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BLUE ECONOMY POTENTIAL ANALYSIS: THE ROLE OF THE FISHERIES SECTOR IN THE SORONG SPECIAL ECONOMIC ZONE DEVELOPMENT POLICY

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Abstrak

This study aims to analyze the potential of the blue economy concept in the fisheries sector to support the development of the Sorong Special Economic Zone (SEZ) in West Papua. The research focuses on the contribution of fisheries to the regional economy and the sustainable management of marine resources. Using a quantitative descriptive method, the analysis employs the Location Quotient (LQ) and Shift Share Analysis (SSA) to identify key sectors and assess regional competitiveness. The findings indicate that the agriculture, forestry, and fisheries sector in Sorong experienced fluctuating contributions to the Gross Regional Domestic Product (GRDP) between 2019 and 2023, with a significant decline in 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. However, the sector showed recovery in subsequent years and became a base sector in 2023, as indicated by an LQ value greater than 1. These results highlight the strategic role of fisheries in regional economic growth and the urgency to adopt a sustainable development approach. Strengthening investment, improving fisheries infrastructure, and empowering local fishers are essential strategies. The integration of the blue economy into SEZ policy can promote inclusive economic development and support the achievement of SDGs, particularly Goals 8 and 14.

Keywords

Blue economy; Kawasan Ekonomi Khusus; Perikanan; SDGs; Kebijakan

INTRODUCTION

One of the key indicators for assessing the dynamics of a region's economic development is the rate of economic growth. Although often used interchangeably, there is a fundamental difference between the concepts of economic growth and economic development. Economic development is defined as a process aimed at increasing real per capita income over the long term, involving structural changes and institutional transformation (Arsyad, 2010). In contrast, economic growth focuses more on the increase in output, such as Gross Domestic Product (GDP) or Gross National Product (GNP), without taking into account the balance between population growth and structural changes in the economy (Todaro & Smith, 2011). In another sense, economic growth is also understood as the increase in a country's capacity to provide goods and services to its people over the long term (Kuznets in Todaro & Smith, 2011). Iskandar (2013) adds that economic growth can be measured by the increase in national income over a certain period, and Sukirno (2011) emphasizes that the development of economic activities that increase the volume of goods and services will enhance societal welfare.

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Within the framework of sustainable development, the concept of the blue economy has become a vital strategy for optimizing marine and coastal resources without neglecting environmental conservation. The World Bank (2017) defines the blue economy as a development approach that emphasizes a balance between the exploitation of marine resources and ecosystem protection, aiming to generate long-term economic benefits for both communities and marine environments. Sorong Regency in West Papua Province is an area with significant maritime economic potential, particularly in the fisheries sector. If managed with a sustainable and modern approach, the fisheries sector could become a key driver of regional economic growth.

The Sorong Special Economic Zone (SEZ) is designed as a hub for the development of industries based on natural resources, including the fisheries sector. Therefore, a comprehensive understanding of this sector's contribution to the regional economy is essential. One indicator that can be used to measure the contribution of the fisheries sector is the Gross Regional Domestic Product (GRDP). An analysis of the GRDP development in the fisheries sector is expected to provide a clear picture of the sector's economic contribution, as well as the challenges faced in formulating blue economy-based policies.

Table 1. Gross Regional Domestic Product (GRDP) of Sorong Regency at Constant Prices by Industry, 2019–2023

Year	Agriculture, Forestry, and Fisheries (Billion Rupiah)
2019	786,5
2020	756,0
2021	770,9
2022	794,4
2023	784,7

Source : BPS

Data dalam The data in **Table 1.** shows a fluctuating trend in the GRDP of the Agriculture, Forestry, and Fisheries sector in Sorong Regency during the 2019–2023 period. There was a significant decline from 786.5 billion rupiahs in 2019 to 756.0 billion rupiahs in 2020, caused by the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on supply chains and fishing activities. However, the sector began to recover in 2021, reaching 770.9 billion rupiahs and continued to increase to 794.4 billion rupiahs in 2022. Unfortunately, a slight decline occurred in 2023 to 784.7 billion rupiahs, indicating challenges in maintaining the sector's growth.

This study aims to: (i) Analyze the potential for optimizing the blue economy concept in the fisheries sector within the Sorong Special Economic Zone (SEZ), focusing on sustainable marine resource management that supports long-term benefits for both communities and marine ecosystems, in alignment with SDG 8 and SDG 14; (ii) Measure the contribution of the fisheries sector to the GRDP of West Papua during 2019–2023 and identify the factors causing significant fluctuations, particularly the sharp decline in 2022, in relation to sustainable economic growth under SDG 8; (iii) Formulate policy strategies to increase investment, improve fisheries infrastructure, and support fishers and fisheries entrepreneurs in driving economic recovery and development, supporting the sustainability of the economy and marine ecosystems in accordance with SDG 8 and SDG 14.

In terms of methodology, this study employs a quantitative descriptive approach using Location Quotient (LQ) and Shift Share Analysis (SSA) as analytical tools to identify leading sectors and measure the competitiveness of the fisheries sector in Sorong Regency. Preliminary results from the LQ analysis indicate that the Agriculture,

Forestry, and Fisheries sector became a basic sector in 2023, with an LQ value of 1.08, suggesting that this sector plays a more significant role compared to the national average. This highlights a strategic opportunity to promote the fisheries sector as a backbone of economic growth in the Sorong SEZ.

By integrating economic analysis, sustainable resource management, and data-driven policy recommendations, this study is expected to make a meaningful contribution to the formulation of sustainable and inclusive maritime development strategies in West Papua.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Blue Economy Concept

The concept of the blue economy is a development approach that relies on the sustainable use of marine resources. According to the World Bank (2017), the blue economy emphasizes the importance of balancing the exploitation of marine resources with the protection of their ecosystems to generate long-term economic benefits. Pauli (2010) also added that the blue economy encourages innovation in marine-based production systems that are not only efficient but also environmentally friendly. In Indonesia, the implementation of this concept is considered strategic in driving the transformation of coastal development and accelerating the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly SDGs 8 (inclusive economic growth) and SDGs 14 (marine ecosystems).

Fisheries Sector and Regional Economic Contribution

The fisheries sector is a leading sector in Indonesia's maritime economy. Radiarta et al. (2016) emphasized that developing a blue economy-based fisheries sector can increase the added value of catches, shorten distribution chains, and ensure the sustainability of fisheries stocks. Based on data from the Central Statistics Agency (2019–2023), the GRDP of the agriculture, forestry, and fisheries sector in Sorong Regency shows a fluctuating trend, reflecting the importance of policy support and investment for this sector to provide a stable contribution to the regional economy.

Location Analysis and Competitiveness of Leading Sectors

Analysis of leading sectors in the context of regional economic planning is generally conducted using the Location Quotient (LQ) and Shift Share Analysis (SSA) methods. Kurniawati & Cahyono (2022) explain that LQ is used to identify core sectors, while SSA analyzes the influence of national growth and local competitiveness on the performance of specific sectors. Both methods are useful in providing an overview of the potential of leading sectors that can be developed to drive region-based economic growth.

Sorong Special Economic Zone and Maritime Potential

The Sorong Special Economic Zone (SEZ) was established as a center for economic growth in West Papua, particularly based on marine natural resources. Supardi et al. (2022) demonstrated that the Sorong SEZ has advantages in the fisheries and seafood processing industries. However, the effectiveness of this area depends heavily on the successful integration of blue economy policies and optimizing the fisheries sector's contribution to the regional GRDP.

DEVELOPMENT HYPOTHESIS

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Based on the literature review above, the hypotheses proposed in this study are:

H1: The fisheries sector contributes significantly to Sorong Regency's GRDP within the framework of blue economy development.

H2: Fluctuations in the fisheries sector's contribution to GRDP are influenced by external factors such as the COVID-19 pandemic, as well as internal factors such as infrastructure and investment.

H3: Implementing blue economy-based policies can increase the competitiveness of the fisheries sector and support the achievement of SDGs 8 and 14 in the Sorong Special Economic Zone (SEZ).

METHOD

This study uses a quantitative descriptive method that aims to analyze the influence of variables such as Gross Regional Domestic Product (GRDP), fishery production, production value, and labor on the development of Special Economic Zones (SEZs) in Sorong Regency. This approach was conducted using Location Quotient (LQ) analysis, which was then developed to evaluate the contribution and advantages of these sectors to economic growth and the implementation of the blue economy concept. The data used in this study consisted of secondary data obtained through official documents, statistical reports, and publications from the Central Statistics Agency (BPS) and other relevant institutions.

1. FIRST STAGE: LOCATION QUOTIENT (LQ) ANALYSIS

$$LQ = \frac{\frac{SI}{NI}}{\frac{NI}{N}} = \frac{\frac{SI}{S}}{\frac{NI}{N}}$$

Description :
Si = GRDP of sector i in study area k (district/city)
S = Total GRDP of all sectors in study area k
Ni = GRDP of sector i in reference area p (province)
N = Total GRDP of all sectors in reference area p

$$DLQ = \left| \frac{1 + average\ growth\ in\ the\ value\ of\ commodity\ i\ (subdistrict)}{1 + average\ growth\ in\ total\ value\ (subdistrict)} \right| \frac{1 + average\ growth\ in\ the\ value\ of\ commodity\ i\ (district))}{1 + average\ growth\ in\ total\ value\ (district)}$$

If the SLQ value in sector i > 1, it means that the role of sector i in region k is superior to the role of sector i in region p, so sector i is a leading sector. Meanwhile, if the SLQ value in sector i < 1, it means that the role of sector i in region k is less superior than the role of sector i in region p, so sector i is not a leading sector.

Tabel 2. LQ Analysis Results

Sector	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Agriculture, Forestry, and Fisheries	0,904974798	0,907165141	0,894006707	0,920548085	1,083675862
Mining	1,043347533	0,93019447	0,93474222	0,93430854	0,794944527
Management Industry	1,507006277	1,53110250	1,536080857	1,517850315	1,220366876

Electricity and Gas Supply	0,672584202	0,714379783	0,681385778	0,703127446	0,771793017
Water Supply, Waste Management, Wastewater, and Motorcycles	0,537694543	0,545815876	0,539844436	0,543574195	0,846824086
Constructions	0,85877380	0,887819111	0,949904979	0,981050567	1,28630551
Wholesale and Retail Trade: Car and Motorcycle Repair	0,465464448	0,485015207	0,481312331	0,471124799	0,692537542
Warehouse Transportation	0,236237874	0,257491083	0,261506331	0,250885821	0,363394481
Provision of Food and Beverage Accommodation	0,367289778	0,386576525	0,382155937	0,35868509	0,462131165
Information & Communication	0,20790775	0,206651841	0,206737954	0,206809364	0,351771941
Financial Services & Insurance	0,420801549	0,430575318	0,38653791	0,386941458	0,503054384
Real Estate	0,309230045	0,329093428	0,328408823	0,524752247	0,841629878
Corporate Services	0,579640643	0,563296149	0,551099203	0,524752247	0,841629878
Government Administration, Defense, and Mandatory Social Security	0,738823518	0,759869097	0,738438103	0,73956231	0,800050746
Education Services	0,646859433	0,640876867	0,631027963	0,632302573	0,938562032
Health Services	0,558070468	0,569000847	0,542397589	0,577520321	0,770161698
Other Services	0,29590718	0,299550162	0,296450383	0,298489228	0,448334538

Source: BPS, processed

From the Location Quotient (LQ) results, it can be seen that there are several sectors that are base sectors, namely Manufacturing, Construction, and Agriculture, Forestry, and Fisheries. These sectors play a major role in the regional economy because their contribution is higher than the national average. Conversely, sectors such as Trade, Transportation, Financial Services, and Information & Communication have not yet

become core sectors, meaning their role in the regional economy is still smaller than the national scale. However, these sectors still have the potential to grow with the right strategies, such as through infrastructure development, improved market access, or better policy support.

2. Second Stage: *Shift Share* Analysis

Calculating Shift Share

Calculate the absolute change in ADHK GRDP obtained from the reduction in 2023 compared to 2019 in all sectors. Then, presenting these changes, through this grouping we can determine whether the sector has experienced positive changes or the opposite. If Mij < 0, the sector's growth rate is slow; if Mij > 0, the growth rate is fast; if Cij < 0, it has low competitiveness compared to the reference region; if Cij > 0, it has high competitiveness compared to the reference region.

Classifying Sectors into *Klassen Typology*

Based on the 4 Quadrants, namely Leading Sectors with an LQ index > 1 and SS (Cij+1), Potential Sectors if LQ < 1 and SS (Cij+1), still included in Potential Sectors if LQ > 1 and SS (Cij-1), and Underdeveloped Sectors if LQ < and SS (Cij-1).

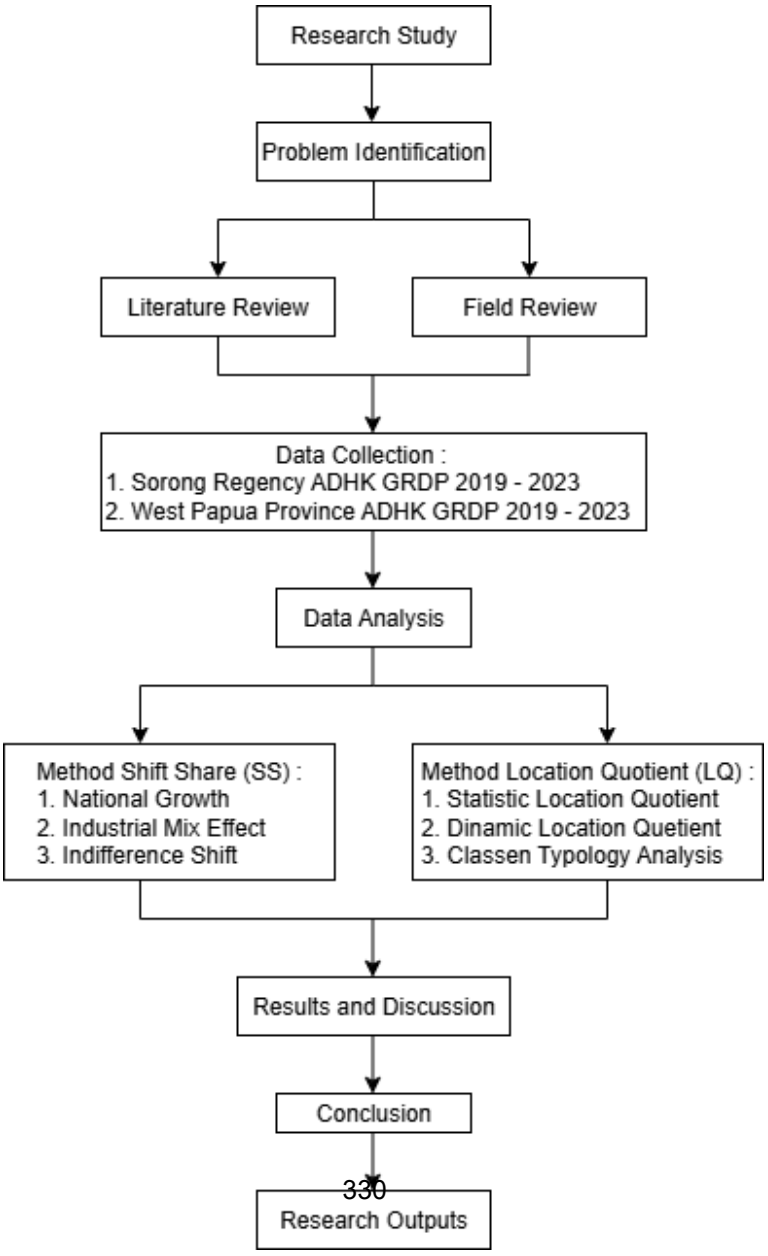

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Figure 1. Research Flow Chart

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RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

This section presents the results of research on the development of Special Economic Zones (SEZs) in Sorong Regency using two analytical approaches, namely Location Quotient (LQ) and Shift Share. LQ analysis is used to identify base sectors that have a competitive advantage in Sorong Regency compared to the West Papua Province as a reference. Meanwhile, the Shift Share analysis is used to examine the dynamics of economic sector growth, both from national growth and local competitive advantages, to understand the contribution of these sectors to regional economic growth. The use of both methods is expected to provide a comprehensive overview of the leading sectors that can drive the acceleration of SEZ development and identify the potential and challenges in the effort to develop the area sustainably. The discussion in this chapter will be structured systematically, beginning with the results of the LQ analysis, followed by the results of the Shift Share analysis, and the interpretation of both results to formulate strategic recommendations for the development of the SEZ in Sorong Regency.

ANALYSIS LOCATION QUOTIENT (LQ)

Table 3. LQ Results

Sector	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Agriculture, Forestry, and Fisheries	0,904974798	0,907165141	0,894006707	0,920548085	1,083675862
Mining	1,043347533	0,930194472	0,93474222	0,93430854	0,794944527
Management Industry	1,507006277	1,531102506	1,536080857	1,517850315	1,220366876
Electricity and Gas Supply	0,672584202	0,714379783	0,681385778	0,703127446	0,771793017
Water Supply, Waste Management, Wastewater, and Motorcycles	0,537694543	0,545815876	0,539844436	0,543574195	0,846824086
Construction	0,858773804	0,887819111	0,949904979	0,981050567	1,28630551
Wholesale and Retail Trade: Car and Motorcycle Repair	0,465464448	0,485015207	0,481312331	0,471124799	0,692537542

Transportation and Warehousing	0,236237874	0,257491083	0,261506331	0,250885821	0,363394481
Accommodation, Food, and Beverage Services	0,367289778	0,386576525	0,382155937	0,35868509	0,462131165
Information & Communication	0,20790775	0,206651841	0,206737954	0,206809364	0,351771941
Financial Services & Insurance	0,420801549	0,430575318	0,38653791	0,386941458	0,503054384
Real Estate	0,309230045	0,329093428	0,328408823	0,330394295	0,413701689
Business Services	0,579640643	0,563296149	0,551099203	0,524752247	0,841629878
Government Administration, Defense, and Mandatory Social Security	0,738823518	0,759869097	0,738438103	0,73956231	0,800050746
Education Services	0,646859433	0,640876867	0,631027963	0,632302573	0,938562032
Health Services	0,558070468	0,569000847	0,542397589	0,577520321	0,770161698
Other Services	0,295907181	0,299550162	0,296450383	0,298489228	0,448334538

Sumber: BPS, processed

Based on the results of the Location Quotient (LQ) analysis shown in Table 1, it is possible to identify the base (leading) and non-base sectors in Sorong Regency during the period from 2019 to 2023. The LQ value is used to measure the relative advantage of an economic sector in a region compared to the reference region (in this case, West Papua Province). Theoretically, if the LQ value in sector i > 1, it means that the role of sector i in region k (Sorong Regency) is more advantageous than the role of sector i in region p (West Papua Province), so sector i is a leading sector. Conversely, if the LQ value for sector i is less than 1, it indicates that the role of sector i in region k is less superior than the role of sector i in region p, thus making it a non-leading sector. The

analysis results show that there are several sectors that have consistently maintained an LQ value greater than 1 over the past five years, indicating that these sectors are the core sectors in Sorong Regency. The Manufacturing Industry sector, for example, shows a high and stable LQ value year over year, namely 1.50 (2019), 1.53 (2020), 1.54 (2021), 1.52 (2022), and 1.22 (2023). This indicates that this sector has a strong comparative advantage and plays a crucial role in the regional economic structure. The decline in 2023 does not undermine its status as a leading sector. The Construction Sector also shows a consistently increasing trend, from 0.85 in 2019 to 1.28 in 2023. Although this sector was not a base sector at the beginning of the period, this positive development indicates significant growth and great potential to be a focus in the development of special economic zones. Similarly, the Agriculture, Forestry, and Fisheries sector had an LQ value of 1.08 in 2023, although the LQ value was less than 1 in the previous year.

SHIFT SHARE (SS) ANALYSIS RESULTS

Table 4. Shift Share Analysis Results

Sector/ Industry	Component			PDRB (Dij)	rij-rin
	National Growth (Nij)	Industry Mix (Mij)/(Ps)	Competitive Advantage (Cij)		
Agriculture, Forestry, and Fisheries	-2,311,666,475	-1,060,245,446	3,718,160,232	2,655,603,119	4,727,476
Mining	-488,139,311	2,542,517,437	2,825,034,727	536,267,077	1,701,008
Management Industry	-1,156,332,898	7,701,366,486	9,600,991,367	1,729,079,452	2,440,392
Electricity and Gas Supply	-64,661,999	3,101,504,455	1,217,492,588	1,247,861,012	5,534,057
Water Supply, Waste Management, Wastewater, and Motorcycles	-158,715,816	-1,122,362,215	3,659,608,222	2,535,658,849	6,777,052
Construction	-2,894,506,223	-2,526,041,342	5,469,633,689	2,940,697,841	5,554,055
Wholesale and Retail Trade: Car and Motorcycle Repair	-8,120,959,275	-4,940,696,187	1,809,127,159	1,314,245,444	6,547,691
Transportation and	-1,622,428,346	-1,421,901,757	3,199,975,453	1,776,451,268	5,797,057

Warehousing					
Accommodation, Food, and Beverage Services	-534,931,085	-164,203,876	1,033,423,826	8,686,850,194	5,678,153
Information & Communication	-1,087,497,261	-8,435,976,967	2,692,451,442	1,847,766,248	7,276,896
Financial Services & Insurance	-1,516,617,802	-4,371,324,533	2,662,723,082	2,224,074,011	5,160,316
Real Estate	-993,443,444	-3,885,764,193	2,068,556,327	1,678,986,465	6,119,989
Business Services	-167,533,362	-1,374,040,645	3,113,355,875	1,737,639,896	5,462,028
Government Administration, Defense, and Mandatory Social Security	-1,638,887,764	-3,076,389,069	2,422,765,524	211,348,773	4,344,988
Education Services	-4,267,691,953	-3,413,579,158	8,033,729,532	4,615,882,682	5,532,872 58
Health Services	-1,125,706,624	-3,674,045,799	2,570,488,322	2,201,958,035	6,711,458
Other Services	-208,681,907	-1,274,361,154	4,789,999,423	3,513,551,449	6,746,478
TOTAL PDRB	**-2,527,666,944**	**5,114,851,526**	**3,331,350,358**	**3,328,922,691**	**9,211,197**

Sumber: BPS, diolah

Based on the results of the Shift Share analysis, all economic sectors in Sorong Regency show positive competitive advantage (Cij) values, indicating that all sectors are more competitive than the reference region, namely West Papua Province. A positive Cij value indicates that the growth of these sectors is not only following national or structural growth but is also driven by local competitive advantages, such as efficiency, innovation, or supportive regional policies. The sector with the highest Cij value is Manufacturing, at 9,600.99 billion rupiah, followed by Education Services at 8,033.73 billion rupiah, and Other Services at 4,789.99 billion rupiah. These three sectors demonstrate very strong competitiveness and have the potential to become the main drivers of regional economic growth. Additionally, Construction (5,474.98 billion), Water, Waste, and Waste Management (3,659.61 billion), and Business Services (3,113.36 billion) also exhibit high competitive performance, reflecting the strength of the service and infrastructure sectors in this region.

Other sectors such as Agriculture, Forestry, and Fisheries (3,718.16 billion), Mining and Quarrying (2,829.88 billion), Transportation and Warehousing (3,198.30 billion), and Information and Communication (2,692.45 billion) also contributed significantly to competitiveness. Even the Real Estate, Financial Services and Insurance, and Electricity and Gas Supply sectors, although generally considered supporting

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sectors, still recorded positive Cij values above 1,000 billion rupiah. With no sector having a negative Cij value, it can be concluded that all economic sectors in Sorong Regency possess strong local competitive potential that can be further developed. This serves as an important foundation for planning the development of a Special Economic Zone (SEZ), as it indicates that the development of any sector in this region has the potential to grow based on its own internal strengths.

GROUPING SECTORS INTO KLASSEN TYPOLOGY

Based on the 4 Quadrants, namely Leading Sectors with an LQ index > 1 and SS (Cij+1), Potential Sectors if LQ < 1 and SS (Cij+1), still included in Potential Sectors if LQ>1 and SS(Cij-1), and Backward Sectors if LQ < and SS (Cij-1).

Table 5. Klassen Typology Analysis

	LQ > 1	LQ <1
CIJ (+)	● Manufacturing Sector. ● Construction Sector. ● Agriculture, Forestry, and Fisheries Sector.	● Education Services Sector ● Agriculture, Forestry, and Fisheries Sector. ● Mining Sector ● Water Supply, Waste Management, Wastewater Management, and Motorcycle Sector. ● Electricity and Gas Supply Sector.

		• Government Administration, Defense, and Mandatory Social Security Sector. • Accommodation and Food & Beverage Services Sector. • Wholesale and Retail Trade Sector; Motor Vehicle and Motorcycle Repair Sector. • Information and Communication Sector. • Financial Services and Insurance Sector. • Real Estate Sector. • Business Services Sector. • Health Services Sector. • Other Services Sector.
CIJ (-)	(None)	(None)

Based on the Klassen Typology approach, the economic sectors in Sorong Regency are grouped into four quadrants, but based on the available calculations, only

two quadrants are filled, namely Quadrant I (Leading Sector) and Quadrant II (Potential Sector). This is based on the LQ and Cij values, where:

Quadrant I Key Sectors: LQ > 1 and Cij > 0

This means that the sector has become a key sector in the region (contributing significantly to the regional GDP relative to the province) and also has high competitiveness, making it worthy of being a top priority for development and investment.

The sectors in this category are:

- Manufacturing Industry
- Construction
- Agriculture, Forestry, and Fisheries

These three sectors hold a highly strategic position in supporting sustainable local economic growth. They are not only structurally important (as a foundation) but also competitively superior compared to reference regions, making them the main pillars in the development of the Special Economic Zone (SEZ) in Sorong Regency.

Quadrant II Potential Sectors: LQ < 1 and Cij > 0

Sectors in this quadrant are not yet core sectors but demonstrate high competitive potential. This means that although their contribution to the Regional Domestic Product (RDP) is relatively small compared to the province, these sectors have the potential for rapid growth if given proper attention and development.

- The potential sectors include:
- Education Services
- Mining and Quarrying
- Water Supply, Waste Management, Sewage, and Motorcycle Services
- Electricity and Gas Supply
- Government Administration, Defense, and Mandatory Social Security
- Accommodation and Food Services
- Wholesale and Retail Trade; Motor Vehicle and Motorcycle Repair
- Information and Communication
- Financial and Insurance Services
- Real Estate
- Business Services
- Health Services
- Other Services

These sectors reflect the hidden strengths of the regional economy, which, if supported through policies, incentives, infrastructure investment, or improvements in human resource quality, have the potential to become leading sectors in the future. Interestingly, no sectors were found in Quadrant III (LQ > 1 and Cij < 0) or Quadrant IV (LQ < 1 and Cij

< 0). This indicates that no sectors are classified as stagnant or underdeveloped in this analysis, and generally signifies that Sorong Regency has a sufficiently healthy and competitive regional economic foundation.

CONCLUSION

This research shows that the fisheries sector in Sorong Regency has strategic potential to support the development of a blue economy-based Special Economic Zone (SEZ). Through a development approach that balances marine resource utilization with environmental conservation, the blue economy concept is considered capable of creating inclusive and sustainable economic growth, particularly in the coastal areas of West Papua.

Analysis of Gross Regional Domestic Product (GRDP) data for the Agriculture, Forestry, and Fisheries sector for the 2019–2023 period reveals a significant fluctuating trend. The sharp decline in 2020 due to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic demonstrated the sector's vulnerability to external shocks. Despite recovery in subsequent years, a further decline in 2023 indicates that the sector has not fully stabilized and requires more systematic policy intervention.

The Location Quotient (LQ) calculation shows that the Agriculture, Forestry, and Fisheries sector will become a base sector in 2023, with an LQ value > 1, indicating a comparative advantage compared to the national average. This finding reinforces the urgency for more targeted and sustainable development of the fisheries sector.

Thus, a policy strategy is needed that supports increased investment, the development of environmentally friendly infrastructure, and the empowerment of fishermen and fisheries business actors. The implementation of blue economy-based policies is expected to not only strengthen the fisheries sector's contribution to the regional economy but also contribute directly to the achievement of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 8 and 14, namely inclusive economic growth and marine ecosystem conservation.

This study also recommends the need for cross-sector integration, strengthening of spatial data and marine statistics, and increasing human resource capacity to support the success of the Sorong Special Economic Zone as a maritime economic center in eastern Indonesia.

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