



**Establishment and Operation of a Regional System of
Fisheries *Refugia* in the South China Sea and Gulf of Thailand**

REPORT

**STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATION PROGRAM
ON ACTION PLAN AND MANAGEMENT OF TIGER PRAWN
FISHERIES REFUGIA AREA IN KUALA BARAM, MIRI**

**MIRI, MALAYSIA
18 JULY 2017**

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TRAINING DEPARTMENT



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Venue

Auditorium, Pustaka Miri, Sarawak

Organizer

Sarawak Marine Fisheries Department

Introduction

Mr. Belayong anak Nyuak, the Director of Sarawak Marine Fisheries, welcomed the representatives of various agencies, and thanked all those involved in making this consultation a success. The purpose of this consultation is to provide information to those involved, especially fishermen, on the Refugia in Kuala Baram, Miri. He also mentioned an example of an efficient fisheries resource management overseas, as practiced in New Zealand and involving the Maori community. The practice of *'Industry Species Specific'* within the fisheries there focused on specific species within certain areas where the fisher's community and the authorities agree on employing close seasons. All fishing activities ceased during spawning seasons and resumed with certain conditions to ensure the species do not become extinct.

Mr. Belayong added that this Tiger Prawn Refugia Project is the first to be introduced in Southeast Asia and this opportunity should be used by fishermen in Miri to prove the success of good tiger prawn resource management. He also mentioned that fisheries resources status, particularly that of pelagic fish, in Sarawak and Sabah are still good but greatly decreased in peninsular Malaysia. The Department of Fisheries is always committed to cooperate with other agencies to ensure fisheries resources are taken care of and enjoyed by future generations.

Issues

1) Madam Rose Edward Tarang from the Miri Division Resident Office informed the meeting that the Resident Office monitors all project implementation and development. The Department of Fisheries will be invited for a meeting on this project at the Resident Office at the end of this month. The following questions were then raised by her, followed by responses by Mr. Belayong:

I. When will the project be implemented?

The Refugia Program is in the implementation stage by the Department of Fisheries (DOF). The Fisheries Research Institute, Malaysia, has completed a study identifying potential areas and biomass estimations in 2015. This consultation is to gazette the refugia area with the involvement of stakeholders.

II. Will this project be "one-off" or continuous?

The Refugia Program will be implemented continuously, and discussions are currently being held with fishermen on the refugia area to be gazette soon.

III. Is this project under Malaysian Plan 11?

The Refugia Program has started during Malaysia Plan 10.

Senior Research Officer from the Fisheries Research Institute, Bintawa, Mr. Hadil bin Rajali informed the meeting that the refugia area will be gazette similar to the Forestry Department gazetting of "National Park's Miri-Sibuti". The process will involve the consent of the State Legislative Assembly and upon gazetting, enforcement of laws will be carried out.

2) Mr. Abu Sukor bin Ayub, a traditional boat fisherman from Batu Satu, Pangkalan Kpg Pangkalan Lutong inquired if traditional boat/Zone A fishing vessels are allowed to trawl after the two (2)

months no-trawling period in gazette refugia areas. He also enquired if this consultation meeting is specifically for trawler fishermen since the majority attending are Zone A and traditional boat fishermen.

In response, Mr Belayong stated that all trawlers must operate beyond 5 nautical miles from the shore. Zone A fishing vessels and traditional boats are prohibited from trawling. The two months no-trawling period involve only licensed trawlers that operate 5 nautical miles and above. The Head of Fisheries Region III, Mr. Bunjamin bin Kaprawi, added that any Zone A vessel or traditional boat that trawls in waters less than 5 nautical miles from shore will be committing an offense under the Fisheries Act 1985. The Department of Fisheries is in the process of eliminating Zone B trawlers by the year 2020. By that time, all trawlers will operate beyond 12 nautical miles. This consultation is also an awareness program for fishermen to realize the department's efforts to assist all fishers although the refugia involve only trawlers.

Fisheries Officer (Resource Protection), Kuching, Mr. Fairol Tajuddin bin Suhaili clarified that enforcement in refugia areas are not yet implemented and still in the legal process. When approved by the legal authorities in Putrajaya and the Sarawak State Attorney, new regulations will be inserted into the License Book for trawlers. Gazetting of refugia areas may be implemented at the end of this year or in the year 2018.

Mr. Hadil bin Rajali suggested Zone A vessels and traditional boats that are not allowed to trawl to use trammel nets instead. He referred to fishermen in Lawas and Limbang who use trammel nets to catch tiger prawns, other prawns and finfish and at the same time are able to maintain the marine habitat. The Head of SUPER Kuala Baram, Mr. Fauzi bin Mob, suggested innovations be made to trammel nets operation to exclude low value fish, such as catfish, from the catch while exploiting tiger prawns.

- 3) Mr. Pada anak Bijo, an Officer from the Fisheries Development Authority of Malaysia (FDAM), Kuching, suggested a session explaining refugia be made during FDAM functions, such as Distribution of Living Allowance that involve a larger audience.

Mr. Belayong stated that DOF is willing to collaborate with FDAM by giving briefings in FDAM functions by sending Mr. Hadil and Mr. Fairol.

- 4) Mr. Abu Sukor bin Ayub, a traditional boat fisherman Batu Satu Lutong suggest to the DOF to organise a fishermen community for tiger prawn pond culture.

Mr. Belayong stated that the DOF will implement a Development Project and aid for fishermen based on a budget from Fisheries Headquarters, Putrajaya. However, currently there is no development funds under Malaysian Plan 11 for pond projects. This suggestion will be forwarded to the DOF top management.

- 5) Mr. Roslan bin Tili, Assistant Fisheries Officer, Extension and Transfer of Technology Unit, Kuching, informed the meeting that if the refugia area is gazette enforcement will be the responsibility of the DOF, Marine Police and the Malaysian Maritime Enforcement Agency (MMEA). He hoped that fishermen will fully cooperate in looking after the area.

Conclusion

Mr. Belayong concluded the following:

- i) The Miri area is well known for its natural resource such as oil, and marine resources such as Tiger Prawns and Sergestid Shrimps.
- ii) Fisheries resources in Miri are still plentiful even though in other places they are overexploited.
- iii) Fisheries management is to safeguard the resources for fishermen and not meant to inconvenience them.
- iv) Based on studies by the Fisheries Research Institute, Bintawa, the Miri area has the potential to become the Malaysian hatchery center for tiger prawn production, and at the same time to create business opportunities for fishermen in view of the high market value for tiger prawns.

Participants

A total of 55 people, comprising of 48 men and 7 women, attended the consultation program.

List of participants

| No. | Name | Agency/Occupation |
|-----|-------------------------------------|--|
| 1 | Belayong anak Nyuak | Sarawak Marine Fisheries Department |
| 2 | Hazijah bt Yusup | Sarawak State Planning Unit |
| 3 | Haryati bt Abdul Wahab | Resource Management Division, DOF |
| 4 | Awgku Mansor bin Pengeran Zainuddin | Fisheries Development Authority Malaysia, Miri |
| 5 | Pada ak Bijo | Fisheries Development Authority Malaysia, Kuching |
| 6 | Simon Sandi | Forestry Department, Sarawak |
| 7 | Simeon Dewal Mail | Department of Survey and Mapping Malaysia |
| 8 | Rose Edward Tarang | Resident Office, Miri |
| 9 | Mariana anak Joseph | Resident Office, Miri |
| 10 | Hadil bin Razali | Fisheries Research institute, Bintawa |
| 11 | Mohd Syafiq bin Sazali | Malaysian Maritime Enforcement Agency |
| 12 | Samantha Kwan | Sarawak Forestry Corporation, Miri |
| 13 | Razali bin Junid | Agriculture Department, Sarawak |
| 14 | Niki Saba | Agriculture Department, Sarawak |
| 15 | Hasbi bin Suni | Marine Police, Miri |
| 16 | Ahmad Tarmizi Jaafar | PETRONAS |
| 17 | Bohari bin Haji Leng | Sarawak Marine Fisheries Department |
| 18 | Roslan bin Tili | Sarawak Marine Fisheries Department |
| 19 | Fairol Tajuddin bin Suhaili | Sarawak Marine Fisheries Department |
| 20 | Buniam bin Kiprawi | Region III Fisheries Office, Miri |
| 21 | Dolhadi bin Lihi | Secretariat |
| 22 | Maya Marini Kali | Secretariat |
| 23 | Kennedy Edward Sibon | Secretariat |
| 24 | Yunus bin Hamid | Secretariat |
| 25 | Wong Siong Wu | Secretariat |
| 26 | Simon ak Julius Nanta | Secretariat |
| 27 | Buang bin Lamat | SUPER Leader, Kpg. Pulau Melayu, Miri |
| 28 | Frederick Sinyor anak Biju | SUPER Leader, Kpg. Pangkalan Lutong/Bt. Satu, Miri |
| 29 | Fauzi bin Mob | SUPER Leader, Kpg. Kuala Baram, Miri |
| 30 | Okong bin Sulip | SUPER Leader Kpg. Kuala Bakam, Miri |
| 31 | Azmi bin Bakar | SUPER Leader Kpg. Kuala Bakam, Miri |

| | | |
|----|---------------------------|------------------------|
| 32 | Kamil bin Lukman | Fisherman |
| 33 | Bolhassan bin Mohammad | Fisherman |
| 34 | Abdul Gafar bin Lamat | Fisherman |
| 35 | Matasan bin Mohamad | Fisherman |
| 36 | Julis anak Edwin | Fisherman |
| 37 | Abdullah bin Putit | Fisherman |
| 38 | Ayak bin Drahman | Fisherman |
| 39 | Mohd Rozaimie bin Ibrahim | Fisherman |
| 40 | Abu Sukor bin Ayup | Fisherman |
| 41 | Ali bin Taip | Fisherman |
| 42 | Ismawi bin Fauzi | Fisherman |
| 43 | Abu bin Hj. Mob | Fisherman |
| 44 | Sulaiman bin Hj. Mob | Fisherman |
| 45 | Mohamed Rawi bin Jon | Fisherman |
| 46 | Sahari bin Yusop | Fisherman |
| 47 | Abg Saily bin Abg Ali | Fisherman |
| 48 | Japar Osman bin Sangit | Fisherman |
| 49 | Joshua Albert | Fisherman |
| 50 | Sibre bin Arif | Fisherman |
| 51 | Zahari bin Abdullah | Fisherman |
| 52 | Jong Wan Joon | Press - Sin Chew Daily |
| 53 | Mohd Abdullah | Press - Borneo Post |
| 54 | James Boon | Press - See Hua Daily |
| 55 | Rosemaria Buma | Press - Utusan Borneo |

Photos



Figure 1. Registration process before the start of the program



Figure 2. Stakeholder consultation in progress



Figure 3. Mr. Hadil bin Rajali explaining the Fisheries Refugia Program to the participants



Figure 4. Participants involvement in the stakeholder consultation process



Figure 5. Lively discussion during the stakeholder consultation



Figure 6. A total of 55 people attended the consultation program



Figure 7. The stakeholder consultation program was reported in various local newspapers