



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

REPORT

**STAKEHOLDERS MEETING ON THE FISHERIES REFUGIA
MANAGEMENT PLAN OF TIGER PRAWN, KUALA BARAM**

**MIRI, MALAYSIA
6 SEPTEMBER 2018**

Prepared by
DEPARTMENT OF FISHERIES, MALAYSIA

SOUTHEAST ASIAN FISHERIES DEVELOPMENT CENTER
TRAINING DEPARTMENT



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Venue

Meeting Room, Pejabat Perikanan Laut, Wilayah III, Miri, Sarawak, Malaysia

1. CHAIRPERSON KEYNOTE

- 1.1. Chairperson welcomed all the members to the meeting.
- 1.2. This meeting was held to gather feedback from all the relevant departments / agencies of the Sarawak State Government on the proposed establishment of Tiger Prawn Refugia in Kuala Baram, Miri.
- 1.3. The fisheries refugia concept is a management tool to conserve important species whereby will be protected at the certain critical stages of the life cycle from being fished.
- 1.4. A preliminary study by the Fisheries Research Institute (FRI), Bintawa, and Sarawak showed that the tiger prawns are commonly found in the waters off the Bintulu coast to Miri.
- 1.5. A further study found that the area of Tanjung Batu, Bintulu to Kuala Baram, Miri is a breeding ground of tiger prawns.
- 1.6. Stakeholders' consultation is important for knowledge sharing, gathering view / feedback as well to give clarification on any concerns and should carry out from time to time.

2. BRIEFING ON TIGER PRAWN REFUGIA PROJECT IN KUALA BARAM, MIRI

- 2.1. The proposed site for refugia is based on the scientific data and this area is very exclusive for the conservation of tiger prawn.
- 2.2. The criteria of refugia site:
 - 2.2.1. Different from *Marine Protected Areas* (MPA); and
 - 2.2.2. 'No Take Zone' during closed season whereby fishing activities will be prohibited. Closed season will be implementing during spawning time.
- 2.3. Previous studies in the 90s conducted by the Department of Fisheries Malaysia showed that this area is highly productive with the tiger prawn or scientifically known as *Penaeus monodon*. This prawn is found at the depth above 30 meters around the mud-sandy substratum base. The spawning period for this prawn is from from May to June.
- 2.4. New studies are being carried out to support this Refugia project. The proposed area is as in Appendix 1.

3. DISCUSSION

- 3.1. Miri Port Authority (LPM) informed that:
 - 3.1.1. The proposed site is overlapping with the proposed area for dredging project to deepen the mouth of Kuala Baram River for vessel / boat navigation purpose.
 - 3.1.2. The dredging project will take place for 2 to 3 years under the 11th Malaysian Plan. However, this project is yet to be approved by the Sarawak State Government.

3.1.3.LPM will provide details on the development of the Kuala Baram River Muara.

3.2. Meeting agreed to obtain feedbacks / views from the State Legislature of Sarawak, Department of Marine Malaysia, Forestry Department, Sarawak Forestry Corporation, Department of Land and Survey and Miri Port Authority on the implementation refugia in Kuala Baram. This is crucial in order to ensure there is any development plans with overlaps with proposed refugia site.

3.3. The meeting was informed that the Department of Fisheries Malaysia had an agreement with the Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center (SEAFDEC) to develop the Refugia area and actively conducting research to collect the scientific data in order to justify the establishment.

4. CLOSING

4.1. The chairperson thanked all the attendees and the meeting adjourned at 4.00 pm.

List of participants

NO.	NAME	AGENCY
1	Mr Dokanaer Kasto Anak Muning	Department of Marine Fisheries Sarawak
2	Mrs Noor Hasmayana Binti Yahya	Department of Fisheries Malaysia
3	Mrs Nurridan Binti Abdul Han	Fisheries Research Institute
4	Mr Hardazy Bin Yunus	Miri Port Authority
5	Mr Mohd Taip Bin Lai	Forest Department Sarawak, Miri
6	Mrs Shirley Nathael Naning	Sarawak Forestry Corporation, Miri
7	Mr Dolhadi Bin Lihi	Department of Marine Fisheries Sarawak
8	Mr Yunus Bin Hamid	Department of Marine Fisheries Sarawak
9	Mr Kennedy Edward	Department of Marine Fisheries Sarawak
10	Mr Wong Siong Wu	Department of Marine Fisheries Sarawak