

## Establishment and Embodiment of Local Enforcement Unit (LEU)

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### Background

Kuala Teriang fishermen were always confronted with that have affected their livelihoods, such as:

- Encroachment of zones by trawlers
- Destruction of breeding areas – natural and artificial reefs
- Destruction of FADs installed by the local fishers

Such problems have also created uneasiness on the part of the fishermen, who took their own action on the perpetrators, which escalated into social conflicts among the fishermen, i.e. between trawlers and the local fishers. In this regard, the DOF Malaysia took action to win back the confidence of the fishers and help ease the problems, by closely monitoring the situation.

Thus, the DOF Malaysia adopted a Monitoring and Surveillance System of the fishing activities to ensure compliance, by using traditional techniques that include air and surface surveillance. However, such techniques led to increased operational costs. An alternative method was therefore explored which is the setting up of a monitoring station in Kuala Teriang. The setting up of a Monitoring Centre was launched in August 2006 within the fishing village using a space allocated by the fishermen association.

### Monitoring Operations Centre

Monitoring services is round the clock – until midnight, and conducted by shifts. The Manual for Standard Operations was published as guide in monitoring and surveillance activities. The main objectives of the Monitoring Centre are to: (1) monitor the fishing activities in the area; (2) channel information regarding activities contrary to the law for quick action; (3) serve as one-stop centre for information exchange between fishermen and DOF staff; (4) enhance cooperation between local fishermen and DOF Malaysia; and (5) improve confidence of the locals towards DOF Malaysia. The Monitoring Operations Centre is also envisaged as a place of gathering for locals to meet up with DOF representatives.

### Efficacy of the Monitoring Station

- Renewed confidence and respect by the locals
- Fishers became acceptable to changes and new ideas brought by the DOF
- Local resources have been effectively protected
- Less incidence of encroachment
- Losses of FAD's decreased
- Increased in revenue for locals
- Increased in catch of high valued species
- More reefs are being deployed to increase breeding areas

From 2003 to 2006, encroachment by trawlers was observed to have decreased (**Table 3**). Thus, the setting up of monitoring stations can be an alternative method of monitoring and surveillance and is more cost effective considering that the operational cost of using the traditional methods had been escalating.

**Table 3. Efficacy of the monitoring and surveillance activities**

	2003	2004	2005	2006
Complaints	30	35	30	25
Arrests of encroachment	12	31	36	11