



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

REPORT

STAKEHOLDERS' ENGAGEMENT ON THE PROPOSAL OF ESTABLISHING A TIGER PRAWN REFUGIA IN KUALA BARAM, MIRI, SARAWAK

21 OCTOBER 2021

Prepared by
**DEPARTMENT OF FISHERIES,
MALAYSIA**

SOUTHEAST ASIAN FISHERIES DEVELOPMENT CENTER
TRAINING DEPARTMENT



First published in Phrasamutchedi, Samut Prakan, Thailand in October 2021 by the SEAFDEC-UNEP-GEF Fisheries Refugia Project, Training Department of the Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center

Copyright © 2021, SEAFDEC-UNEP-GEF Fisheries *Refugia* Project

This publication may be reproduced in whole or in part and in any form for educational or non-profit purposes without special permission from the copyright holder provided acknowledgement of the source is made. The SEAFDEC-UNEP-GEF Fisheries *Refugia* Project would appreciate receiving a copy of any publication that uses this publication as a source.

No use of this publication may be made for resale or for any other commercial purpose without prior permission in writing from the SEAFDEC Secretary-General at.

Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center
Training Department
P.O.Box 97, Phrasamutchedi, Samut Prakan, Thailand
Tel: (66) 2 425 6100
Fax: (66) 2 425 6110
<https://fisheries-refugia.org> and
<https://seafdec.or.th>

DISCLAIMER:

The contents of this report do not necessarily reflect the views and policies of the Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center, the United Nations Environment Programme, and the Global Environment Facility.

For citation purposes this document may be cited as:

DOF/Malaysia. 2021. Establishment and Operation of a Regional System of Fisheries Refugia in the South China Sea and Gulf of Thailand, Report of the Stakeholders' Engagement on the Proposal of Establishing a Tiger Prawn Refugia in Kuala Baram, MIRI, SARAWAK. Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center, Training Department, Samut Prakan, Thailand; FR/REP/MY31, 10 p.

REPORT OF THE STAKEHOLDERS' ENGAGEMENT ON THE PROPOSAL OF ESTABLISHING A TIGER PRAWN REFUGIA IN KUALA BARAM, MIRI, SARAWAK

Date : 21 October 2021 (Thursday)

Time : 9.00 a.m

Venue: Hotel Pullman Waterfront, Miri

Link : <https://meet.google.com/swc-dnqk-fda>

1.0 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The stakeholders' engagement was held in hybrid mode and chaired by Mr. Bohari Leng, the Director of Sarawak Marine Fisheries Department.
- 1.2 The chairman informed the purpose of the engagement was to gather information as well to seek opinion, and suggestion from the stakeholder regarding on the establishment of tiger prawn refugia at the Kuala Baram, Miri, Sarawak by the Department of Fisheries Malaysia (DOF).
- 1.3 The first virtual engagement session was conducted on 23rd September 2021 by DOF. However, some stakeholders requested the next engagement session to be carried out physically and therefore, this session was conducted in hybrid mode.
- 1.4 DOF proposed this refugia site to be gazetted as a Protected Area to conserve and sustainably manage the tiger prawn (*Penaeus monodon*).
- 1.5 The Sarawak Marine Fisheries Department has conducted a series of engagements from 2017, mainly to spread awareness among the fisherfolks on the sustainable fisheries and improve the local acceptance of this initiative.
- 1.6 The field data collection and baseline study has been started in the early 1990s by the Fisheries Research Institute (FRI) Bintawa. Then, the study continued in year 2020 at three (3) major rivers inhabited by juvenile tiger prawns namely Pasu, Lutong, and Sibuti rivers, respectively.
- 1.7 The study concluded that the tiger prawn broodstocks are most abundantly found above eight (8) nautical miles from Kuala Baram shoreline. In comparison, most juvenile can easily be found in Sungai Pasu, Sungai Lutong, and Sungai Bakam in Miri.
- 1.8 The site boundaries demarking was proposed by the researchers supported by their findings. The proposed refugia site has an area of 852km². Thus, the consultation targeted the traditional fishermen from Zone A and Zone B as well commercial fishermen from Zone C7.

- 1.9 The stakeholders agreed that this project has a significant potential for an agrotourism in Miri.

2.0 FEEDBACK FROM MIRI PORT AUTHORITY

- 2.1 The Miri Port Authority informed that there has been a proposal to dredge and deepen the mouth of the Kuala Baram river. This proposal was intended to increase the port capacity and productivity in terms of services and the development of port infrastructure.
- 2.2 The proposal has been forwarded to the Economic Planning of Sarawak and awaiting for the outcomes. Therefore, they hope this refugia project will be succeeded and give benefits to everyone.

Suggestion:

FRI Bintawa to organize a consultation session with the Miri Port Authority because the dredging and deepening of Kuala Baram river will affect the refugia project.

FEEDBACK FROM FRI BINTAWA:

FRI Bintawa will arrange a consultation session with Miri Port Authority based on the current situation of pandemic Covid-19.

3.0 FEEDBACK FROM RESIDENT OFFICE

1. The establishment of refugia in Kuala Baram, Miri was warmly welcomed and highly appreciated by the residents. With this establishment, Miri will have become a new tourism landmark.
2. The Miri Resident Office has requested the Department of Marine Fisheries Sarawak to invite the district officer to be actively involved in the refugia establishment.
3. The Sarawak Marine Fisheries Department to inform Miri Resident Office and Miri Town Council regarding any proposed development to prevent any issue in future.
4. The awareness on the refugia establishment and its implementation must be made frequently especially to the fishermen.

FEEDBACK FROM SARAWAK FISHING VESSEL ASSOCIATION (SFVA)

The Sarawak Fishing Vessel Association agreed with the proposal of refugia establishment as it will be beneficial for the economy and long-term fisheries resources, especially the tiger prawn.

Suggestion –

The Department shall inform the respective fishermen on the refugia site boundaries, coordinate and location of the artificial reef.

FEEDBACK FROM DEPARTMENT OF MARINE FISHERIES SARAWAK

The Department will provide the coordinates for the refugia area and location of artificial reefs if related.

FEEDBACK FROM SARAWAK FORESTRY CORPORATION (SFC)

Kuala Bakam is located in the National Park Kuala Sibuti-Miri.

Suggestion:

The Department of Marine Fisheries Sarawak to inform officially to the Sarawak Forestry Corporation regarding on the proposal of refugia establishment.

Feedback:

Department of Marine Fisheries Sarawak will send an official letter regarding on tiger prawn refugia establishment in Kuala Baram.

FEEDBACK FROM MIRI FISHERMEN ASSOCIATION

They agreed with the proposal of the tiger prawn refugia establishment.

Suggestion –

1. The Miri Fishermen Association requested the Department of Marine Fisheries Sarawak to look into the ownership status in Sungai Pasu and Sungai Lutong. If the private sector owns the land, the effort to conserve tiger shrimp juveniles will be unachievable.
2. A shallow river could also impact the fishing activities near Pasu River and Lutong River. It is recommended the relevant agencies to deepen the river.
3. In the session, the fishermen also raised their concern regarding the waste disposal inside the riverine.

FEEDBACK FROM DEPARTMENT OF IRRIGATION AND DRAINAGE BRANCH MIRI –

1. Department of Irrigation and Drainage (DID) Branch Miri will lead the task force for dredging activities in Sungai Lutong.
2. The DID Miri Branch informed that they have completed the dredging in Bakam River in order to deepen the river.
3. The DID will work together with Sarawak Rivers Board to review any related issues for rivers involved in the refugia establishment.
4. The DID Branch Miri will monitor and perform strict enforcement; however, it depends on the location and types of pollution. Adding to the session, the department highlighted that industrial pollution had become their primary concern as the impact is more significant than other pollution.

FEEDBACK FROM SARAWAK RIVERS BOARD

Sarawak Rivers Board disclosed that they only authorize the commercial use of the river-like shipping routes. Rivers proposed as tiger prawn refugia are non-commercial rivers.

SUMMARY OF THE ENGAGEMENT SESSION

1. All stakeholders agreed with the proposal of the tiger prawn refugia establishment.
2. August to October will be regulated as the closed season for tiger prawns.
3. This regulation is applicable for all trawlers at Zone C7. All fishing activities by the trawlers must operate at 12 nautical miles from the shoreline.
4. 2021 will be the first year of the implementation of this regulation.

5. The department also encourages the fishermen to comply with this regulation voluntarily for this year. In the year 2023, the department will fully enforce these regulations.
6. For tiger prawn, specifically for Kuala Baram, the Close season from August to October will be included as an additional clause in the Vessel License and Fishing Equipment for fishermen's Zone C7.
7. FRI Bintawa will appoint a Technical Committee for the management of Sungai Bakam.

ATTENDANCE LIST

By physical:

1. Mr. Bohari bin Haji Leng
Director
Department of Marine Fisheries Sarawak
2. Mr. Jamil bin Musel
Director
Fisheries Research Institute (FRI) Bintawa
3. Mdm Liza binti Haji Long
Deputy Director (Management)
Department of Marine Fisheries Sarawak
4. Mdm Nurridan binti Abd Han
Senior Research Officer
Fisheries Research Institute (FRI) Bintawa
5. Mr. Dokanaer Kasto anak Muning
Head of Resources Protection Division
Department of Marine Fisheries Sarawak
6. Mr. Lindy Enggong
Head of Extension and Transfer of Technology Division
Department of Marine Fisheries Sarawak
7. Mr. Rizwan bin Nordin
Regional Marine Fisheries Office III Miri
Department of Marine Fisheries Sarawak
8. Ms. 'Anis binti Mohd Ariffin
Head of District Marine Fisheries Miri
Department of Marine Fisheries Sarawak
9. Mr. Awang Sulaiman bin Awang Bujang
Captured Fisheries & Licensing/Resource Management Division
Department of Marine Fisheries Sarawak

10. Mr. Hamzah bin Buang
Captured Fisheries & Licensing/Resource Management Division
Department of Marine Fisheries Sarawak
11. Mdm Julia Bujang
Planning & Development Division
Department of Marine Fisheries Sarawak
12. Mdm Monica Boni
Planning & Development Division
Department of Marine Fisheries Sarawak
13. Mr. Mohamad Ghazali Abdullah
Resources Protection Division
Department of Marine Fisheries Sarawak
14. Leftenan Komander Maritim Mohammad Hafiez bin Hussein
Commanding Officer KM Stapa
Malaysian Maritime Enforcement Agency Zon Maritime Branch Miri
15. Mr. Mohd Sukeman bin Ismail
Assistant Director
Marine Department Malaysia Miri Office
16. Mdm Adriana binti Mohamad Saaid
Senior Assistant Director
Royal Malaysian Customs Department Miri
17. Mr. Abdul Ajis bin Taib
Park Warden Miri Coral Reef National Park
Sarawak Forestry Corporation
18. Mdm Lydia anak Ninting
Assistant Engineer
Sarawak Rural Water Supply Department
19. Mr. Leonard Luhut Laing
Administrative Officer
Sarawak Rivers Board Regional III Miri
20. Dr. Grace Puyang Emang
Senior Environmental Control Officer
Department of Environment Branch Miri
21. Haji Awang Hafeez Syazwan bin Haji Awang Musadat
Assistant Economic Affairs Officer
Fisheries Development Authority of Malaysia Branch Miri

22. Norzaniah bt Senyem
Assistant Economic Affairs Officer
Fisheries Development Authority of Malaysia Branch Miri
23. Mr. Malik bin Bol
Manager
Miri Fisherman Association
24. Mr. Musa bin Bujang
Chairman
Miri Fisherman Association
25. TPGB Mohamad Hamdani bin Haji Madon
Lopeng Fire Station Chief
Fire and Rescue Department of Malaysia
26. Mdm Roselyn Tela
Operation Services Executive
PETRONAS Carigali Sdn. Bhd.
27. Mdm Nur Rumauza bt Abu Bakar
Stakeholder Management Executive
PETRONAS Carigali Sdn. Bhd.
28. Mr. Philip Johnny
Assistant Information
Miri Information Department
29. Mr. Chin Hui Seng
Mechanical Engineer
Miri Port Authority
30. Mdm Lorita Ganya
Communication Officer
Sarawak Public Communication Unit Miri
31. Mr. Lau Lee Hie
Communication Officer
Sarawak Public Communication Unit Miri
32. Mdm Norshaherma binti Kolek
Administrative Officer (Land)
Sarawak Land and Survey Department Branch Miri
33. Mdm Esther Dau Michael
Assistant Administrative Officer
Miri Resident Office
34. Mr. Nicklaren Rommie
Journalist

TVS

35. Mdm Catherine Igang
Reporter
RTM
36. Mr. Lukas Jenar
News Unit
RTM Miri
37. Mr, Choung Mou Hin
Reporter
Sin Chew Daily
38. Mr, Harry Tan Joo Seng
Secretary
Sarawak Fishing Vessel Association
39. Mr. Lau Siew Chuong
Representative of company Hai Nyak Products
40. Mdm Tan Cheng Li
Representative of company Hai Nyak Products
41. Mdm Pui Mui Mui
Representative of company Medal More Sdn. Bhd.
42. Mdm Heng Hui Ching
Representative of company Medal More Sdn. Bhd.
43. Mr. Rick Wong
Representative of company See Hua Sdn. Bhd.
44. Mr. Ling Kah Wei
Representative of company Ocean Sea Products Sdn. Bhd.
45. Mr. Emohari bin Mut
Head of Fisheries Network
Kampung Kuala Niah, Miri
46. Mr. Ibrahim bin Abdullah
Head of Fisheries Network
Kampung Piasau Utara, Miri
47. Mr. Roslan bin Sabeli
Head of Fisheries Network
Kampung Piasau Utara, Miri
48. Mr. Samsudin bin Amit
Head of Fisheries Network

Kampung Bungai, Miri

49. Mr. Azmi bin Bakar
Head of Fisheries Network
Kampung Kuala Bakam, Miri

By Online:

50. Mdm Norhanida binti Daud
Senior Research Officer
Fisheries Research Institute (FRI) Batu Maung, Pulau Pinang
51. Mr. Anuar Salam bin Sulaiman
Head of Resource Management
Marine Parks and Resource Management Division
52. Mdm Nurashiqin binti Sallih Udin
Fisheries Officer
Marine Parks and Resource Management Division

