

HO CHI MINH NATIONAL ACADEMY OF POLITICS

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**THE STATE'S SUPPORT FOR PEOPLE
PARTICIPATING IN THE PROTECTION OF SEA AND
ISLAND SOVEREIGNTY IN KHANH HOA PROVINCE**

**ABSTRACT OF DOCTORAL THESIS
MAJOR: POLITICAL ECONOMY**

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INTRODUCTION

1. The urgency of the topic

From a theoretical perspective, although there have been many research works related to marine economic development, state management of seas and islands and development support policies, research on the State's support for people participating in the protection of sea and island sovereignty from the perspective of political economy is still relatively limited. In particular, there have not been many projects approaching support as a process of mobilizing, allocating and using resources to share costs, risks and reconcile benefits between the State, people and related entities, linking marine economic activities with the requirements of protecting national sovereignty.

From a practical perspective, the East Vietnam Sea has a particularly important strategic position for economic development, national defense, security and protection of national sovereignty. In the context of increasingly difficult and complicated activities at sea, the maintenance of livelihoods, economic activities and the legal and regular presence of people at sea are of great significance. In Khanh Hoa province, the State has implemented many policies to support people in marine economic activities in association with the protection of sea and island sovereignty; however, the process of allocating, accessing and enjoying support resources still has limitations, affecting the effectiveness and sustainability of support activities. Therefore, the study of the topic "*The State's support for people participating in the protection of sea and island sovereignty in Khanh Hoa province*" is of both theoretical and practical significance.

2. Research objectives and tasks

2.1. Purpose of the study

On the basis of clarifying theoretical and practical issues on the State's support for people participating in the protection of sea and island sovereignty, the thesis analyzes and evaluates the current situation of the State's support for people in Khanh Hoa province; thereby proposing views and solutions on the State's support for people participating in the protection of sea and island sovereignty in Khanh Hoa province until 2030, with a vision to 2045.

2.2. Research tasks

Firstly, an overview of relevant domestic and foreign research works,

thereby identifying inheritable results, research gaps and thesis issues that need to be clarified.

Secondly, to develop a theoretical basis for the State's support for people participating in the protection of sea and island sovereignty, including concepts, characteristics, roles, contents, evaluation criteria, influencing factors and lessons learned.

Thirdly, analyze and evaluate the current situation of the State's support in Khanh Hoa province; clarify the achieved results, limitations and causes; at the same time, analyze the relationship between support groups and the level of participation in protecting the sovereignty of the sea and islands of the people.

Fourthly, analyze the context, determine the viewpoint and propose solutions for the State's support for people participating in the protection of sea and island sovereignty in Khanh Hoa province until 2030, with a vision to 2045.

3. Object and scope of research

3.1. Research objects

The research object of the thesis is the State's support for people participating in the protection of sea and island sovereignty in Khanh Hoa province from the perspective of political economy science.

3.2. Scope of the study

- Content: The thesis studies the State's support for people participating in fishing activities, aquaculture and fishery logistics services associated with the protection of sea and island sovereignty from the perspective of political economy. The research content focuses on three groups of support: financial support; technical infrastructure and information technology support; knowledge and skills support. Support activities are evaluated according to four criteria: suitability; accessibility and coverage; effectiveness; impact. At the same time, the thesis considers the relationship between the three support groups and the level of people's participation in protecting the sovereignty of the sea and islands.

- Regarding space: The study was carried out in Khanh Hoa province. Analysis of the current situation of using data according to the boundaries of Khanh Hoa province before the merger; the analysis of the context and proposal of solutions are placed within the scope of Khanh Hoa province after the merger.

- Regarding time: The thesis studies the current situation of the State's

support for people participating in the protection of sea and island sovereignty in Khanh Hoa province in the period of 2015-2025; proposed solutions to 2030, with a vision to 2045.

In the thesis, the doctoral student uniformly uses the phrase "sea and islands" in a common expression in relevant documents, documents and research works; the title of the topic is retained according to the Approval Decision.

4. Theoretical basis and research methods

4.1. Theoretical basis

The thesis is based on the methodology of dialectical materialism and historical materialism; Marxist-Leninist views on the role of the State, interest relations and resource distribution; at the same time, selectively inherit relevant theories and research results and apply the Party's views and guidelines, the State's policies and laws on marine economic development in association with national defense and security and protection of sea and island sovereignty.

4.2. Research methods

4.2.1 Approach

The thesis approaches from the science of political economy, considering the State's support in the relationship between mobilization, allocation and use of resources, reconciliation of benefits, sharing of costs and risks in order to create conditions for people to participate in protecting the sovereignty of the sea and islands.

4.2.2. Research methods used

The thesis combines qualitative and quantitative methods. Qualitative research methods include: scientific abstraction methods, literature studies and expert consultations are used to develop the theoretical basis, analytical framework and evaluation criteria. The quantitative research was carried out through a survey of 405 people working in the fields of fishing, aquaculture and fishery logistics services; data were processed using SPSS 26 and SmartPLS to assess the current situation, support needs and relationships between support groups and the level of participation in the protection of sea and island sovereignty.

The research data includes secondary data from documents, policies, laws and reports of central and local agencies; primary data are collected through a survey of people in Khanh Hoa province.

5. New contributions of the thesis

5.1. Theoretically New Contributions

Firstly, the thesis contributes to clarifying the nature of political economy and building the concept of the State's support for people participating in the protection of the sovereignty of the sea and islands. Accordingly, support is not only the provision of resources but also the process of the State mobilizing, allocating and using resources to create operating conditions, share costs, risks and reconcile benefits between people, localities and the country. The thesis also clarifies the characteristics and role of support activities.

Secondly, the thesis develops an analytical framework consisting of three groups of support (financial support; technical infrastructure and information technology support; knowledge and skills support); along with four evaluation criteria (suitability; accessibility and coverage; effectiveness; impact) and factors affecting support activities.

5.2. New contributions in terms of practice

Firstly, the thesis systematically analyzes the current situation of the State's support for people participating in the protection of sea and island sovereignty in Khanh Hoa in the period of 2015-2025; clarifies the achieved results, limitations and causes, especially the problems in the allocation, access, benefit and transformation of support resources into conditions and capacity of people's participation.

Secondly, the results of the PLS-SEM analysis supplemented with empirical evidence showing that the three support groups all have the same relationship and are statistically significant with the level of participation in protecting the sovereignty of the sea and islands of the people. In particular, financial support has the strongest relationship, followed by technical infrastructure and information technology support, followed by knowledge and skills support.

6. Structure of the thesis

In addition to the introduction, conclusion, list of references, illustrations and appendices, the content of the thesis is structured into 4 chapters and 10 sections.

Chapter 1

OVERVIEW OF RESEARCH WORKS RELATED TO THE TOPIC OF STATE SUPPORT FOR PEOPLE PARTICIPATING IN THE PROTECTION OF SEA AND ISLAND SOVEREIGNTY IN THE AREA KHANH HOA PROVINCE

1.1. RESEARCH WORKS ON THE ROLE OF PEOPLE IN PROTECTING SEA AND ISLAND SOVEREIGNTY AND THE STATE'S SUPPORT FOR PEOPLE PARTICIPATING IN THE PROTECTION OF SEA AND ISLAND SOVEREIGNTY

1.1.1. Research works on the role of people in protecting the sovereignty of the sea and islands

Domestic and foreign research works have clarified the role of people in protecting the sovereignty of the sea and islands through maintaining legal economic activities and livelihoods associated with the sea, especially the regular presence in offshore waters; providing information and coordinating with functional forces; linking and supporting the community; obeying the law and raising awareness of the sea and islands. The studies also point out the relationship between ensuring livelihoods, developing the marine economy and protecting national interests, thereby affirming that people are important participants in addition to the role of management, organization and support of the State. This is the basis for the thesis to inherit, identify forms of participation of the people and explain the need for support from the State.

1.1.2. Research works on the State's support for people participating in the protection of sea and island sovereignty

Research works on the State's support for people participating in the protection of sea and island sovereignty focus on four main directions. Firstly, the research analyzes the content and forms of support such as financial support, credit, insurance, investment in fisheries infrastructure, technology application, human resource training and livelihood support for people in sea and island areas. Secondly, a number of research works on the role of the State, the process of allocating and accessing resources, the relationship of interests, evaluation criteria and factors affecting support activities. Third, many studies propose solutions to improve policies to develop the marine economy, ensure livelihoods and improve people's ability to stick to the sea. Fourth, a number of works consider the results and impacts of support on production activities, income, livelihoods and

people's participation in protecting sea and island sovereignty. These results are the basis for the thesis to inherit in determining the content of support, developing criteria for evaluation and analysis of influencing factors; at the same time, it continues to clarify the purpose and mechanism of allocation, access, benefiting and transforming support resources into actual results.

1.2. THE SCIENTIFIC VALUE OF THE OVERVIEW WORKS AND THE THESIS ISSUES THAT NEED TO BE FURTHER STUDIED AND CLARIFIED

1.2.1. Scientific value of the general works

The overview works have affirmed the role of the people and the need for the State's support in developing the marine economy, ensuring livelihoods, maintaining activities and the regular presence of people at sea in association with the protection of national sovereignty. The studies have clarified many support contents such as financial support, credit, insurance, infrastructure, technology, information and training; at the same time, it has been shown that the effectiveness of support depends on policy design, coordination between support groups, organizational capacity for implementation and the ability to receive and use resources of the people. Some works also emphasize the need for decentralization, strengthening the role of localities and developing policies suitable to the characteristics of each locality and each target group. These results are the basis for the thesis to inherit in building a theoretical basis, analytical framework, assessing the current situation and proposing solutions.

Despite the many results achieved, there are still some gaps in the overviews:

Firstly, there is a gap in the approach to Political Economy. The mechanisms for mobilizing, allocating and using resources, sharing costs, risks and reconciling benefits between people, localities and countries have not been explained in a unified analytical framework.

Secondly, the gap in the purpose and mechanism of support. The difference and connection between support for social objectives and economic development and support linking the economy with national defense and security has not been clarified; the relationship between the three support groups and the ability of people to maintain operations and participate in protecting the sovereignty of the sea and islands has not been studied.

Thirdly, the gap in resource allocation, access and beneficiary. Many studies focus on the scale and results of policy implementation but have not fully considered the process from allocation, access, and beneficiary to the

ability to use resources of beneficiary groups.

Fourthly, gaps in empirical evidence and research methods. There is a lack of studies that combine secondary data with beneficiary surveys to assess needs, accessibility, beneficiary outcomes, and the relationship between support groups and population participation.

Fifthly, gaps in the specific conditions of Khanh Hoa province. The above-mentioned theoretical and practical issues have not been systematically studied in areas with marine economic characteristics and specific sea and island spaces such as Khanh Hoa.

1.2.2. Thesis issues that need to be further studied and clarified

Firstly, clarify the concept, characteristics and role of the State in supporting people participating in the protection of sea and island sovereignty from the perspective of political economy; develop an analytical framework including support contents, evaluation criteria and influencing factors.

Secondly, clarify the purpose and mechanism of support, especially the process of mobilizing, allocating and using resources, sharing costs and risks, regulating benefits between people, localities and the country; at the same time, distinguish support associated with the protection of sea and island sovereignty with support mainly for socio-economic goals.

Thirdly, to study domestic and international experiences, focusing on how to organize implementation, coordination between subjects, allocate resources, access and supervision, thereby drawing lessons suitable for Khanh Hoa province.

Fourthly, on the basis of primary and secondary data, analyze the current status of the State's support for people participating in the protection of sea and island sovereignty in Khanh Hoa province according to three groups of contents and four criteria; clarify the achieved results, limitations, causes and problems in the process of transforming support resources into actual results.

Fifthly, analyze the level of access, beneficiaries and support needs of the people; at the same time, use the PLS-SEM model to consider the relationship between the three support groups and the level of participation in protecting the sovereignty of the sea and islands, thereby supplementing empirical evidence for the study.

Sixthly, analyze the context, determine the viewpoint and propose solutions on the State's support for people participating in the protection of

sea and island sovereignty in Khanh Hoa province until 2030, with a vision to 2045.

Chapter 2

THEORETICAL BASIS AND PRACTICAL EXPERIENCE OF SUPPORT OF THE STATE FOR THE PEOPLE PARTICIPATING IN THE PROTECTION OF SEA AND ISLAND SOVEREIGNTY

2.1. CONCEPT, CHARACTERISTICS AND ROLE OF THE STATE IN SUPPORTING PEOPLE PARTICIPATING IN THE PROTECTION OF SEA AND ISLAND SOVEREIGNTY

2.1.1. Concept of State support and State support for people participating in the protection of sea and island sovereignty

2.1.1.1. Concept of seas and islands

On the basis of approaches from many different concepts, within the scope of research of the thesis, *"Sea and islands are geographical and legal spaces including sea areas under national sovereignty, sovereign rights and jurisdiction of the country in accordance with the provisions of national and international laws, and related islands and archipelagos; at the same time, it is a socio-economic space of strategic significance for economic development, national defense, security and protection of national interests"*.

2.1.1.2. Concept of protection of sea and island sovereignty

From the synthesis of research perspectives on sea and island sovereignty, the thesis author said: *"Protection of sea and island sovereignty is the whole of political, diplomatic, economic, legal, defense, security and social activities and measures organized and implemented by the State, with the appropriate participation of social actors, in order to protect the sovereignty, sovereign rights, jurisdiction and legitimate rights and interests of the country at sea, in accordance with Vietnamese law and international law"*.

2.1.1.3. Concept of people participating in the protection of sea and island sovereignty

Referring to and selecting from previous studies, according to the author of the thesis: *"People participating in the protection of sea and island sovereignty are individuals and population groups living or engaged in legal economic activities and livelihoods associated with the sea; through maintaining a regular presence and activities at sea, and at the same time*

implementing forms of participation suitable to their positions, capabilities, rights and obligations in order to contribute to the protection of sovereignty, sovereign rights, jurisdiction and national interests at sea".

2.1.1.4. Forms of people's participation in the protection of sea and island sovereignty

People's participation in the protection of sea and island sovereignty is expressed in four main forms: (i) maintaining lawful economic activities and livelihoods associated with the sea, especially regular activities in offshore seas; (ii) providing information and coordinating with functional forces; (iii) linking, cooperating and supporting the community in activities at sea; (iv) observing the law, propagating and raising awareness of the protection of sea and island sovereignty.

In particular, maintaining legal economic activities and livelihoods at sea is a form of foundational participation, contributing to linking the interests of the people with the interests of the locality and the country. These forms have a relationship of mutual support but are not conditions that all people must meet at the same time, because the form and level of participation depend on the livelihood, area of operation, conditions and capabilities of each population group.

2.1.1.5. Concept of State support

Based on previous research works, the author of the thesis approaches the concept of State support from the perspective of Political Economy and gives the following definition: *"State support is the process of the State mobilizing, allocating and using resources under its management through appropriate mechanisms, policies and tools to create and improve the operating conditions of socio-economic actors, and at the same time regulate the relationship of interests, thereby contributing to the realization of development goals and common interests of the country"*.

2.1.1.6. The concept of "the State's support for people participating in the protection of sea and island sovereignty"

Stemming from the research that has been obtained, inherited and selected, within the scope of research of the thesis, the author said: *"The State's support for people participating in the protection of sea and island sovereignty is the process of the State mobilizing, allocating and using resources through appropriate mechanisms, policies and tools to create, maintain and improve conditions on finance, technical infrastructure and information technology, knowledge and skills for people; thereby sharing*

part of costs and risks, improving the capacity to maintain legal economic activities and livelihoods associated with the sea and promoting people's participation in protecting the sovereignty of the sea and islands, and at the same time contributing to ensuring the harmony of interests between people, localities and the country".

2.1.2. Characteristics of the State's support for people participating in the protection of sea and island sovereignty

The State's support for people participating in the protection of sea and island sovereignty has basic characteristics: combining socio-economic development objectives with sovereignty protection; associated with cost and risk sharing of maritime activities; regulating the relationship of interests between people, localities and the country; interdisciplinary and multi-subjective; at the same time, long-term in order to maintain and recreate socio-economic conditions for people's participation. From the perspective of political economy, these characteristics reflect the process of the State mobilizing, allocating and using resources, regulating interests and creating conditions for people to maintain legal economic activities and livelihoods associated with the sea and participate in the long-term protection of sea and island sovereignty.

2.1.3. The State's supporting role for people participating in the protection of sea and island sovereignty

The State's support plays a role in creating and improving socio-economic conditions for people to maintain legal economic activities and livelihoods associated with the sea; improve the capacity to participate in the protection of sea and island sovereignty; link the economic interests of the people with the interests of the locality and the country; at the same time, contribute to combining the development of the marine economy with the protection of sovereignty, sovereign rights, jurisdiction and national interests at sea. This role is realized through the mobilization, allocation and use of resources to reduce barriers, share costs and risks, improve access to and transform support resources into conditions and capacity for people's actual participation.

2.2. CONTENTS, EVALUATION CRITERIA AND FACTORS AFFECTING THE STATE'S SUPPORT FOR PEOPLE PARTICIPATING IN THE PROTECTION OF SEA AND ISLAND SOVEREIGNTY

2.2.1. Contents of the State's support for people participating in the protection of sea and island sovereignty

2.2.1.1. Financial support

Financial support is the State's use of financial instruments to improve access to capital, reduce costs and share the economic consequences of risks, thereby creating conditions for people to maintain legal economic activities and livelihoods associated with the sea. The main forms of support include preferential credit to invest in vehicles, equipment and capital for operations; support for fuel costs; insurance support for people, vehicles and property; exemption and reduction of taxes and fees and other auxiliary financial instruments. Through the allocation of resources and sharing part of costs and risks, this support group contributes to maintaining activities at sea and creating conditions for people to carry out appropriate forms of participation. The scope of support is determined on the basis of objectives, subjects, conditions and mechanisms of impact of each policy on people's ability to participate in protecting the sovereignty of the sea and islands.

2.2.1.2. Support for technical infrastructure and information technology

Support for technical infrastructure and information technology is the process of the State investing, creating conditions and supporting people to access and use the material, technical, technological, information and connection conditions necessary for economic activities and livelihoods at sea. The main support content includes investment in the system of ports, wharves, anchorage areas, logistics facilities, cold storage, electricity and water; equipment for exploitation, positioning, cruise supervision, product preservation and safety assurance; communication systems, natural disaster warnings, weather information, fishing grounds, markets and necessary data. This support group contributes to improving operating conditions, ensuring safety, maintaining connections, improving access to information and using technology, thereby creating conditions for people to maintain legal economic activities and livelihoods and implement appropriate forms of participation in the protection of sea and island sovereignty.

2.2.1.3. Support for knowledge and skills

Knowledge and skills support is the process by which the State organizes and creates conditions for people to access the necessary knowledge and skills in order to receive and effectively use resources and maintain legal economic activities and livelihoods associated with the sea. The main content of support includes professional and professional knowledge and skills; law, safety and risk response; use of technology and

information; organization, cooperation and adaptation; protection of occupational health and safety. This support group contributes to improving the capacity to use technology, comply with the law, ensure safety, organize activities and adapt of people; at the same time, transform financial, material, technical and information resources into practical operational capacity, thereby creating conditions for people to participate in the protection of sovereignty over the sea and islands.

2.2.2. Criteria for evaluation of the State's support for people participating in the protection of sea and island sovereignty

The thesis develops a system of criteria for evaluating the State's support for people participating in the protection of sea and island sovereignty, including four basic criteria: (i) appropriate, reflecting the level of responsiveness of the support content to the needs and conditions of the people and the objectives of support; (ii) accessibility and coverage, reflecting the accessibility, beneficiaries and differences between target groups on the basis of needs, conditions and risk levels; (iii) effectiveness, reflecting direct results and the level of achievement of support objectives within the scope of resources and research data; (iv) impact, reflecting changes associated with support for operating conditions, capacity to maintain livelihoods and the level of participation in protecting the sovereignty of the sea and islands of people.

2.2.3. Factors affecting the State's support for people participating in the protection of sea and island sovereignty

2.2.3.1. Theoretical approach and basis for identifying factors affecting the State's support for people participating in the protection of sea and island sovereignty

The identification of influencing factors is carried out on the basis of applying the Political Economy approach in combination with public policy theory, institutional theory and modern marine management perspectives. Accordingly, the State's support for people participating in the protection of sea and island sovereignty is considered in the relationship between the goals of marine economic development, protection of national sovereignty and the conditions of beneficiaries.

2.2.3.2. Factors affecting the State's support for people participating in the protection of sea and island sovereignty

The State's support activities for people participating in the protection of sea and island sovereignty are affected by two basic groups of factors.

The group of objective factors includes: natural conditions and economic space of the sea and islands; socio-economic context and fishery market; political and maritime security context and requirements for sovereignty protection; historical, cultural and traditional factors of the marine community.

The group of subjective factors includes: institutions and capacity of public governance; financial resources and budget allocation mechanisms; capacity of the fishing community; coordination between subjects; mechanisms for supervision, accountability and receipt of feedback.

2.3. EXPERIENCE OF STATE SUPPORT FOR PEOPLE PARTICIPATING IN THE PROTECTION OF SEA AND ISLAND SOVEREIGNTY AND LESSONS FOR KHANH HOA PROVINCE

2.3.1. Some international experiences

2.3.1.1. Japanese experience

2.3.1.2. Indonesia's experience

2.3.2. Some experience in the country

2.3.2.1. Experience of Quang Ngai province in supporting people to stick to the sea in association with sovereignty protection

2.3.2.2. Experience of An Giang province

2.3.3. Lessons learned for Khanh Hoa province on the State's support for people participating in the protection of sea and island sovereignty

International and domestic experiences suggest some lessons for Khanh Hoa province as follows:

Firstly, to design support policies in accordance with natural conditions, marine economic space and local fisheries characteristics.

Secondly, to ensure that support activities are able to adapt to fluctuations in the fishery market, the requirements of international integration and the process of modernization of fisheries management.

Thirdly, closely integrate the goal of marine economic development with the goal of protecting the sovereignty of the sea and islands in the process of designing and deploying support.

Fourthly, improve the quality of institutions and the capacity to organize policy implementation to ensure the effectiveness of support.

Fifthly, ensure stable public financial resources and allocate support resources in a focused and focused direction.

Sixthly, focus on improving the economic capacity, qualifications and

ability to receive support of the fishing community.

Seventhly, strengthen inter-sectoral and inter-level coordination and the participation of many subjects in the process of organizing policy implementation.

Eighthly, establish an evidence-based policy monitoring, evaluation and feedback mechanism to improve the effectiveness and ability to adjust policies.

Chapter 3

THE CURRENT SITUATION OF STATE SUPPORT FOR PEOPLE PARTICIPATING IN THE PROTECTION OF THE SOVEREIGNTY OF THE SEA AND ISLANDS AREA OF KHANH HOA PROVINCE

3.1. NATURAL AND SOCIO-ECONOMIC CHARACTERISTICS OF KHANH HOA PROVINCE AFFECTING THE STATE'S SUPPORT FOR PEOPLE PARTICIPATING IN THE PROTECTION OF SEA AND ISLAND SOVEREIGNTY

3.1.1. Characteristics of space, sea, islands and natural conditions related to the deployment of assistance

Khanh Hoa is a locality with a large sea space, a strategic location for marine economic development and protection of national sovereignty. The characteristics of offshore fishing grounds, high production costs and risks from natural conditions and natural disasters increase the need for the State's support in finance, technical infrastructure and information technology, knowledge and skills to help people maintain activities at sea and ensure safety in production.

3.1.2. Characteristics of livelihoods and socio-economic conditions of people in coastal areas and islands related to beneficiaries of support

People in coastal areas and islands of Khanh Hoa province mainly live by exploitation, aquaculture and fishery logistics services, with income highly dependent on natural and market conditions, so there are many potential risks. In addition, differences in production scale, financial capacity, qualifications and access to information lead to differences in the ability to access and enjoy the State's support policies. These are important factors affecting the appropriateness, coverage and effectiveness of support activities.

3.1.3. Undertakings, policies, programs and legal documents on

the State's support for people participating in the protection of sea and island sovereignty in Khanh Hoa province

Activities to support people to participate in the protection of sea and island sovereignty in Khanh Hoa province are implemented on the basis of a relatively complete system of guidelines, policies and legal documents from the central to local levels. This is an important political, legal and organizational foundation for the implementation of forms and contents of support, as well as the basis for assessing the current status of the State's support for people participating in the protection of sea and island sovereignty in the province.

3.2. THE CURRENT SITUATION OF STATE SUPPORT FOR PEOPLE PARTICIPATING IN THE PROTECTION OF SEA AND ISLAND SOVEREIGNTY IN KHANH HOA PROVINCE IN THE PERIOD OF 2015 - 2025

3.2.1. The current situation of the State's financial support

In the period of 2015-2025, the State has implemented many financial support policies for people participating in the protection of sea and island sovereignty in Khanh Hoa province, focusing on preferential credit support, fuel support and insurance support. The survey results show that 55.5% of people have access to preferential credit policies, contributing to reducing capital difficulties and maintaining fishing, aquaculture and fishery logistics services. In addition, the fuel support policy has been implemented relatively stably with a total support budget of nearly VND 1,500 billion in the period 2011-2025, contributing to reducing production costs and encouraging people to maintain activities at sea. Insurance support policies have also been gradually implemented, contributing to sharing risks and improving the level of peace of mind for people in the process of production and activities at sea.

However, the results of the implementation of some programs are still far from the targets and expected scale; the ability to access and benefit from financial support is still different between target groups; the access rate of individuals and households is generally lower than that of cooperatives and enterprises. The scale of implementation of some insurance policies has decreased sharply over the years, while the demand for financial support is still quite high. The gap between the need for support and the ability to access and benefit from policies still exists, especially for small-scale production households. This shows that financial support has created more conditions for people to maintain legal economic activities and livelihoods

associated with the sea, but the level of coverage, stability and ability to meet actual needs are still limited.

3.2.2. The current situation of the State's support for technical infrastructure and information technology

In the period of 2015-2025, the State has invested in and upgraded infrastructure to serve marine economic activities in association with the protection of sea and island sovereignty in Khanh Hoa province. The system of 5 fishing ports and 1 storm shelter anchorage and fishery logistics, electricity and water services for production have been gradually invested and upgraded, contributing to improving the operating conditions of people at sea.

In addition, supporting policies on information technology are promoted through the implementation of fishing vessel cruise monitoring systems, communication and natural disaster warning. By 2025, the percentage of fishing vessels subject to mandatory installation of cruise monitoring equipment will reach about 99.5%, contributing to improving the efficiency of fisheries management, ensuring safety for people and supporting the implementation of regulations on anti-IUU fishing.

However, the level of response of some infrastructure items is still uneven among localities; the ability to exploit and use some supporting technologies of the people is still limited. This shows that it is necessary to continue to improve technical infrastructure and improve the efficiency of information technology application in marine activities.

3.2.3. The current situation of the State's knowledge and skills support

In the period of 2015-2025, the State has implemented training, training and propaganda activities on the law of the sea and islands; skills in fishery exploitation and preservation; labor safety; natural disaster prevention and risk response at sea. These activities have created conditions for people to improve their awareness, professional skills and ability to maintain legal economic activities and livelihoods associated with the sea.

The survey results showed that the level of access to support occupational health and safety reached 94.7%, natural disaster prevention reached 88.0%, reflecting a relatively high focus on essential contents. However, the level of access to exploitation and preservation skills is still lower, while training in modern vehicle operation, information technology and digital transformation is still very limited, with an access rate of less

than 5%. The scale of implementation of some training programs has also not reached the set plan.

That shows that the support content is still imbalanced between knowledge of safety and risk prevention with technological skills, preservation and adaptation to new requirements. Therefore, it is necessary to adjust the training content and methods according to specific capacity gaps, and at the same time associate training with equipment, technology and the applicability of people in reality.

3.3. GENERAL ASSESSMENT OF THE STATE SUPPORT FOR PEOPLE PARTICIPATING IN THE PROTECTION OF SEA AND ISLAND SOVEREIGNTY IN KHANH HOA AREA

3.3.1. Results achieved

3.3.1.1. Regarding financial support

According to the evaluation criteria, financial support is generally in line with the characteristics of marine economic activities and the need to maintain people's livelihoods. Preferential credit policies, fuel support and insurance have created conditions for people to access capital, reduce cost pressures and share part of risks in fishing, aquaculture and fishery logistics services. Although the level of access and benefit still varies between target groups, financial support has contributed to maintaining legal economic activities and livelihoods associated with the sea. The results of the PLS-SEM analysis show that financial support has the same relationship, is statistically significant and is the strongest among the three support groups for people's participation in protecting the sovereignty of the sea and islands ($\beta = 0.402$).

3.3.1.2. Support for technical infrastructure and information technology

Supporting basic technical infrastructure and information technology in line with the requirements of marine economic development, ensuring safety and managing activities at sea. The investment in fisheries infrastructure, cruise monitoring systems, communication and natural disaster warning has improved operating conditions, strengthened information connectivity and supported people to maintain activities at sea. The scope of access to some works, equipment and information systems is relatively wide, but the level of benefit is still different among target groups. The results of the PLS-SEM analysis show that this support group has a same-direction relationship and is statistically significant with the level of

participation in protecting the sovereignty of the sea and islands of people ($\beta = 0.252$).

3.3.1.3. Knowledge and skills support

Training, training and propaganda activities are generally in line with the requirements of improving knowledge, skills and ability to respond to risks of people operating at sea. The level of access to contents on health, occupational safety and natural disaster prevention is relatively high, contributing to raising awareness, professional skills and the ability to maintain legal economic activities and livelihoods associated with the sea. However, the scope of access between training contents is still uneven, especially for information technology and operation of modern vehicles. The results of the PLS-SEM analysis show that knowledge and skills support has a same-dimensional relationship and is statistically significant with the level of participation in protecting the sovereignty of the sea and islands of people ($\beta = 0.129$).

3.3.2. Main limitations

Firstly, the implementation results of some support programs still have a significant gap compared to the expected target and scale.

Secondly, the support structure is not balanced between meeting the needs of maintaining operations and ensuring safety with the requirements of capacity building and adaptation in the long term.

Thirdly, the ability to access and enjoy some support content is still limited and uneven among target groups.

Fourthly, the scale and implementation results of some support contents have not been maintained stably over time.

Fifthly, the level of transformation of support resources into actual operational capacity and long-term participation of people is still limited, not commensurate with the resources and support objectives.

3.3.3. Causes of limitations

Firstly, the natural characteristics, space at sea and the high level of risk increase the cost, uncertainty and support needs of the people, while the ability of support resources to compensate is always limited.

Secondly, the fluctuation of the economic, institutional-policy environment and the complexity of the security and geopolitical situation at sea have increased the requirements and placed new requirements on support activities.

Thirdly, the allocation of resources and the organization of support

have not fully kept up with the differences in needs, risk levels and receptive capacity of different groups of people.

Fourthly, the capacity to organize implementation and coordination between subjects participating in the support is still limited, affecting the process of allocation and transfer of resources and the ability to realize the support objectives for beneficiaries.

Fifthly, the economic capacity, qualifications, ability to receive technology and the level of organization and association of the people are still different, leading to the same support resources but the ability to access, absorb and transform into participation capacity is not the same.

Chapter 4

VIEWS AND SOLUTIONS ON THE STATE'S SUPPORT FOR PEOPLE PARTICIPATING IN THE PROTECTION OF SEA AND ISLAND SOVEREIGNTY IN KHANH H PROVINCEOH

4.1. NEW CONTEXT AND REQUIREMENTS AND VIEWS OF THE STATE'S SUPPORT FOR PEOPLE PARTICIPATING IN THE PROTECTION OF SEA AND ISLAND SOVEREIGNTY IN KHANH HOA PROVINCE

4.1.1. The new context affecting the State's support for people participating in the protection of sea and island sovereignty

The new context is formed from the continued implementation of Resolution No. 36, Resolution No. 20 and national development orientations according to the Document of the 14th Party Congress; along with the trend of developing the blue sea economy, modern marine governance and complicated developments of the political and security situation at sea. The development of science and technology, digital transformation, anti-IUU fishing requirements, climate change, occupational risks and market fluctuations are changing the demand, content and mode of support. At the same time, the formation of the new Khanh Hoa province requires a review of the scope, objects and mechanism for allocating resources. In that context, the State's support needs to be completed in the direction of efficiency, adaptation and sustainability, linking operational maintenance with improving people's capacity.

4.1.2. Views on the State's support for people participating in the protection of sea and island sovereignty in Khanh Hoa province

The State's support should link the development of the marine

economy, ensuring the livelihood and legitimate interests of the people with the protection of national sovereignty, rights and interests at sea. Support activities must improve the efficiency of the allocation and use of resources and the autonomy of the people; strengthen the ability to adapt, share risks, ensure the continuity of essential contents and fairness in access and benefit. At the same time, support should be based on needs, implementation results and feedback mechanisms to promptly adjust, thereby improving the ability of people to transform resources into participation capacity.

4.2. SOLUTIONS ON STATE SUPPORT FOR PEOPLE PARTICIPATING IN THE PROTECTION OF SEA AND ISLAND SOVEREIGNTY IN KHANH HOA PROVINCE

4.2.1. Completing the mechanism for allocation and access to support resources

4.2.1.1. Establishing priority for resource allocation according to needs, risks and implementation results

The allocation of resources should be based on actual needs, risk levels, receptivity and implementation results of each support content, rather than mainly based on the scale of the plan. For programs with a large gap between expected and implemented, it is necessary to monitor the process from identifying needs, subjects and conditions to beneficiaries to identifying bottlenecks before adjusting resources. Prioritize allocation should focus on essential needs, great risks and beyond the self-assurance of the people. Within Khanh Hoa province after the arrangement, the allocation mechanism needs to be consistent in principle but suitable to the characteristics of each area.

4.2.1.2. Perfecting the conditions and approaches to support

Conditions and methods of approach need to be reviewed according to each content, beneficiary group and stage of gap generation, focusing on individuals and households with low access to credit. Specialized agencies, grassroots authorities and credit institutions need to coordinate from providing information, guiding documents, appraisal to disbursement to identify and handle bottlenecks. It is necessary to strengthen data sharing but not lower the necessary credit conditions. Groups, teams, cooperatives and professional organizations are promoted as information channels and links, not becoming beneficiary conditions outside regulations, thereby narrowing access gaps and improving the ability to actually benefit.

4.2.2. Adjustment of support structure and contents according to new development requirements

4.2.2.1. Balancing support for maintaining operations and improving long-term capacity

The support structure needs to maintain essential contents of fuel, safety and disaster prevention, and at the same time strengthen support for technology, information, preservation and skills to improve people's autonomy and adaptability. Specialized agencies need to distinguish operational maintenance support from capacity development support to determine the appropriate structure in the annual and medium-term plans. The adjustment must ensure complementarity among the three support groups, linking investment in means, equipment and data with user manuals, thereby combining solving immediate needs with long-term capacity building.

4.2.2.2. Prioritize overcoming gaps in technology, information and skills

Resources need to be prioritized for low-access contents such as operation of modern vehicles, information technology, exploitation and post-harvest preservation. Before expanding investment, it is necessary to identify bottlenecks in equipment, connections, data or skills to choose the appropriate form of support. The content and scale of training must be based on needs, participation, and at the same time associated with technology and actual production conditions. Relevant agencies and units need to coordinate to organize support according to capacity gaps; people actively participate in training and apply support results.

4.2.3. Improve risk-sharing mechanisms and maintain essential support

4.2.3.1. Completing the risk-sharing mechanism according to the level of loss and self-assurance

The risk-sharing mechanism should be based on the nature, extent of losses and self-assurance of each beneficiary group. People actively prevent and bear common risks themselves; insurance and market instruments share and compensate losses for insurable risks; State resources focus on large, unusual losses that exceed the ability to remedy themselves. For fishery insurance, it is necessary to review the conditions for participation, support fees and maintenance capacity to determine the causes of decline, select handling tools and reasonably delineate responsibilities between the State,

people and the market.

4.2.3.2. Ensuring the stability and continuity of essential support

Assistance in insurance, safety, disaster prevention and warning information should be ensured in the annual and medium-term plans. It is necessary to establish warning thresholds to promptly identify the causes of a decline in participation, beneficiaries or implementation results; thereby adjusting the organization, allocating resources or proposing to the competent authorities. Support objectives should be maintained consistently, while tools and priorities should be adjusted according to fluctuations in risks; at the same time, rationally mobilize non-budget resources to limit disruptions.

4.2.4. Improving the quality of implementation organization and efficiency of use of support resources

4.2.4.1. Improving the ability to transform policies into implementation results

The implementation organization needs to shift from managing mainly according to assigned tasks and resources to monitoring the entire process from determining needs, objects, conditions, approvals to actual beneficiaries. Each stage must clearly define the presiding agency, responsibilities, outputs and processing deadlines; at the same time, arrange a focal point to monitor, detect and handle bottlenecks. It is necessary to delineate issues under local jurisdiction with the content that must be proposed to the Central Government, thereby increasing the ability to transform the allocated objectives, plans and resources into implementation results.

4.2.4.2. Strengthening support for the capacity to receive and use resources

The provision of credit, equipment, technology, information and training should be associated with improving the ability to receive and use each beneficiary group. People receiving capital, equipment or information systems should be instructed to use them directly, in accordance with their operating conditions and implemented simultaneously or immediately after receiving support. Specialized agencies need to coordinate with training institutions, credit institutions, technology providers and professional organizations to identify capacity gaps that need to be prioritized. The result is not only to increase the number of beneficiaries but also to increase the rate of use for the right purpose and promote the effectiveness of resources.

4.2.4.3. Promoting the proactive role and responsibility of the people

People need to actively learn about policies, identify needs, prepare conditions for access and use of resources for the right purposes; actively participate in training, update legal knowledge, professional skills, safety and technology. At the same time, it is necessary to strengthen risk prevention, insurance participation, resource accumulation and linkage through groups, teams and cooperatives to share information, experience and support each other. People also need to fulfill the responsibility of responding, supervising and coordinating with functional forces, thereby transforming support resources into autonomy, adaptability and sustainable livelihoods.

4.2.5. Improve the mechanism for monitoring, feedback and adjustment of support

4.2.5.1. Monitoring results according to the chain of allocation, beneficiary and promotion

It is necessary to build a unified monitoring system, reflecting the process from resource allocation, accessibility, and beneficiaries to results and the level of post-support effects. The indicators should be consistent with the three support groups and the four evaluation criteria of the thesis, and be separated by content and beneficiary groups to identify the gap between needs, conditions, beneficiaries and actual results. Data should be prioritized from existing records and information systems, associated with the responsibility of updating and synthesizing each agency, thereby shifting from monitoring inputs to assessing the ability to transform and promote the effectiveness of resources.

4.2.5.2. Establish feedback and adjustment mechanisms based on performance results

People's feedback should be collected according to each content, beneficiary group and implementation through appropriate channels; then synthesized and classified according to the problem and handling authority. The results of monitoring and feedback must become the basis for adjusting the priority order, content, approach and implementation organization in the next support cycle. The focal point is responsible for identifying common bottlenecks, proactively handling issues under local jurisdiction and synthesizing evidence to propose the Central Government to problems beyond its competence, thereby improving adaptability and effectiveness of support.

CONCLUSION

From the perspective of Political Economy, the State's support for people participating in the protection of sea and island sovereignty is not only to provide resources for production and livelihoods but also to mobilize, allocate and use resources, share costs, risks and reconcile benefits between people, localities and the country. The thesis has clarified the theoretical basis, identified three groups of support, including financial support; technical infrastructure and information technology support; knowledge and skills support; and at the same time developed four evaluation criteria including suitability, accessibility and coverage, effectiveness and impact.

The results of the study in Khanh Hoa in the period 2015–2025 show that the State's support has contributed to improving operating conditions, sharing costs and risks and improving people's capacity. However, some programs still have a gap between the goals and implementation results; the support structure is not balanced; the access and benefit are uneven; some contents are unstable and the level of transformation of resources into long-term participation capacity is still limited. The PLS-SEM analysis shows that the three support groups all have the same relationship and are statistically significant with the level of participation in protecting the sovereignty of the sea and islands of the people; in which, financial support has the strongest relationship, followed by support for technical infrastructure and information technology, followed by knowledge and skills support; the model explains 40.2% of the variance of the level of participation.

On that basis, the thesis proposes five groups of solutions: improving the mechanism for allocating and accessing support resources; adjusting the structure and content of support according to new development requirements; perfecting the mechanism for sharing risks and maintaining essential support; improving the quality of implementation organization and the efficiency of using support resources; improving the mechanism for monitoring, feedback and adjustment of support. The results of the study confirm that the effectiveness of support depends not only on the size of resources, but more importantly, on the ability to allocate, access, use and transform resources into conditions, capacity and long-term participation of people, thereby linking the legitimate interests of the people with the interests of the locality and the country.

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