastal sector. The central government should not only assign tasks but also actively nurture and facilitate. To that end, it is important to establish a national framework for regional guidance and assistance in marine resource management.
3. The internalization of Pancasila values of justice must be implemented in the legislative process and the formulation of participatory policies. All policies and permits in coastal areas must go through a public consultation mechanism and a social justice test, which ensures that coastal communities, including vulnerable groups, have a voice and protection.
4. Local institutions should be strengthened through formal recognition of customary law systems, fishing cooperatives, and coastal community forums as legal entities that have the right to play a role in marine governance. This can be realized through the drafting of Regional Regulations on the Recognition and Protection of Local Coastal Institutions, as well as the integration of these institutions into the coastal area development planning system.
5. The development and utilization of Geographic Information Systems (GIS) must become a national policy that is implemented by all coastal regions. The government must build an integrated GIS platform that is open access and accessible to the public to avoid overlapping use of marine space and to serve as an instrument of transparency and accountability. This data must include information on zoning, traditional fishing areas, conservation areas, business licenses, and indigenous peoples' rights.
6. Education and training in ecological law and cosmic awareness for policymakers, law enforcement officials, and regional leaders need to be included in the state institutional training curriculum. The values of legal spirituality and ecological ethics must be part of the regulatory approach so that the law not only contains formal legal aspects but also ethical and civilized values in human and natural relations.
7. A Center for Coastal and Marine Governance Reform should be established immediately as a cross-sectoral institution tasked with overseeing the reconstruction of governance based on the seven pillars. This institution could be under the direct coordination of the Ministry of Maritime Affairs and Fisheries, involving relevant ministries, academics, indigenous peoples, fishermen, and non-governmental organizations.

The above efforts must be carried out simultaneously and in an integrated manner by strengthening the institutional, legal, and public participation frameworks as a whole. By making the seven pillars the foundation of the normative and operational framework, Indonesia can build a coastal and marine governance system that is not only legally strong but also socially just, ecologically sustainable, and morally dignified.

#### 4. Conclusion

The reconstruction of coastal and marine resource management based on the seven main pillars is a comprehensive effort to build governance that is not only administratively effective but also socially just, ecologically sustainable, and ethically dignified. Through the affirmation of the principle of the rule of law, the balance of central-regional relations, the revitalization of assistance tasks, the internalization of Pancasila values of justice, the strengthening of local institutions, the integration of GIS technology as a permanent archive, and cosmic awareness and

legal spirituality, we are directed towards a system capable of uniting the power of law, local wisdom, technology, and human values into a harmonious whole. These pillars are not merely a technical agenda but a moral and constitutional foundation for realizing the management of the sea as a fair living space for present and future communities.

The analysis demonstrates that an effective and just governance system requires a balanced configuration of authority, where central regional relations operate within the framework of the rule of law, substantive justice, decentralization, medebewind collaboration, community empowerment, digital spatial transparency, and cosmic ethical awareness. The findings confirm that hierarchical and overly centralized arrangements such as the authority shift under Law No. 23 of 2014 tend to marginalize local capacities and weaken community-based institutions that are essential for sustainable coastal governance. Conversely, a model that integrates relative autonomy, strengthened local institutions, reliable spatial archives (GIS), and ethical ecological values provides a more coherent foundation for building a just, participatory, and sustainable system of marine resource management. In this context, the appropriate relationship between provincial and regency/city governments is one that is collaborative, complementary, and grounded in the lived realities of coastal communities.

As a concrete step, it is recommended that the government immediately harmonize regulations that prioritize the decentralization of coastal management authority while strengthening local institutions through legal recognition and capacity building. On the other hand, the integrated development and application of Geographic Information Systems (GIS) must be accelerated to support transparency and accountability and integrated with the values of Pancasila justice and cosmic awareness in every policy, so as to create coastal and marine resource management that is truly fair, sustainable, and dignified.

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