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JABATAN PERIKANAN MALAYSIA
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Turtle habitat and surrounding areas need to be protected, says group

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"Over the years, sections of the forest and natural terrestrial areas in Segari have been destroyed due to parts of the permanent reserved forest (PRF) being excised, encroached upon as well as illegal cleared," he added.

The long-time environmental activist said it was pointless to have the multi-million-ringsit Segari Turtle Conservation and Information Centre, under the purview of the Fisheries Department, when the landing site was not protected.

"If no turtles are coming to lay eggs in the future, how is the centre's staff going to collect the eggs, bring them back to the centre and release the baby turtles back to sea after the hatching process," Meor Razak questioned.

Forest under threat

According to SAM, the Tanjung Hantu and Segari Melintang forest reserves are home to unique flora and fauna which should be preserved.

They contain both coastal forest and hill forest and are home to two endangered dipterocarp tree species: *Shorea glauca* (Balau Laut), currently listed as "endangered", and *Shorea lumutensis* (Balau Putih), listed as "critically endangered" and only found in Malaysia.

However, the forest reserves have come under threat from encroaching development and illegal activities.

Meor Razak said the nearby Pasir Panjang recreational forest was also abandoned, and its surroundings unkempt.

"The existing basic amenities, especially the gazebos are mostly damaged, and most of the Casuarina *Equisetifolia* trees grown there are destroyed.

"The recreational forest has the potential to become an eco-tourism area because it is still beautiful," he said.

He reiterated that the existing land along Pasir Panjang coast, and the surrounding areas – especially Tanjung Hantu and Segari Melintang – should be maintained as a tourism zone and permanent reserve forest.



Just-hatched baby turtles placed in a pool at the Segari Conservation and Information Centre.



Meor Razak: It is pointless to have the Segari Turtle Conservation and Information Centre when the landing site is not protected.

Gazetting in the process

Perak Fisheries Department director Zaki Mokri, when contacted, said the department, together with Manjung District and Land office, was in the process to ensure that the 7km Pantan Pasir Panjang-Tanjung Hantu stretch is gazetted.

"The 500m site where the centre is located has been gazetted, while the 400m area of Teluk Ketapang in Pulau Pangkor (another turtle-landing site) has also been gazetted to set up another conservation centre there.

"So the next step is to gazette the landing site in Segari, which is on the way," he assured.

Zaki said that among the turtle species that land on the coast of Perak, which covers the landing site in Segari and Pulau Pangkor,

are the Agar (green turtle) and Lipas (olive ridley) turtles.

He said that from 1990 to 2020, a total of 3,335 turtles landed at both sites, with 347,553 eggs laid.

For this year, he said that so far only two turtles had come to the sites, and laid a total of 497 eggs.

"The hatching rate is between 45% and 65%," he added.

Zaki explained that in the early 1980s, the Fisheries Department identified Pasir Panjang beach as the main landing site for turtles to lay eggs in the state.

In 1989, the department in collaboration with the state government established the turtle conservation management centre in Segari on a 2.5ha land area.

"The centre serves to implement publicity programmes, to conduct research, hatching and management of turtles in the state.

"The department has also established another turtle landing site in Teluk Ketapang in Pulau

Pangkor, and we are in the process of establishing a conservation and information centre as well," he added.

Zaki said that generally, the threats to turtles included people hunting them and collecting their eggs for food.

He said many of these marine reptiles also died after getting trapped in fishing nets, as well as due to the destruction of natural habitats and breeding sites.

"Also rubbish and chemical waste pollution in the ocean, as well as uncontrolled development of coastal areas are among the threats faced by the turtles," he added.

StarMetro attempted to get further clarification from the Mentri Besar's office and state environment and green technology committee chairman Mohd Akmal Kamarudin regarding gazetted the landing site but had not received any response.



SAM has conducted 'ambong-ambong' planting exercises at Pantai Pasir Panjang. The plant is part of the green turtle's diet.

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Fishermen cut prices to sell their catch

By ZAZALI MUSA
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COASTAL fishermen in south Johor have reduced the price of seafood since May.

Customers were now enjoying a reduction of between 10% and 20%.

Johor South Fishermen Association chairman Azli Mohd Aziz said the decision to reduce prices was made after considering the hardship faced by people as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic and movement restrictions.

"The most important thing is to sell our catch," Azli said when met at Pasar Nelayan in Kampung Pasir Gudang Baru, Pasir Gudang.

He added that although they were making less profit following the reduction, it was better than leaving their catch unsold.

Azli clarified that fishing activities remained the same during Phase One of the National Recovery Plan, save for the fact that they were having problems selling their goods.

"We were also supplying seafood restaurants but they are closed as dine-in is not allowed," he said, adding that they now depended on walk-in customers only.

Azli expects the catch to dwindle from now until September due to the change in wind direction.

Sea conditions along the west coast of the peninsula would be choppy and strong winds could endanger coastal fishermen, he said.

"Most of us will choose not to go out to sea for the next three months due to bad weather," Azli said.

Beginning this month, all fisher-



Azli (right), seen here with his assistant Amirul Azizi at Pasar Nelayan in Kampung Pasir Gudang Baru, solely depends on walk-in customers these days. — Photos: ZAZALI MUSA/The Star

men in Johor are required to paint their boats light blue, as directed by the state Fisheries Department.

"The boat colour coding system is to differentiate between licensed and unlicensed fishermen" Azli explained.

This will allow the authorities to detain unlicensed fishermen who do not have permission to fish, including those from other states who have encroached into Johor waters as each state has a different boat colour.

Azli added that the department had distributed paint to each fishermen for this purpose.

There are some 2,500 coastal fishermen in south Johor and their fishing areas are within 10 nautical miles covering Tanjung Piai, Iskandar Puteri, Pulai, Johor Baru, Pasir Guang and Tebrau.



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ROHANI Ya menjemur sebahagian ikan sefiat yang ditempah pelanggan di Kampung Kubang Golok, Bachok, Kelantan, baru-baru ini.

Jual ikan bekok tambah pendapatan

Oleh TOREK SULONG
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BACHOK: Walaupun pernah ditipu orang tengah, ia tidak mematahkan semangat isteri seorang nelayan di Kampung Kubang Golok di sini untuk bangkit mengusahakan produk ikan bekok atau sebutan sebenarnya ikan bengkak.

Rohani Ya, 51, berkata, jualan ikan bekok yang diusahakannya laris dijual secara dalam talian, sekali gus turut membantu nelayan pantai menjual hasil tangkapan mereka.

Berkongsi pengalaman bersama *Utusan Malaysia*, katanya, sebelum ini ada pemborong yang sanggup menipu proses jual beli tanpa mengira keringat

pengusaha kecil sepertinya.

"Saya mulakan perusahaan kecil ini dengan modal RM50 untuk membeli ikan dan garam selain hasil tangkapan yang dibawa pulang suami, Shaari Zakaria, 53, nelayan sepenuh masa yang turun pagi pulang petang.

"Niaga pun pada waktu itu secara kecil-kecilan, namun semakin rancak apabila negara dilanda pandemik Covid-19 dan permintaan dalam talian amat memberangsangkan," katanya ketika ditemui di rumahnya, di sini, baru-baru ini.

Rohani berkata, dia mendapat bantuan anak dan menantu mempromosikan ikan bekok dalam internet dan menggunakan beberapa aplikasi media sosial.

Menurutnya, proses menyang, peraman garam dan menjemur ikan dibuat sendiri termasuk kerja-kerja membungkus sebelum diposkan kepada pelanggan.

"Saya menyimpan ikan tersebut dalam sebuah peti sejuk beku yang kecil. Saya ada memohon bantuan mendapatkan peti sejuk lebih besar daripada pihak bertanggungjawab untuk membesarkan kapasiti projek tetapi tiada sebarang jawapan.

"Saya juga amat mengharapkan Lembaga Kemajuan Ikan Malaysia (LKIM) tampil menilai dan memberi khidmat nasihat dan yang lebih diperlukan membantu menghulurkan peti simpanan sejuk beku sekiranya ada peruntukan," ujarnya.