

Organization and Function of KEN and KPSP

Department of Fisheries Malaysia

Introduction

For years, some form of cooperation and sharing of responsibilities or economic-based activities among the fishing communities already prevails in some localities in Malaysia. The fishermen are sharing the same needs and issues in their localities regardless of whether they are small-scale or big-scale fishermen. Therefore, they are encouraged to group together in order to identify their needs and problems as well as solve their problems through their various economic activities.

While recognizing that the cooperation demonstrated by the fishermen was in a rather fragmented manner, the Department of Fisheries (DOF) Malaysia established the Fishermen Economic Group (Kumpulan Ekonomi Nelayan) or KEN to be responsible in implementing the community-based activities. In the early nineties, many groups were formed throughout the country, with the most number of groups in the State of Terengganu. With more emphasis currently being given to resources management and agro-based industries, DOF Malaysia upgraded KEN into a more comprehensive group for integrated fisheries community projects, known as the Fisheries Resources Management Community (Komuniti Pengurusan Sumber Perikanan) or KPSP in 2007. The main function of the KPSP is to develop and strengthen the livelihoods of fishing communities in the country through cooperation, entrepreneurship, education and responsible fisheries resource management. Hence, the KPSP becomes more competitive, dynamic and have greater impact to the community. As of 2007, more than 58 KPSPs have been formed in Malaysia.

Organization and Coordination

The DOF Malaysia while realizing that the KPSP could not be managed, monitored and supervised by the government officers only, encouraged the communities' active participation in the supervision through the appointment of good local leaders and strengthening of the well organized organization. The bottom-up approach was emphasized where proposals for projects/activities originate from the fishermen themselves. This approach had shown a high rate of compliance of the regulations and success in projects/activities implementation.

Under the KPSP rules, the fishermen are encouraged to form a KPSP with a membership of 10 to 50 persons per group. The groups could include the various stakeholders such as village representatives, members of Fishermen Associations, fishers including female fishers, housewives and the youth. The group administration is lead by a chairman and vice chairman with one secretary, an assistant secretary, a treasurer, and several committee members. However, there are cases that the membership could be more or less than the number being recommended in the KPSP rules. For example, there are groups which have about 147 persons such as those in Pantai Chenang, Langkawi, Kedah.

Implementation

In order to implement a project, DOF Malaysia needs to identify the potential group and their location. This is often followed by a series of consultations, motivation, project identification, planning and implementation of the KPSP project by the fisheries officer at the district, state and national levels. Thereafter, a proposal of the group would be brought forward for DOF approval. The process is shown in **Fig. 1**.

The KPSP programs have the following objectives:

- To create cooperation between fishermen and related local socio-economic development agencies;
- To develop local fisheries resource management system;
- To promote innovative, creative and competitive entrepreneurship; and
- To generate economic power in the fishing communities.

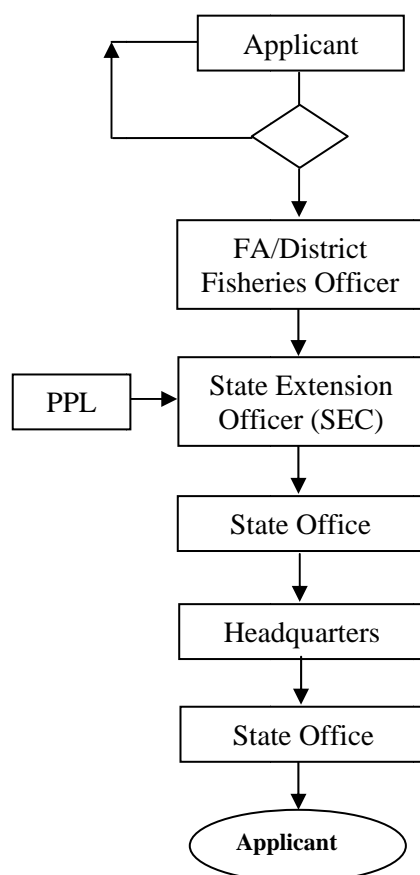


Fig. 1. Process of establishing KPSP

In order to achieve the goals of successful and sustainable KPSP, the DOF Malaysia emphasizes on several issues and outlines several strategies that include the following:

- Identification of issues, needs and local potentials, specifically emphasizing on the need for bottom-up rather than top-down approaches to manage the small-scale fisheries
- Preparation of Business Plan, with DOF Malaysia assisting the fishermen in the preparation of proposals and conduct of viability study of the proposed activities
- Providing training, assistance, support and motivation to enhance knowledge on management, administration, technology, marketing and finance
- Assisting the group to enhance their income by providing incentives and out-sourcing of other allocations
- Continuous project monitoring and technical assistance by DOF technical staff, even if management of small-scale fishermen poses an extraordinary challenge for the local authority and government
- Creating group or business networking at the district, state and national levels for the purpose of information and opportunity sharing

Projects Definition

Activities which have been proposed and are being defined by both DOF Officer and the committee members of KPSP based on the fishers' capabilities and willingness to undertake the tasks, could include: (1) Marketing of fisheries products; (2) Outboard and inboard workshop; (3) Fiberglass boat workshop; (4) Fish handling activities; (5) Fisheries trading center; (6) Fisheries agro-based industry; (7) Agro-tourism activities; and (8) Other fisheries related activities.



Some of the activities of KPSP of Malaysia

Conclusion

While promoting the development of small-scale fisheries, greater emphasis should be placed on management and conservation of fisheries resources. Given such situation, the DOF Malaysia established the KPSP as forum for the development and upgrading of the livelihoods of fishing communities to the extent that the outcome could exceed the national poverty level and guarantee a minimum net income of RM3,000.00 per month for every fisheries entrepreneurs.

Some of the Fisheries Resources Management Communities (KPSPs) in Malaysia

NO.	KPSP	STATE	ACTIVITIES	MEMBERSHIP
1.	KPSP Kuala Teriang Langkawi	Kedah	Processing FADs	60
2.	KPSP Pulau Betong, Bayan Lepas	Pulau Pinang	Marketing	25
3.	<u>KPSP Seberang Parit, Sitiawan</u>	Perak	Chalet (Home-stay) Hatchery	12
4.	KPSP Tok Muda, Klang	Selangor	Processing Cockle Culture	22
5.	<u>KPSP Kg. Teluk Pelanduk, Port Dickson</u>	N. Sembilan	Agro-tourism Marketing	65
6.	<u>KPSP Telok Mas</u>	Melaka	Green mussel culture Marketing	56
7.	KPSP Kg. Kesang Laut, Muar	Johor	Marketing	90
8.	KPSP Sungai Ular, Kuantan	Pahang	Fibreglass boat workshop Marketing	60
9.	<u>KPSP Kg. Merchang, Marang</u>	Terengganu	Marketing	90
10.	KPSP Kg. Pachakan, Pasir Putih	Kelantan	Marketing Fibreglass boat workshop	41
11.	KPSP Tanjung Manis, Sarikei	Sarawak	Processing	15
12.	KPSP Kg. Terusan Tengah, Semporna	Sabah	Fish Pen culture	12



Some of the activities of KPSP of Malaysia