

# Completion Report

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This research focus on the relation between sea, lifestyle sport, and tsunami, in an attempt to understand how different coastal communities learn to re-understand the sea in post-tsunami context. In particular, surfing offers an interesting case study as a lifestyle sport taking place on the waves, the oceanic element through which tsunami manifests. This research aims to understand how local surfers in Aceh, Indonesia and Fukushima, Japan returned to surf and learned to re-understand the sea and waves in the aftermath of tsunami disasters, respectively 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami and 2011 Great East Japan earthquake, tsunami, and nuclear accident.

Oral history interviews were conducted with 16 local surfers from Lhoknga, Aceh and Minamisoma and Hirono, Fukushima. Participant-observation and informal interviews were done to provide insights into post-tsunami lives in Aceh and Fukushima.

Based on oral history narratives, the practice of returning to surf demonstrated the more-than-human intimacies that local surfers in Aceh and Fukushima have with their waves and seas. In fact, such relations and intimacies were what kept people (including surfers) in Fukushima amid the nuclear-related concerns. In Aceh, while feelings of fear and trauma were dominant in the early days/months after tsunami, the sense of normalcy occurred as soon as local surfers returned to surf. Furthermore, the continuation of human-sea relations in both places made possible the potential to rebuild a sense of dwelling in the wake of disasters.

As opposed to initial assumption, returning to surf was not a heroic act, but a necessity that had to be done considering local surfers' intimate relations with waves and sea. Leisure with sea matters and returning to surf expressed it clearly. In such process, local surfers in both places needed to negotiate the changing waves, sea, and beach (e.g., reformation of reefs and sands, lost and new surf breaks, the building of seawalls), hence consequently relearn to understand the environment. Besides, oral histories indicate that returning to surf in Aceh and Fukushima was a deeply collective practice, rather than solitary and individual one, consisting of friend-to-friend encouragement and support from nonlocal actors (e.g., surf tourists, global surf community, etc.).

Finally, returning to surf in both Aceh and Fukushima shows a form of 'everyday recoveries' in coastal communities affected by tsunami. In fact, rebuilding and recovery efforts after the disasters depend on these often-neglected everyday recoveries and the related more-than-human relations. In both Aceh and Fukushima, the return and persistence of local surfers to surf helped the re-creation of positive connection with beach and sea and the regrowing of coastal communities through (surf) tourism opportunities and lifesaving employment.

To sum up, this research speaks to a body of literature on disaster and post-disaster recovery by putting a seemingly trivial lifestyle sport of surfing at the centre of inquiry. The results of this research contribute to complexifying the narratives of post-tsunami recovery by taking seriously the notion of 'recovery' not as a grand project but an everyday ethic of relearning to live with more-than-human environment.

Publication of the Results of Research Project:

Verbal Presentation (Date, Venue, Name of Conference, Title of Presentation, Presenter, etc.)

1. September 23, 2021; online; Northern European Conference on Emergency and Disaster Studies (NEEDS) 2021 Conference; Title: "Return to Surf: Re-understanding the seas among local surfers in post-tsunami settings"; presenters Sarani Pitor Pakan and Adam Doering.
2. November 28, 2022; International Centre for Aceh and Indian Ocean Studies (ICAIOS) Banda Aceh; 91st ICAIOS Public Discussion Series; Title: "Return to Surf in Post-Tsunami Aceh and Fukushima"; presenters Sarani Pitor Pakan and Adam Doering.

Thesis (Name of Journal and its Date, Title and Author of Thesis, etc.)

1. Media article: "Kembali ke Ombak: Kisah Peselancar Aceh Merespons Tsunami", published in Tirto.id, December 26, 2021, by Sarani Pitor Pakan (in Bahasa Indonesia)
2. Journal article: "Return to Surf in Post-Tsunami Aceh and Fukushima" (working title); status 'drafting manuscript'; planned to be submitted to World Leisure Journal; Sarani Pitor Pakan and Adam Doering.

Book (Publisher and Date of the Book, Title and Author of the Book, etc.)