

Maritime Security and Drug Threats in the Border Waters of Bintan Regency: The Perspective of the Bintan Resort Police

Elyza Riani¹, Yossy Oktalina²

¹Universitas Maritim Raja Ali Haji. Kepulauan Riau Province. Indonesia

¹Universitas Riau Kepulauan. Kepulauan Riau Province. Indonesia

Correspondence: elyzariani09@gmail.com¹

Received: July 8, 2025 | Revised: August 15, 2025 | Accepted: August 31, 2025

<https://doi.org/10.31629/jmps.v2i2.7436>

ABSTRACT

Bintan Regency, located in Indonesia's Riau Islands Province, occupies a strategic maritime position adjacent to Singapore and Malaysia, making it a vital yet vulnerable zone for transnational narcotics trafficking. The geographical characteristics of extensive coastlines, scattered small islands, and numerous unofficial ports provide opportunities for smugglers to exploit weak surveillance and limited enforcement capacity. This study aims to analyze the strategies, challenges, and institutional coordination of the Bintan Resort Police (Polres Bintan) in combating maritime-based narcotics smuggling. Using a qualitative descriptive method, data were collected through in-depth interviews, direct observation, and documentation studies, then analyzed using the Miles and Huberman model with triangulation for validation. The findings reveal that the Polres Bintan plays a crucial role in early detection and prevention through routine patrols, intelligence sharing, and coordination with the Navy, Customs, and BNN. However, enforcement remains constrained by limited personnel, only two patrol vessels, and the absence of an integrated maritime surveillance system. Inter-agency coordination is still fragmented due to overlapping authority and the lack of formal legal frameworks. Moreover, socio-economic vulnerabilities within coastal communities increase local involvement in smuggling networks. The study concludes that sustainable maritime security requires strengthening institutional synergy, enhancing technological capacity, and empowering communities as active partners in surveillance. A unified maritime governance framework is essential to transform Bintan from a vulnerable transit hub into a resilient maritime border zone for Indonesia's narcotics control strategy.

Keyword: Maritime Security, Drug Trafficking, Border Enforcement, Bintan Police, Law Enforcement Strategy

INTRODUCTION

Kepulauan Riau Province (Kepri) occupies a unique geographical position in the western part of Indonesia, lying directly to the east of Sumatra Island and bordering several neighboring countries such as Malaysia, Singapore, and Vietnam (Hukom, 2023). Unlike most provinces in Indonesia, Kepri consists of 96% ocean and only around 4% land, spread across more than 2,000 small and large islands (Baretlitbang, 2020; Muhammad, 2023). This maritime dominance makes the province both strategically vital and highly vulnerable to various forms of cross-border activity, ranging from legitimate international trade to illicit activities such as drug smuggling and human trafficking (Putri & Afnira, 2024). The strategic location of Kepri along international trade routes, particularly the Malacca Strait and the South

China Sea, further underscores its role as Indonesia's maritime gateway (Hukom, 2023). These sea lanes are among the busiest in the world, serving as arteries of global commerce that connect East Asia, South Asia, and the Middle East. While this connectivity facilitates economic development, it also creates opportunities for transnational criminal networks to exploit weak points in surveillance and law enforcement. The proliferation of "rat ports" (unofficial or small docks) magnifies this vulnerability, as they often escape the scrutiny of state authorities.

Among the regencies within Kepri, Bintan stands out as a particularly strategic location due to its proximity to Singapore and Malaysia, both of which are international shipping hubs (Lee et al., 2023). Bintan is not only a legitimate trade and tourism center but also a frontline region in Indonesia's battle against narcotics trafficking. Scholars have highlighted how Bintan's maritime geography renders it susceptible to illicit flows, with smugglers exploiting traditional docks and loosely monitored coastal stretches.

The porous nature of Bintan's maritime borders makes it an attractive route for international drug syndicates (Aprilia et al., 2022). Small vessels such as fishing boats and speedboats can enter undetected through unmonitored lanes, circumventing radars and official checkpoints (Singha et al., 2025). Furthermore, the regency's long coastline and dispersed population make comprehensive monitoring exceedingly difficult. Law enforcement agencies face the challenge of covering vast sea areas with limited human resources and technological infrastructure, creating an imbalance between the scale of the threat and the capacity to address it.

Another dimension of Bintan's vulnerability lies in its geographical proximity to transit countries. The island's closeness to Singapore and Malaysia allows smugglers to use it as a staging point before distributing narcotics to other parts of Indonesia (Debrah et al., 2000). This role as a "transit hub" reflects the globalized nature of narcotics trade, where production, distribution, and consumption are transnationally interconnected. For Indonesia, this situation presents not only a security challenge but also a sovereignty issue, as it highlights weaknesses in the control of maritime borders.

Empirical evidence from law enforcement agencies confirms that Bintan is repeatedly targeted by drug networks. The modus operandi has become increasingly sophisticated, involving concealment in fishing vessels, high-speed transport through unmonitored sea routes, and the recruitment of local residents as couriers. This indicates a deliberate attempt by syndicates to embed themselves within local economies and communities, thereby complicating detection and enforcement.

The urgency of addressing this issue is underscored by its social. Narcotics circulation threatens not only state sovereignty but also the resilience of Indonesia's younger generation, who constitute the primary targets of drug distribution. As narcotics seep into communities, they erode public health, fuel social problems, and strain law enforcement systems. The stakes are therefore not merely legal or security-related but extend to national development and the long-term wellbeing of society.

The Bintan Resort Police (Polres) has emerged as a key actor in this struggle. Positioned at the frontline of maritime law enforcement, the Polres carries the dual responsibility of preventing narcotics entry and dismantling local distribution networks (Ismail, 2025). While maritime security involves multiple agencies such as the Navy, BNN, and BAKAMLA the Polres plays a particularly crucial role in coordinating ground-level enforcement, conducting raids, and prosecuting offenders. Their work thus represents both a local defense mechanism and a vital component of Indonesia's broader narcotics control strategy.

Data from the Bintan Police Narcotics Investigation Unit highlights the persistence of narcotics cases in the regency. Between 2022 and 2024, the number of recorded cases consistently hovered around 28–29 per year, involving methamphetamine, marijuana, and

ecstasy pills. This continuity demonstrates that despite ongoing enforcement measures, the scale of narcotics smuggling has not diminished significantly. Instead, it points to the adaptability of criminal syndicates and the enduring attractiveness of Bintan as a smuggling route.

Previous scholarly works on narcotics trafficking in maritime regions have tended to focus on macro-level analyses, such as the geopolitics of the Malacca Strait or the socio-economic impacts of smuggling in borderlands (Klang, 2024; Wong & Yong, 2020). However, studies that concentrate on localized enforcement strategies particularly the role of the Polres remain limited. This article positions itself within this gap, offering a critical examination of how local law enforcement navigates structural challenges while striving to protect national borders.

In this sense, the article contributes to the academic debate by shifting attention from abstract discussions of "border vulnerability" to concrete institutional practices in Bintan (Brian, 2024). It examines the strategies employed by the Polres, the constraints they face, and the broader implications of their work for Indonesia's narcotics control policy. By doing so, it not only enriches the literature on maritime security but also provides empirical insights relevant to policymakers and practitioners.

The urgency of this discussion is heightened by the evolving nature of narcotics trafficking itself. International syndicates constantly refine their methods, taking advantage of technological innovations, gaps in inter-agency coordination, and economic vulnerabilities in coastal communities. If local law enforcement fails to keep pace with these innovations, the risk of escalation into more entrenched networks increases. This article thus emphasizes the importance of adaptive strategies in law enforcement, with the Polres as a case study.

Moreover, Bintan situation resonates with broader global challenges in maritime border control. Across the world, coastal regions with extensive archipelagos such as the Philippines or the Caribbean face similar issues of porous borders and resource limitations. By situating Bintan within this global context, the article demonstrates that the local problem has transnational relevance, making it a valuable case for comparative study.

The approach taken in this article is both descriptive and analytical. It describes the empirical reality of narcotics smuggling in Bintan based on case data, institutional reports, and secondary literature, while also analyzing the structural and strategic dimensions of law enforcement. The combination of these perspectives allows for a comprehensive understanding of the issue, bridging the gap between empirical detail and conceptual insight.

Ultimately, the article aims to foreground the importance of local law enforcement in safeguarding national sovereignty, particularly in maritime regions (Polri, 2022:21). By focusing on the Bintan Police as a case study, it highlights both the promise and the limitations of current strategies in combating narcotics smuggling. The hope is that by bringing scholarly attention to this issue, the article can contribute to ongoing debates on maritime security, drug control, and border governance, while offering practical recommendations for enhancing enforcement capacity in Indonesia's archipelagic frontier.

METHODOLOGY

This study uses a qualitative method with a descriptive approach, because it aims to describe systematically and factually the role and perspective of the Bintan Resort Police in dealing with the threat of narcotics smuggling by sea. The qualitative method was chosen to deeply understand the social and operational context faced by the police in securing maritime areas, as well as to collect data from primary sources through interviews and direct observation (Creswell & Poth, 2016). The research location was carried out in Bintan Regency, Kepulauan Riau Province, especially at the Bintan Police and coastal areas that are often used as entry routes for narcotics, such as people's ports and rat ports.

Data Collection Techniques were carried out using in-depth interview techniques: conducted with officers at the Bintan Police Resort, especially the narcotics unit and the water police unit (Khatri & Brown, 2010). Interviews were semi-structured to obtain flexibility in gathering information. Direct observation: conducted at several points prone to drug smuggling in the Bintan waters, to understand the geographical situation, activities of coastal communities, and potential entry routes for illegal goods.

Documentation study: researchers also collected supporting documents such as reports of drug smuggling cases handled by the Bintan Police, local media publications, and official data from the Police and BNN. Data Analysis Techniques The data obtained was analyzed using the Miles & Huberman model, which includes three main steps: data reduction, data presentation, and drawing conclusions/verification (Miles et al., 2014). To increase the validity of the data, source triangulation techniques were used, namely comparing interview data with observations and documentation (Denzin, 2012).

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

1. Early Detection and Preventive Measures in Combating Maritime Narcotics Smuggling in Bintan Regency

The Bintan Regency area, which borders directly on the open sea and international shipping lanes, is part of a strategic but vulnerable national maritime security system. In the context of maritime security theory, the sea is not only seen as an arena for national defense, but also as an economic and social security space that must be protected from non-traditional threats such as narcotics (Bueger, 2015). Maritime security includes protection of sea areas from various forms of threats, both military and non-military such as transnational crime, smuggling, and illicit trade.

Bintan Regency, as a maritime border area of Indonesia, has open water characteristics that facilitate access for ships from abroad, including speedboats used to smuggle narcotics. Data from the Bintan Police Narcotics Research Unit obtained an overview of which sea routes are most often used by smuggling networks, that there is a map of narcotics smuggling routes according to the Bintan Police Narcotics Research Unit as follows:



Figure 1. Narcotics Crime Ring Map
Source: Bintan Police Narcotics Research Unit

Based on the Narcotics Crime Ring Map, most of the drug smuggling routes are through the coast, this is an important concern for the Bintan Police Water Police Unit together

with the Bintan Police Drug Investigation Unit in carrying out early prevention. The Bintan Police Water Police Unit carries out early detection of sea patrols which are used as an initial step for sea routes as a smuggling route for goods, one of which is narcotics. Efforts made in the form of preventing drug smuggling in the waters of Bintan Regency in the form of routine patrols using fast boats owned by the Bintan Police Water Police Unit, coordination between maritime law enforcement agencies such as the Indonesian Navy, KPLP, and Customs, conducting a maritime intelligence approach such as information from coastal communities, fishermen, and the marine intelligence network is part of the early detection system, these efforts are made to carry out early detection.

With these efforts, it has not been possible to cover the entire sea in Bintan Regency due to limited human resources and infrastructure owned by the Bintan Police Polairud Unit, that based on data from the Bintan Police Polairud Unit, there are 18 (eighteen) members and 2 (two) patrol boats, speedboats with a category of 2 (two) engines with a capacity of 10-30 GT, of course, with this capacity it is not sufficient to surround 98.50% of the ocean area close to the border area (Mahadiansar et al., 2023; Samin & Poti, 2022).

This strengthens the findings which states that maritime security is very vulnerable if a country has a vast sea but limited supervision (Bateman, 2007). In conditions like this, the presence of maritime security forces, including the Bintan Police, is important to create early detection and preventive action against cross-border crimes. Drug smuggling cases that occurred in the waters of Bintan show that this area has become a transit point for international drug networks due to minimal supervision and the vast waters that are difficult to reach in their entirety.

One of the cases that was handled on Saturday, June 21, 2025, the Bintan Police through an unofficial port such as in East Bintan District, the Bintan Police Narcotics Research Unit (SATRESNARKOBA) uncovered the circulation of methamphetamine in the Sungai Enam area, East Bintan District. A man with the initials U (42) was arrested by the police when he was about to distribute the illicit goods, the police found a number of pieces of evidence, namely 28 packages of methamphetamine packed in clear plastic with a net weight of 13.75 grams along with a methamphetamine smoking device (Ismail, 2025)

Drug smuggling cases not only occur through unofficial ports, but often occur at official ports, such as one case that was handled by the Bintan Police on Wednesday, January 1, 2025. The Bintan Police Research Unit managed to arrest 6 (six) people suspected of carrying narcotics and during the search a 9 mm caliber firearm was found at the Roro Port of ASDP Tanjung Uban, Bintan Regency.

The types of narcotics carried were methamphetamine, heroin, ecstasy, Happy Five, and marijuana. The six people suspected of being perpetrators of narcotics crimes were charged with Article 114 Paragraph (2) and/or Article 112 Paragraph (2) and/or Article 111 Paragraph (1) in conjunction with Article 132 Paragraph (1) of the Republic of Indonesia Law Number 35 of 2009 concerning Narcotics and Article 62 of the Republic of Indonesia Law Number 5 of 1997 concerning Psychotropics, as well as Article 1 paragraph (1) of the Emergency Law of the Republic of Indonesia Number 12 of 1951 regulates the criminal act of illegal possession of firearms, ammunition or explosives (Bintan Police Public Relations, 2025).

In the perspective of law enforcement theory, the police carry out the main function in preventing and prosecuting crimes through patrols, investigations, and arrests of perpetrators (Soekanto, 2008: 112). That there are a number of narcotics cases handled by the Bintan Police as a form of criminal action from patrols, investigations and arrests of perpetrators as follows:

Table 1. Bintan Police Narcotics Unit Case Data

Year	Number of Cases	Types of Drugs	Evidence Seized	Locus of Arrest
2022	28 Cases	Methamphetamine	6,787.13 grams	Gunung Kijang District
		Marijuana	17,994.9 grams	Toapaya District
		Ecstasy Pills	25.04 grams	East Bintan District
				North Bintan District
2023	29 Cases	Methamphetamine	4,111.83 grams	Toapaya District
		Marijuana	1.09 grams	East Bintan District
		Ecstasy Pills	0.16 grams	Bintan Pesisir District
				North Bintan District
2024	28 Cases	Methamphetamine	2,538.19 grams	North Bintan District
		Marijuana	150.4 grams	East Bintan District
		Ecstasy Pills	5.93 grams	Gunung Kijang District
				Teluk Seborg District
				Seri Kuala Lobam District
				Bintan Pesisir District
Total				85 Cases

Source: Bintan Police Research Unit, June 2025

Based on the number of cases above, the cases that occurred in Bintan Regency consisted of sub-districts located in areas that have docks or ports as sea routes where people carry out fishing activities, but drug smuggling is often carried out at community ports or official ports in Bintan Regency. The number of cases above illustrates that drug cases still often occur in Bintan Regency starting from users, distribution to drug smuggling via sea routes or the coast. This is in line with the National Police report (2022: 23) which emphasizes the importance of mapping threats based on field data.

2. Patterns and Law Enforcement of Maritime-Based Narcotics Crimes in Bintan Regency

In 2024, the Bintan Police Research Unit received information from Bintan residents that a package of 1 (one) kilogram of crystal methamphetamine was found on the beach of the Tanjung Keling fishing port, Gunung Kijang District, Malang Rapat Village, that the ownership of the crystal methamphetamine was unknown and the Bintan Police Research Unit conducted an in-depth investigation into the ownership. Based on the results of interviews with members of the Bintan Police Narcotics Research Unit, the narcotics obtained from the perpetrators were mostly obtained from neighboring countries such as Malaysia or Batam City, which were passed through sea routes (interview, June 4, 2025).

Based on the case, drug transactions often occur on the coast or in the middle of the sea. Synergy between the Water and Air Police Unit (Polairud) of the Bintan Police and the Narcotics Research Unit of the Bintan Police in implementing handling strategies is greatly needed. Currently, the strategy carried out by the Bintan Police in handling drug smuggling is through joint patrol efforts, mapping vulnerable areas, integrated intelligence, coordination with other law enforcement, and community outreach and education.

Interviews with members of the Bintan Police Narcotics Investigation Unit, the efforts of cooperation between maritime law enforcement sectors that have been carried out by the Bintan Police Narcotics Investigation Unit, namely receiving a transfer of cases found from the Indonesian Navy Lanal Bintan on June 27, 2024, members of Lanal Bintan conducted a patrol in the waters of Sakera Beach, North Bintan District and saw a ship crewed by a fisherman, but when the Lanal Bintan patrol members approached the fisherman threw away goods tied with ballast, because they used bubble warp the parcel floated back up, then the fisherman

was examined by being taken to the office, the total weight of the net crystal methamphetamine was 770 (seven hundred and seventy) grams which would be sent to Batam City (Interview, June 4, 2025).

Table 2. Authorities of each maritime law enforcer

Details of Authority	Indonesian Navy	POLAIR	CUSTOMS
Pursuit	Yes	Yes	-
Dismissal	Yes	Yes	Yes
Inspection	Yes	Yes	Yes
Arrest	Yes	Yes	Yes
Investigation	Yes	Yes	Yes
Early Warning System	-	-	-
Guarding	Yes	Yes	-
Surveillance	Yes	Yes	Yes
Escort	Yes	Yes	-
Prevention	Yes	Yes	-
First action at the crime scene	Yes	Yes	-
Synergy and monitoring with related agencies	Yes	Yes	Yes
Search And Rescue	Yes	Yes	-

Source: Compiled by the author based on statutory regulations

The above institutions have their respective legal bases, the contents of which are almost intersecting in maritime security. Although, intersecting in carrying out their functions as law enforcers in the Indonesian sea area, their activities have not been integrated so that security and law enforcement have not run optimally, each related agency or ministry has different policies, infrastructure, and human resources. This difference in authority is expected in establishing coordination between institutions that is carried out properly.

The coordination that has been carried out is in the form of delegating case authority so that specifically the handling of narcotics that has the authority is the Bintan Police, so that this can help improve the prevention of narcotics smuggling in the border waters of Bintan Regency, that the prevention and handling of narcotics smuggling is carried out between maritime law enforcement sectors. However, with this ongoing coordination, it does not make narcotics smuggling end up with zero.

Currently there is no clear legality regarding the position of authority and division of tasks in maritime security, especially in handling narcotics smuggling, coordination between maritime law enforcers needs to be evaluated and regulated clearly enough, with the form of cooperation as legality it is expected to provide legal certainty and a clear division of tasks so that there is no overlapping of authority and in practice with limited human resources and infrastructure if carried out together it is expected to improve maritime security.

Based on the results of interviews with members of the Bintan Police Narcotics Investigation Unit, coastal communities are also involved in drug smuggling in the border waters of Bintan Regency because local residents understand the conditions in their area better (Interview, June 4, 2025). This is indicated by table 1 (one) of the Bintan Police Narcotics Investigation Unit Case Data, most of which involve local residents, in 2022 consisting of 28 (twenty-eight) cases, there were 18 local residents of Bintan Regency, in 2023 consisting of 29 (twenty-nine) cases, there were 20 (twenty) local residents of Bintan

Regency, and in 2024 consisting of 28 (twenty-eight) cases, there were 20 (twenty) local residents of Bintan Regency.

However, residents do not necessarily become perpetrators, sometimes they become victims, so in this case it is necessary to conduct socialization regarding the understanding of narcotics for coastal areas with an understanding of the residents of Bintan Regency. Based on the results of a joint interview with one of the members of the Bintan Police Narcotics Investigation, it can involve the community as informants rather than as couriers or smugglers of narcotics (Interview, June 4, 2025), this is a strategy by the Bintan Police in handling narcotics smuggling. Data states that the Kepulauan Riau region has a trend of local residents being involved in international narcotics networks due to economic factors and weak social control, this is the cause in Bintan Regency because most of the perpetrators of narcotics crimes are from the lower middle class.

So it can be concluded that the strategic challenges faced by the Bintan Police Research Unit together with the Bintan Police Water Police Unit in combating drug smuggling in the Border Waters of Bintan Regency based on the results of interviews with members of the Bintan Police Narcotics Research Unit and members of the Bintan Police Polairud Unit are the limited facilities and infrastructure for carrying out routine patrols in the sea area of Bintan Regency with geographical conditions consisting of many islands and a long coastline making it difficult to carry out maximum supervision so that adequate facilities and infrastructure are needed with the geographical conditions of Bintan Regency (Interview, June 4, 2025).

Smuggling routes that are difficult to detect because the perpetrators utilize unofficial ports (rat ports) that are scattered and hidden, thus avoiding official control, Many uninhabited islands are used as transit points or loading and unloading points for narcotics with limited maritime law enforcement personnel unable to reach routine patrols. Coordination between institutions that has been carried out but has not been optimal due to the absence of legal cooperation in the form of a cooperation agreement or forming a special team to eradicate narcotics smuggling in the Bintan district area so that it can strengthen the duties and functions of authority without overlapping in the field. The weakness of cross-border detection is a gap for the entry of drugs into a threat to international networks in narcotics smuggling that occurs generally involves cross-country networks.

3. Strategic Challenges and Policy Implications for Maritime Narcotics Control in Bintan Regency

The strategic challenges faced by the Bintan Resort Police in combating maritime narcotics trafficking are multidimensional, involving logistical, institutional, and socio-economic constraints. Limited human resources and inadequate maritime patrol facilities make it difficult to monitor the 98.5% sea coverage of Bintan's territory. The existing two patrol vessels cannot effectively cover the dispersed archipelagic area and hidden routes frequently exploited by smugglers. In addition, the absence of integrated maritime radar systems reduces the ability to detect high-speed boats that operate at night or in remote areas. These operational limitations have weakened early detection capacity and created recurring enforcement gaps.

Institutional fragmentation also contributes to inefficiency in law enforcement. While the Navy, Customs, KPLP, and the Bintan Police share overlapping jurisdictions, the absence of a clear legal framework often leads to duplication of duties and uncoordinated operations. As a result, enforcement efforts become reactive rather than preventive. Interviews reveal that inter-agency coordination remains event-driven and dependent on personal networks instead of formalized protocols. This weak synergy not only affects operational speed but also undermines data sharing on smuggling patterns, vessel tracking, and community intelligence, which are crucial for adaptive enforcement.

From a socio-economic perspective, the participation of local residents in smuggling activities reflects the deep structural challenges of livelihood vulnerability and weak social control (Akbar et al., 2021; Riva & Effendi, 2013). Many of the perpetrators identified by the Bintan Police come from coastal fishing communities with limited economic alternatives. These conditions make them susceptible to recruitment by transnational syndicates as couriers or facilitators. To address this, preventive measures must integrate community empowerment programs, education on narcotics risks, and local livelihood diversification. Such community-oriented strategies can transform residents from potential offenders into partners in maritime surveillance.

Policy-wise, the study highlights the urgent need for a comprehensive maritime security framework that bridges local enforcement capacity with national strategy. Establishing a joint maritime command post, equipped with shared data systems and standardized procedures, would enhance coordination among agencies. The use of digital monitoring tools, satellite imagery, and AI-assisted vessel detection could strengthen early warning mechanisms. Furthermore, institutionalizing cooperation through a formal memorandum of understanding (MoU) between the Navy, Customs, and Bintan Police would ensure legal clarity and accountability. In the long run, sustainable maritime security in Bintan requires a shift from reactive policing to proactive governance.

CONCLUSION

The study concludes that Bintan Regency constitutes a highly vulnerable maritime area for narcotics smuggling due to its geographical characteristics, numerous small ports, and close proximity to neighboring countries such as Singapore and Malaysia. The combination of extensive coastlines, scattered islands, and limited law enforcement coverage enables illicit actors to exploit unofficial maritime routes. These spatial and logistical challenges amplify the difficulty of surveillance and create persistent vulnerabilities in Indonesia's maritime security system.

The findings emphasize that the Bintan Resort Police (Polres Bintan) play a central role in maintaining maritime order through patrols, investigations, and intelligence coordination. Strategies such as joint patrols, mapping of vulnerable routes, and community engagement have demonstrated partial effectiveness in early detection and deterrence. However, the operational limitations particularly in human resources, patrol vessels, and inter agency coordination have constrained the overall enforcement impact. The absence of integrated legal frameworks further contributes to overlapping authorities and weak institutional synergy.

Therefore, enhancing maritime drug enforcement in Bintan requires strengthening inter-agency cooperation and establishing a unified legal basis that clearly defines jurisdiction and shared responsibilities. Building the capacity of local law enforcement through technological support, maritime intelligence systems, and community-based monitoring will be crucial for sustainable maritime security. A comprehensive, collaborative approach between national and local institutions is essential to ensure that Bintan's border waters become a secure maritime gateway rather than a transit route for narcotics trafficking.

REFERENCES

- Akbar, D., Irman, Yudiatmaja, W. E., & Fadli, K. (2021). Managing mangrove forest in Bintan Island: Socio-economic benefits of climate change mitigation and adaptation. *IOP Conference Series: Earth and Environmental Science*, 724(1). <https://doi.org/10.1088/1755-1315/724/1/012103>
- Aprilia, W., Yudo Prakoso, L., & Sudiarso, A. (2022). Strategi Badan Keamanan Laut (BAKAMLA) Dalam Mencegah Terjadinya Kejahatan Transnasional Di Perbatasan

- Negara Ditinjau Dari Posisi Strategis Kepulauan Riau. *Jurnal Maritim Indonesia (Indonesian Maritime Journal)*, 10(1), 19–28. <https://doi.org/10.52307/JMI.V10I1.97>
- Baretilitbang, K. R. (2020). *Potensi Kepulauan Riau*. Barenlitbang.Keppriprov.Go.Id. <https://barenlitbang.keppriprov.go.id/potensi-kepri>
- Bateman, S. (2007). Securing Australia's Maritime Approaches. *Security Challenges*, 3(3), 1–21. <https://www.jstor.org/stable/26458880?seq=1>
- Brian, B. (2024). *Warga Bintang Temukan 1 Kilogram Sabu di Pantai Nelayan Tanjung Keling*. LintasKepri. <https://lintaskepri.com/warga-bintang-temukan-1-kilogram-sabu-di-pantai-nelayan-tanjung-keling/>
- Bueger, C. (2015). What is maritime security? *Marine Policy*, 53, 159–164. <https://doi.org/10.1016/J.MARPOL.2014.12.005>
- Creswell, J. W., & Poth, C. N. (2016). Qualitative Inquiry and Research Design: Choosing Among Five Approaches. In *Sage Publications*. Washington DC, United States of America: Sage publications.
- Debrah, Y. A., McGovern, I., & Budhwar, P. (2000). Complementarity or competition: The development of human resources in a South-East Asian Growth Triangle: Indonesia, Malaysia and Singapore. *International Journal of Human Resource Management*, 11(2), 314–335. <https://doi.org/10.1080/095851900339891>
- Denzin, N. K. (2012). Triangulation 2.0*. *Journal of Mixed Methods Research*, 6(2), 80–88. <https://doi.org/10.1177/1558689812437186>
- Hukom, M. (2023). *Laporan Kinerja Badan Narkotika Nasional 2023*. BNN. <https://ppid.bnn.go.id/konten/unggah/2020/10/Laporan-Kinerja-BNN-2023.pdf>
- Ismail, I. (2025). *Satresnarkoba Polres Bintang Bekuk Pengedar Sabu di Sungai Enam*. Medianesia. <https://medianesia.id/satresnarkoba-polres-bintang-bekuk-pengedar-sabu-di-sungai-enam/>
- Khatiri, V., & Brown, C. V. (2010). Designing data governance. *Communications of the ACM*, 53(1), 148–152. <https://doi.org/10.1145/1629175.1629210>
- Klang, P. (2024). *In 2023, a new annual all-time record for maritime traffic in the Straits of Malacca and Singapore*. Informare. <https://www.informare.it/news/gennews/2024/20240543-Stretti-Malacca-Singapore-traffico-Y-2023uk.asp>
- Lee, S., Angelus, A., Stauffer, J. M., & Sriskandarajah, C. (2023). Optimal shipping, collaboration, and outsourcing decisions in a hybrid cross-docking supply chain. *IIEE Transactions*. <https://doi.org/10.1080/24725854.2023.2273373>
- Mahadiansar, M., Alfiandri, A., & Syuzairi, M. (2023). Analysis of Collaborative Governance in Tourism Based on Coastal Community Empowerment in Indonesia. *Proceedings of the International Conference Social - Humanities in Maritime and Border Area*, 5–10. https://doi.org/10.2991/978-2-38476-150-0_2
- Miles, M. B., Huberman, A. M., & Saldana, J. (2014). Qualitative Data Analysis: A Methods Sourcebook. In *Qualitative Data Analysis A Methods Sourcebook* (3rd ed., Vol. 47, Issue Suppl 4). SAGE Publications. <http://www.uk.sagepub.com/books/Book239534?siteId=sage-uk>
- Muhammad, Z. (2023). *6 Fakta Unik Kepulauan Riau, Provinsi dengan Jumlah Pulau Terbanyak di Indonesia*. Batamnews. <https://www.batamnews.co.id/berita-98067-6-fakta-unik-kepulauan-riau-provinsi-dengan-jumlah-pulau-terbanyak-di-indonesia.html>
- Putri, R. A., & Afnira, E. (2024). Nation Branding of Kepulauan Riau Through Subregional Cooperation in The Indonesia-Malaysia-Thailand Growth Triangle (IMT-GT). *Journal of Maritime Policy Science*, 1(2), 93–109. <https://doi.org/10.31629/JMPS.V1I2.6944>

- Riva, W., & Effendi, A. (2013). *Study on Socio-Economic: Community Based Mangrove Ecosystem Management at Bintan Regency - Riau Islands Province*. Directorate General of Watershed Management and Social Forestry Development.
- Samin, R., & Poti, J. (2022). Policy Strategy in Management Local Government Kepulauan Riau Province in Border Area. *Journal of Public Policy and Administration*, 6(2), 77. <https://doi.org/10.11648/J.JPPA.20220602.13>
- Singha, P., Das, C., Köster, L., Kochunni, S. K., Dasgupta, M. S., Widell, K. N., Bhattacharyya, S., & Hafner, A. (2025). Thermodynamic comparison of various refrigerants for an on-board R290 refrigeration system with economizer subcooling in small fishing boats. *Thermal Science and Engineering Progress*, 60, 103443. <https://doi.org/10.1016/J.TSEP.2025.103443>
- Wong, H. S., & Yong, C. C. (2020). Fisheries regulation: A review of the literature on input controls, the ecosystem, and enforcement in the Straits of Malacca of Malaysia. *Fisheries Research*, 230. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.fishres.2020.105682>