

## **Legal Analysis of Water and Air Police in Maintaining Public Security and Law Enforcement in The West Java Regional Police**

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**Abstract.** *This study aims to analyze the legal role of the West Java Regional Police's Water and Air Police (Polairud) in maintaining public security and enforcing law in water and airspace. The focus of this research covers the authority, duties, and operational mechanisms of Polairud, as part of the Indonesian National Police, in maintaining maritime security and enforcing national law within its jurisdiction. The research method used was normative juridical, supported by empirical data through field observations and interviews with personnel from the West Java Regional Police's Water Police (Polairud). The results indicate that Polairud plays a crucial role in preventing and combating crimes in waters such as illegal fishing, smuggling, and maritime accidents. However, its implementation remains hampered by limited infrastructure, human resources, and coordination between relevant institutions. In conclusion, the effectiveness of Polairud's duties in maintaining security and enforcing the law can be improved through strengthened inter-agency cooperation, improved operational facilities, and ongoing legal training for personnel. This research is expected to contribute to the development of maritime law enforcement policies and support the realization of national maritime security.*

**Keywords:** Enforcement; Jurisdiction; Law; Public; Security.

### **1. Introduction**

In a state based on the rule of law, law is the main pillar driving the foundations of social, national, and state life. One of the main characteristics of a state based on the rule of law lies in its tendency to assess the actions of its citizens based on legal regulations. This means that a state based on the rule of law always regulates every action and behavior of its citizens based on applicable laws.

Criminal law itself is a tool or means for resolving problems in society. The existence of criminal law can provide justice and appropriate solutions for that society. Because criminal law is a set of regulations that regulate actions, both ordering or prohibiting actions or doing something, which are regulated in the law, with criminal sanctions for violators. Meanwhile, the criminal law in force in Indonesia can be divided into two types: criminal law recognized in the Criminal Code (KUHP) and Special Criminal Law regulated outside the KUHP.

West Java, a province with a coastline stretching from the Java Sea to the Indian Ocean, possesses strategic waters vital to the national economy. Furthermore, the airspace above it serves as a vital route for domestic and international air transportation. Security and order in these two areas are the primary responsibility of the West Java Regional Police's Water and Air Police (Polairud).

The West Java Regional Police's Water Police (Polairud) is primarily tasked with maintaining public order and security in the waters and airspace. However, the challenges faced are significant. The vastness of the patrol area, limited human resources and operational facilities, and the complexity of threats hinder the implementation of these duties. For example, in Karawang Regency, the Karawang Police Water Police Unit faces serious challenges in enforcing the law against fishing vessel document violations. With only eight personnel and three patrol boats, they must monitor the vast waters and dense fishing activity, thus limiting the effectiveness of patrols and law enforcement.

Furthermore, the Water Police (Polairud) also faces challenges in inter-agency coordination. The vast waters and airspace require synergy between Polairud and other agencies such as the Indonesian Navy, Bakamla (Law and Security Agency), and the Fisheries Service. However, this coordination is often suboptimal, resulting in slow responses to threats and legal violations.

In the context of law enforcement, the Water Police (Polairud) faces challenges in implementing regulations. Regulation of the Chief of the Indonesian National Police Number 6 of 2021 concerning the Establishment of Certain Organizational Units in Territorial Units provides the legal basis for the establishment of the Water Police (Polairud). However, implementation in the field is hampered by a lack of understanding of these regulations at the operational level, as well as limited facilities and technology to support the Water Police's duties.

The impact of these challenges is felt not only by the Water Police (Polairud), but also by coastal communities and fishermen. Inadequate security disrupts their economic activities, while ineffective law enforcement can foster injustice and distrust of law enforcement officials. For example, fishermen without complete vessel documentation are often targeted for prosecution, even though they struggle to meet administrative requirements.

Public perception of the Water Police (Polairud) is a key indicator of its success.

Initial surveys indicate that some coastal communities feel patrols have helped maintain order, but concerns remain regarding the transparency of law enforcement and the rapid response to violations. This highlights the need for a comprehensive evaluation of the Water Police's function within the local community context.

Given these challenges, this research is crucial for analyzing the role of the West Java Regional Police's Water Police (Polairud) in maintaining public security and enforcing law in the waters and airspace. The results are expected to provide more appropriate, effective, and responsive policy recommendations to address the security needs of the community in the region.

Based on the background outlined above, the author feels the need to conduct a more in-depth study of the role of the Water and Air Police in maintaining public security and enforcing the law in water and airspace. The complexity of the issues that arise, both from a regulatory perspective and in practice, prompted the author to examine them within an academic framework. Therefore, this research is presented in the form of a thesis entitled "A Legal Analysis of the Water and Air Police in Maintaining Public Security and Law Enforcement at the West Java Regional Police."

## **2. Research Methods**

This study employs normative legal research, utilizing norms within laws with a conceptual and specific approach. The method employed in this study is normative juridical. This research involves a literature review, and the data obtained is then analyzed using a qualitative analysis approach. Qualitative data processing and analysis generally emphasize deductive and inductive inference processes and the dynamics of relationships between observed phenomena using scientific logic.

## **3. Results and Discussion**

### **3.1. The Role of the West Java Regional Police's Water Police in Maintaining Public Security and Law Enforcement in Water and Air Areas**

The role of the Water and Air Police (Polairud) plays a crucial role in the national security system, particularly in the field of surveillance of Indonesia's maritime and airspace. As part of the Indonesian National Police (Polri) structure, Polairud functions to maintain public security and order in maritime areas and enforce the law against violations occurring within Indonesia's maritime jurisdiction. In the context of the West Java Regional Police, Polairud's presence is vital because this region has a long coastline in the north, directly bordering the Java Sea and several important ports that serve as centers of economic activity. This situation demands an active role for Polairud in maintaining security at sea and protecting coastal communities from various forms of crime that threaten social stability.

In addition to maintaining security, the Water Police (Polairud) is also tasked with ensuring the proper enforcement of the law in the waters and airspace. This task includes enforcing maritime crimes such as smuggling, piracy, illegal fishing, and border violations. This law enforcement is crucial given that the sea is often exploited by certain parties as a distribution route for illegal goods due to the relatively difficult monitoring. Therefore, the presence of the Water Police represents the state in upholding legal sovereignty at sea and in the air.

The Water Police (Polairud)'s functions also encompass public services, including saving lives at sea and in the air. These activities reflect the implementation of the Indonesian National Police's humanitarian function in providing a sense of security to all citizens. Thus, Polairud is not only a legal instrument for prosecuting violations, but also a public service institution that plays a direct role in assisting the public in emergency situations such as shipwrecks or air accidents.

The preventive role of the Water Police (Polairud) is a crucial aspect in maintaining security in West Java's waters. Regular maritime patrols around ports, open waters, and major shipping lanes aim to prevent crime. In addition to patrols, the Water Police also conducts legal outreach activities for fishing communities, particularly regarding the prohibition on the use of explosives or poisons in fishing. These development efforts are a concrete manifestation of a preventative approach oriented toward increasing public legal awareness.

Aerial patrols conducted by the Water Police (Polairud) also support more effective coastal monitoring. Aerial surveillance enables officers to identify suspicious activity at sea, such as vessels anchored without authorization or smuggling activities. This is part of an integrated surveillance strategy to maintain security in West Java's waters.

An educational approach to building legal awareness among coastal communities is an effective method for preventing legal violations. Communities with a strong understanding of the law are more aware of the social and environmental impacts of maritime crime. Therefore, legal outreach activities conducted by the Water Police (Polairud) for fishermen and coastal communities are strategic in fostering a strong legal culture in marine areas.

Coordination between the Water Police (Polairud) and other agencies, such as the Indonesian Navy (TNI AL), the Ministry of Maritime Affairs and Fisheries (KKP), and Customs and Excise, is also crucial in carrying out its duties. This cross-agency collaboration is implemented to strengthen the effectiveness of oversight and law enforcement. For example, in handling smuggling cases, the Water Police (Polairud) is responsible for carrying out initial action, while further legal proceedings are carried out in coordination with investigators from other authorized units.

The Water Police (Polairud) also plays a role in handling the increasing number of

transnational crimes in Indonesian waters. West Java, a province with a busy port, often serves as a distribution route for narcotics, weapons, and other illegal goods. Polairud plays a role in preventing the entry of these goods through maritime patrols, ship inspections, and investigations into smuggling networks.

Maritime law enforcement has its own unique characteristics because the sea is an open area that is difficult to monitor comprehensively. In this context, the professionalism and thoroughness of Water Police (Polairud) officers are essential to ensure that every action complies with applicable legal procedures. Maritime law enforcement not only addresses violations but also adheres to the principles of justice, human rights, and environmental protection.

From a criminal law perspective, the Water Police's actions in enforcing maritime law are an implementation of the principle of *lex specialis derogat legi generali*, which states that specific maritime laws take precedence over general laws. Implementing this principle is crucial to ensure that law enforcement is carried out proportionally, in accordance with the context of crimes occurring at sea.

From a social perspective, the presence of the Water Police (Polairud) provides a deterrent effect on criminals and increases the sense of security in coastal communities. This sense of security is crucial for the economic sustainability of communities, especially for fishermen and businesses in the fisheries sector. The Water Police indirectly contributes to regional economic stability by creating a conducive security environment.

Furthermore, Polairud has an intelligence function, which is used to gather information regarding potential crimes at sea. This information then forms the basis for enforcement and crime prevention activities. This function is crucial in preventing transnational crimes, which often involve large, organized networks.

The role of the Water Police (Polairud) is also evident in securing national maritime activities, such as international shipping lanes, export-import activities, and strategic government projects on the coast. This role demonstrates that the Water Police (Polairud) is not merely a law enforcement agency but also an integral part of the national defense and security system.

Institutionally, the West Java Regional Police's Water Police (Polairud) operates through various units, including the maritime patrol unit, the investigation unit, and the air surveillance unit. Each unit has complementary duties and functions, supporting operational effectiveness in the field. The command and coordination system is hierarchically structured to ensure all activities comply with standard operating procedures (SOPs).

In carrying out its role, Polairud also conducts regular training for its personnel to improve technical skills and legal knowledge. This training covers navigation, diving, rescue techniques, and an understanding of international maritime law.

Improving human resource capacity is key to Polairud's success in carrying out its duties.

One example of effective synergy is the collaboration between the Water Police (Polairud) and fishing communities in participatory patrols. In these activities, the community is empowered to report suspicious activity at sea to the police. This collaborative approach reflects a community policing approach that strengthens the law through collaboration with the community.

It's important to understand that the law cannot be effectively enforced without public support. Therefore, the success of the Water Police (Polairud) in maintaining maritime security also depends on the extent to which the public is aware of the law and willing to cooperate in maintaining order.

In general, the role of the Water Police (Polairud) in maintaining public security in waters reflects the progressive legal principle put forward by Satjipto Rahardjo, namely that the law should serve humanity, not the other way around. In practice, the Water Police (Polairud) not only enforces regulations but also upholds humanitarian values and social justice.

The law enforcement carried out by the Water Police (Polairud) also implements the state's protective function for its citizens. By enforcing the law in water and airspace, Polairud helps ensure that the state's natural resources are not misused by irresponsible parties.

Through various law enforcement activities, patrols, and community development, Polairud has contributed significantly to maintaining security and stability in West Java's waters. However, this role must be further enhanced by strengthening infrastructure and improving the quality of personnel to more effectively address future challenges.

Conceptually, the presence of the Water Police (Polairud) in West Java embodies the Indonesian National Police's constitutional mandate to protect, serve, and serve the public. In this context, the law serves as a tool to create social order and ensure that every citizen receives equal protection before the law.

Through various law enforcement activities, patrols, and community development, the Water Police (Polairud) has contributed significantly to maintaining security and stability in West Java's waters. Routine patrols have prevented illegal fishing, smuggling, and other criminal activities. Furthermore, the Water Police (Polairud) plays a role in ensuring the safety of sea and air transportation, which are vital to the regional community and economy. However, this role must be continuously enhanced through strengthening infrastructure, technology, and improving the quality of human resources to more effectively address future security challenges.

The Water Police (Polairud) serves not only as a law enforcement agency but also as a mediator between the community and the state. With a regular presence in waters, Polairud can build public trust in the police and reduce the potential for social conflict. Coastal communities feel safer when officers are present and actively monitoring shipping routes and maritime economic activity. This demonstrates that Polairud's presence has a social dimension beyond legal.

The sea and air patrols conducted by Polairud are both preventive and reactive. These activities include monitoring shipping lanes, inspecting vessels, securing port facilities, and monitoring air traffic crossing their jurisdiction. With a preventive approach, Polairud can minimize the risk of legal violations before they occur. This approach demonstrates the officers' professionalism in maintaining overall security.

In addition to law enforcement, the Water Police (Polairud) also actively provides guidance to coastal communities, including maritime safety training, legal outreach, and capacity building for fishermen. These activities aim to raise legal awareness among residents while strengthening their participation in maintaining maritime security. Through an educational approach, the public is not only subject to the law but also plays an active role in oversight. Thus, security is a shared responsibility between authorities and residents.

The West Java Regional Police's Water Police (Polairud) also coordinates with relevant agencies, such as the Indonesian Navy (TNI AL), Customs and Excise, and Bakamla (Law and Security Agency), to strengthen surveillance of the vast waters. This collaboration enables early detection of potential threats and faster and more effective case resolution. Cross-agency coordination also enhances the authorities' ability to address transnational crimes. This collaborative system ensures more secure and systematic maritime security.

Polairud has implemented modern technology to support patrols and surveillance. The use of maritime radar, drones, and ship monitoring systems (Automatic Identification System/AIS) enhances early threat detection capabilities. This technology enables officers to respond to critical situations more quickly and accurately. Furthermore, technology facilitates data collection and risk analysis for planning future patrols.

Improving personnel quality is a key focus in Polairud operations. Personnel receive regular training in maritime navigation, law enforcement, rescue operations, and air security tactics. This high level of competence enables Polairud members to navigate complex situations in the field with professionalism. Furthermore, improved personnel quality also impacts public trust in the police force.

Regular evaluations of Polairud's performance are conducted to ensure all activities are carried out according to operational procedures and standards.

Analysis of patrol effectiveness, law enforcement quality, and public satisfaction levels are key indicators. These evaluations enable operational weaknesses to be promptly addressed. The evaluation process also serves as the basis for planning future security strategies for greater efficiency.

The Water Police (Polairud) also actively conducts legal awareness campaigns for the public through social media, seminars, and educational programs. This campaign aims to build a strong legal culture in coastal communities. With high legal awareness, the potential for legal violations can be minimized. Furthermore, this campaign also strengthens public participation in maintaining water safety.

In carrying out its duties, the Water Police (Polairud) faces challenges such as vast territorial waters, a large number of vessels, and the potential for complex security disturbances. Therefore, strengthening coordination, technology, and human resources is key to operational success. Other challenges include changing weather conditions, extreme natural conditions, and the high mobility of people and goods. The Water Police (Polairud) must be able to adapt its strategies to remain effective in maintaining security.

The role of the Water Police (Polairud) is clearly visible in managing maritime conflicts, such as disputes over fishing grounds or security threats to commercial vessels. A humanistic and professional approach is employed to resolve conflicts without violence. Officers use mediation, legal outreach, and preventive measures to maintain stability. In this way, Polairud maintains security while building good relationships with coastal communities.

In addition to legal and security aspects, Polairud also prioritizes the safety and protection of the marine environment. The authorities are responsible for monitoring illegal fishing practices, fishing with explosives, and marine pollution. Environmental protection also ensures the sustainability of marine resources for future generations. Thus, Polairud supports the principles of sustainable development.

The Water Police (Polairud) also plays a role in search and rescue (SAR) activities, including the evacuation of victims of maritime and air accidents. These SAR activities emphasize that the role of the Water Police (Polairud) extends beyond law enforcement to humanitarian services. Officers act swiftly to save lives and protect the public from risks. This enhances the image of the Water Police as an institution committed to public safety.

From a risk management perspective, Polairud uses a proactive approach to identify potential threats and develop mitigation strategies. This includes patrol planning, regulating shipping lanes, and monitoring port and airport facilities under its control. This approach increases operational effectiveness while minimizing security risks. This proactive strategy also facilitates cross-agency coordination in handling critical situations.

Maintaining security in maritime and airspace also reflects the Islamic principles of protecting life (hifz al-nafs) and property (hifz al-mal). Islam emphasizes the state's obligation to safeguard the safety of its citizens, including through monitoring transportation routes and protecting against criminal threats and disasters. This principle aligns with the Water Police (Polairud)'s function of maintaining maritime and air security and public safety. Implementing Islamic values also encourages officers to act fairly, professionally, and responsibly.

Furthermore, the Islamic perspective emphasizes hisbah, the obligation to monitor and uphold good and prevent evil. The role of the Water Police (Polairud) in patrolling, law enforcement, and community development aligns with this hisbah principle. Polairud's activities are not merely administrative but also have moral and social dimensions. This makes water and air security not solely the responsibility of the authorities but part of the collective responsibility of society in accordance with sharia values.

Ultimately, it can be concluded that the role of the West Java Regional Police's Water Police (Polairud) in maintaining public safety and enforcing the law is part of a holistic national security system. The success of Polairud is measured not only by the number of legal actions taken, but also by the increased sense of security and public trust in the police force.

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### **3.2. Legal and Operational Obstacles Faced by the West Java Regional Police Water Police in Carrying Out Its Duties**

The performance of the West Java Regional Police's Water Police (Polairud) in maintaining maritime security is inseparable from various legal and operational challenges encountered in the field. These challenges are complex, encompassing regulatory aspects, human resources, infrastructure, and inter-agency coordination. Although Polairud has made optimal efforts to carry out its security maintenance and law enforcement functions, several factors remain that limit the effectiveness of its duties. This demonstrates that maritime security challenges in West Java are not merely technical but also structural and systemic.

From a legal perspective, one of the main obstacles is the overlapping laws and regulations governing maritime law enforcement authority. Various agencies, such as the Indonesian Navy, the Ministry of Maritime Affairs and Fisheries, and Customs and Excise, have relatively similar authority in the context of maritime surveillance. As a result, confusion arises in the field regarding the boundaries of responsibility and authority of each agency. This overlap often leads to conflicts of

authority and delays the law enforcement process.

Besides overlapping authority, another issue faced is the weak legal harmonization between national regulations and international legal instruments ratified by Indonesia. For example, in the implementation of the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), there are still discrepancies between national law and international norms, particularly regarding law enforcement against foreign vessels entering Indonesian waters without permission. This discrepancy can create legal loopholes that certain parties exploit. Therefore, legal harmonization is an urgent need for effective law enforcement.

Another significant obstacle is the limited human resources available at Polairud. The number of available personnel is not commensurate with the vast waters they must monitor, particularly along the northern coast of West Java, such as Indramayu, Karawang, and Cirebon. This situation prevents optimal and sustainable maritime patrols. In addition to limited personnel, technical competency also needs to be improved, particularly in the use of navigation technology and the collection of digital evidence at sea.

The uneven quality of human resources also impacts law enforcement. In some cases, Water Police officers have difficulty gathering valid evidence due to limited understanding of maritime law procedures and investigative techniques in waters. This has resulted in a number of maritime crime cases not proceeding to the investigation or prosecution stage due to a lack of formal evidence. Unequal levels of professionalism make it difficult for officers in the field to take consistent action.

Besides human resources, operational constraints are also significant. Most of the patrol boats owned by the West Java Regional Police's Water Police (Polairud) are aging and in need of refurbishment. The vessels' poor technical condition often hampers patrol activities, especially in extreme weather conditions. Some vessels cannot even operate far from the coastline due to fuel constraints and outdated navigation equipment.

Operational budget constraints are a persistent obstacle for the Water Police (Polairud). Operational costs for maritime patrols are extremely high, including fuel, vessel maintenance, and logistics costs for personnel in the field. With a limited budget, Polairud must prioritize patrol areas, meaning certain areas are not routinely covered. This creates opportunities for maritime crimes such as smuggling and illegal fishing.

Another obstacle worth noting is the still-weak communication and coordination system between units within the Water Police (Polairud). Several maritime surveillance areas under the West Java Regional Police (Polda) still experience difficulties accessing the integrated communications system, particularly in areas remote from land-based networks. Consequently, responses to public reports or incidents at sea are slow. This communication delay can increase the risk of crime

and accidents.

From a criminal law perspective, problems arise at the evidentiary stage in handling maritime violation cases. The dynamic nature of the sea often causes evidence to be lost or damaged before the investigation is completed. Furthermore, eyewitnesses in maritime cases are usually limited, as the incidents occur in remote locations with minimal human activity. This complicates the legal process of proving evidence in court.

Another obstacle relates to the limited infrastructure of the base ports (base stations) used by Polairud. Some bases lack ship maintenance facilities, logistics warehouses, or equipment workshops. As a result, damaged vessels must be repaired outside the area, disrupting patrol operations. This infrastructure limitation also impacts operational time and budget efficiency.

Besides infrastructure, the lack of modern technological equipment is also a barrier. Ideally, maritime surveillance should be supported by technologies such as the Automatic Identification System (AIS), coastal radar, and satellite monitoring systems. However, most of this equipment is not yet available at the West Java Regional Police's Polairud unit, or if it is, it has not been integrated with the national system. As a result, surveillance remains manual and relies on physical patrols.

Another legal issue is the lack of technical regulations specifically governing inter-agency law enforcement coordination at sea. Although this is generally stipulated in Law Number 32 of 2014 concerning Maritime Affairs, in practice, overlapping roles among law enforcement officials in the field often occur. This slows down case handling and creates procedural confusion. There is an urgent need for more detailed and clear regulations.

In a social context, the Water Police (Polairud) also faces challenges in the form of low legal awareness among coastal communities. Some still consider violations such as smuggling or the use of explosives for fishing to be normal for economic reasons. This pragmatic mindset presents a challenge for the Water Police (Polairud) in instilling legal values. Low legal awareness can weaken the effectiveness of patrols and law enforcement.

The relationship between police and coastal communities is sometimes fraught with suspicion. Residents feel overly monitored, while officers perceive them as uncooperative. This tension can hinder the implementation of joint patrols and guidance activities. To address this, the Water Police (Polairud) needs to strengthen social approaches through coastal-based community policing programs.

From an environmental perspective, the geographical conditions of West Java's waters, with its dense industrial activity and maritime transportation, add to the

workload of the Water Police (Polairud). Marine pollution, oil spills, and ecosystem damage are issues that require serious attention. In such cases, Polairud is required to coordinate with environmental agencies in enforcing ecologically-based laws. This effort requires officers to possess technical knowledge and supporting legal procedures.

Another operational challenge arises from the frequent extreme weather in the waters north of Java. Strong winds and high waves frequently render patrol boats inoperable. This not only delays patrol activities but also endangers the safety of personnel in the field. Therefore, Polairud requires more modern navigation and safety equipment to cope with these conditions.

Besides natural factors, psychological pressure and high workloads also pose challenges for Polairud personnel. Extended sea duty with limited facilities can lead to physical and mental exhaustion. In the long term, this can reduce personnel performance and morale. Psychological support and stress management are essential for operational success.

Another issue is the limited career paths and rewards available to Polairud members. Compared to other units within the Indonesian National Police (Polri), promotion opportunities for Polairud members are relatively limited. This situation has the potential to lead to demotivation among personnel. Therefore, a more equitable institutional policy is needed for the career management of Polairud members.

The lack of synergy between institutions also leads to duplication of policies and poor data exchange. For example, data on vessels involved in violations is not always accessible in real time by all agencies. As a result, enforcement processes are inefficient and often delayed. Implementing an integrated data system could be a strategic solution to this problem.

In the field of administrative law, obstacles arise during the investigation and prosecution stages. Some law enforcement officers lack a thorough understanding of maritime law, resulting in case files often not complying with formal requirements. As a result, cases can be rejected by the prosecutor's office or returned for revision. Continuous coaching and training are essential to improve the capabilities of law enforcement officers.

Problems also arise during the execution of court decisions for maritime violations. Sometimes perpetrators cannot be located because they have fled outside the jurisdiction. This situation highlights the need for cross-regional coordination mechanisms in the enforcement of legal decisions. Cooperation with police in other provinces and immigration authorities is one solution.

From an information technology perspective, Polairud requires an integrated database system capable of recording and tracking vessel activity in the waters of

West Java. Without this system, surveillance cannot be carried out efficiently. Modernizing information technology is an urgent need to support data-driven patrols and law enforcement activities. This will also facilitate the analysis of maritime violation trends for preventive strategies.

Public involvement in supporting the Water Police (Polairud)'s duties is also still low. Coastal community participation should be a social force in supporting maritime security, but in reality, awareness and reporting of violations remains minimal. The Water Police (Polairud) needs to develop more effective community engagement mechanisms, for example through an app-based rapid reporting system. This participatory approach is crucial to ensure maritime security is not solely the responsibility of the authorities.

Frequently changing national policies also pose a challenge. Changing regulations without adequate publicity leads to confusion at the implementing level. Therefore, consistency and synchronization of maritime law policies are necessary to ensure that officers in the field can operate with clear legal certainty. Adequate public awareness of regulations also increases public compliance with the law.

From an Islamic perspective, maintaining territorial waters security is part of the state's obligation to protect the lives (hifz al-nafs) and property (hifz al-mal) of its citizens. Islam emphasizes the importance of supervision and law enforcement as a form of amar ma'ruf nahi munkar, or preventing harm in society. In this context, the Water Police's duties align with sharia principles, which encourage officers to maintain public safety and prevent evil.

Furthermore, the Islamic principle of hisbah emphasizes continuous oversight and community participation in law enforcement. The involvement of coastal communities in supporting patrols and reporting violations can be considered a modern implementation of hisbah. This principle also reinforces that maritime security is not solely the responsibility of the authorities, but a collective responsibility involving all elements of society.

#### **4. Conclusion**

The West Java Regional Police's Water Police (Polairud) plays a strategic role in maintaining regional maritime and air security, particularly through patrols, law enforcement against crimes in the region's waters, and development of coastal communities. Polairud serves not only as a law enforcement agency but also as the vanguard in ensuring maritime security and public order in West Java's maritime border areas. The effectiveness of Polairud's duties still faces various legal and operational challenges, such as overlapping authority between agencies, limited human resources, inadequate ship infrastructure, and weak coordination and maritime information systems. These obstacles impact the optimization of oversight and law enforcement functions in the field. Institutional strengthening and integrated legal policies are needed, both in terms of regulations and

budgetary support, to enable Polairud to operate effectively and efficiently. Harmonization between maritime law enforcement agencies is also key to realizing a just and sustainable maritime security system.

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