



**UNIT KOMUNIKASI KORPORAT
JABATAN PERIKANAN MALAYSIA
BERITA PERIKANAN HARI INI**

**6 Julai 2023
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BERITA HARIAN	SINAR HARIAN	THE SUN	ORIENTAL DAILY		
HARIAN METRO	NEW STRAITS TIMES	THE MALAY MAIL	PELBAGAI		
KATEGORI LIPUTAN:	POSITIF	NEGATIF	NEUTRAL	32	6/7/2023

ADUN beri keterangan tangkap ikan guna peralatan terlarang

KUALA TERENGGANU: Jabatan Perikanan Terengganu memanggil seorang Ahli Dewan Undangan Negeri (ADUN) untuk memberi keterangan berkaitan penularan video beliau menangkap ikan menggunakan peralatan terlarang di sebuah sungai di negeri ini, baru-baru ini.

Pengaruhnya, Ruzaidi Mamat berkata, wakil rakyat tersebut telah datang ke Pejabat Perikanan Negeri Terengganu semalam untuk memberi keterangan.

"Jabatan telah menerima laporan berkaitan video tular itu pada hari Isnin lalu dan kita telah menjalankan siasatan berhubung perkara tersebut."

"Wakil rakyat itu juga telah dipanggil dan kini pihak jabatan sedang melengkapkan siasatan sebelum kita rujuk kepada penasihat undang-undang negeri

Terengganu," katanya ketika dihubungi semalam.

Baru-baru tular video 24 saat di media sosial memaparkan s ADUN tersebut sedang menangkap ikan di sebuah sungai di negeri ini menggunakan kaedah renjatan elektrik.

Mengulas lanjut, Ruzaidi berkata, siasatan kes itu dijalankan di bawah Seksyen 3 Kaedah-Kaedah Perikanan Darat Negeri Terengganu 1988 iaitu penangkapan ikan dengan menggunakan peralatan terlarang. "Antara peralatan terlarang termasuk menggunakan racun, bahan letupan dan peralatan-peralatan mekanikal atau elektrik."

"Jika disabitkan kesalahan, pelaku berdepan hukuman denda tidak melebihi RM1,000 atau penjara tidak melebihi enam bulan atau kedua-duanya," katanya.

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				25	6/7/2023

Guna renjatan elektrik tangkap ikan

Bekas ADUN dipanggil untuk beri keterangan terhadap perbuatannya

Oleh NORHASPIDA YATIM
KUALA TERENGGANU

Sorang bekas Ahli Dewan Undangan Negeri (ADUN) di ngori ini dipanggil hagi memberi keterangan susulan penularan video memaparkan tindakan beliau menangkap ikan menggunakan alatan terlarang.

Pengarah Jabatan Perikanan Negeri Terengganu, Ruzaidi Mamat berkata, rakaman keterangan daripada bekas ADUN itu telah diambil pada Selasa.

"Kita menerima laporan berkaitan video tular itu pada Isnin (3 Julai) dan

pihak jabatan telah menjalankan siasatan berhubung perkara itu.

"Individu terlibat juga telah dipanggil dan kini pihak jabatan sedang melengkapkan siasatan sebelum kita rujuk kepada penasihat undang-undang negeri Terengganu," katanya ketika dihubungi di sini pada Rabu.

Menurut Ruzaidi, siasatan kes itu dijalankan di bawah Seksyen 3 Kaedah-Kaedah Perikanan Darat Negeri Terengganu 1988 iaitu penangkapan ikan dengan menggunakan peralatan terlarang.

"Antara peralatan terlarang termasuk menggunakan racun, bahan letupan dan menggunakan elektrik.

"Jika sabit kesalahan, pelaku boleh didenda tidak melebihi RM1,000 atau penjara tidak melebihi enam bulan atau kedua-duanya," katanya.

Terdahulu tular video berdurasi 24 saat di media sosial memaparkan bekas ADUN berkenaan menangkap ikan menggunakan renjatan elektrik.



Video tular memaparkan bekas ADUN berkenaan menangkap ikan menggunakan peralatan terlarang.

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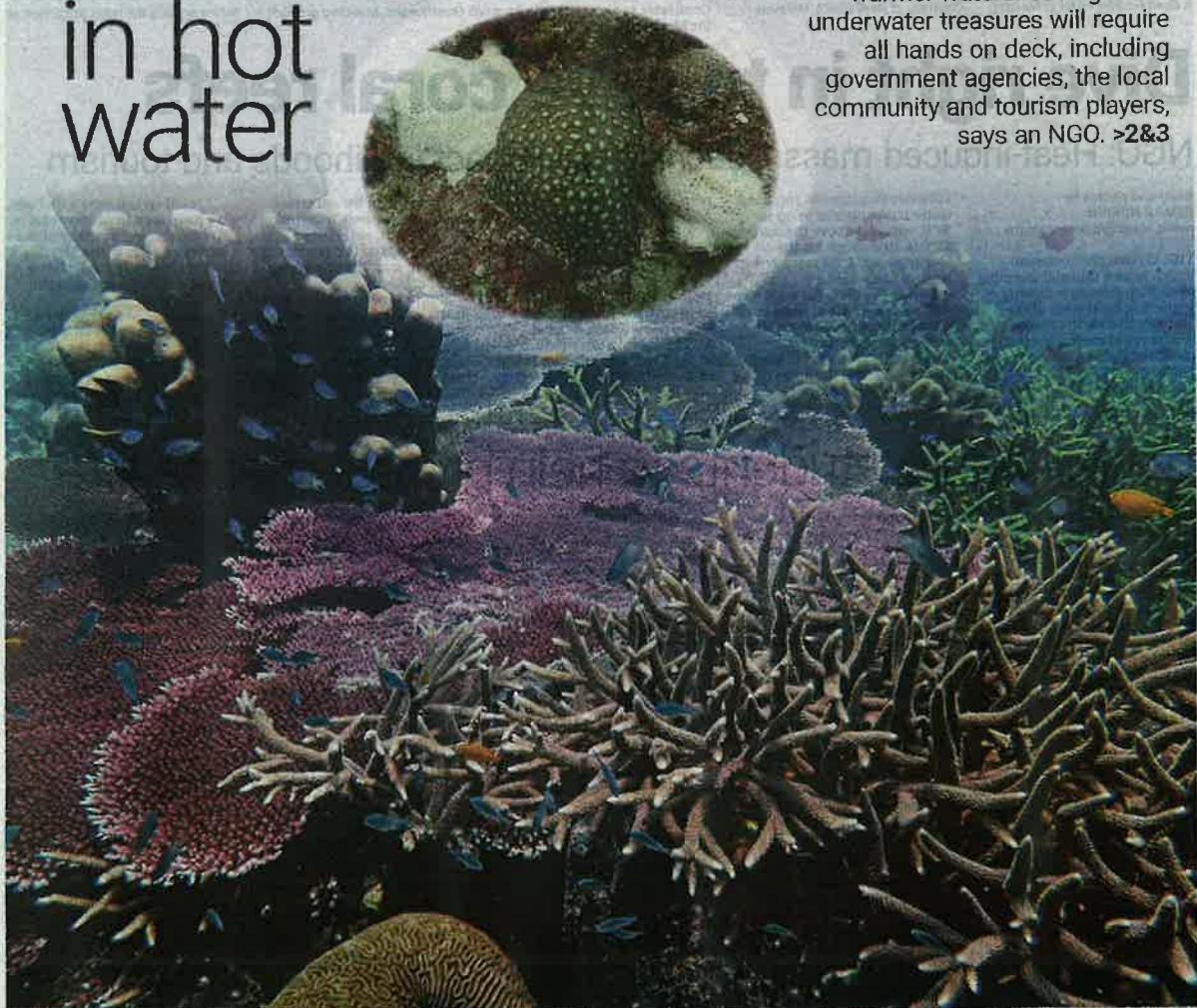


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Marine life in hot water



Coral reefs around the islands off Mersing, Johor, are under threat of mass bleaching due to warmer waters. Saving these underwater treasures will require all hands on deck, including government agencies, the local community and tourism players, says an NGO. >2&3

Fragile ecosystem: Vibrant coral reef in Pulau Aur, Mersing, can sustain thousands of marine life. However, a recent survey has revealed instances of coral bleaching (inset) due to rising sea temperatures. — Pic courtesy of Reef Check Malaysia

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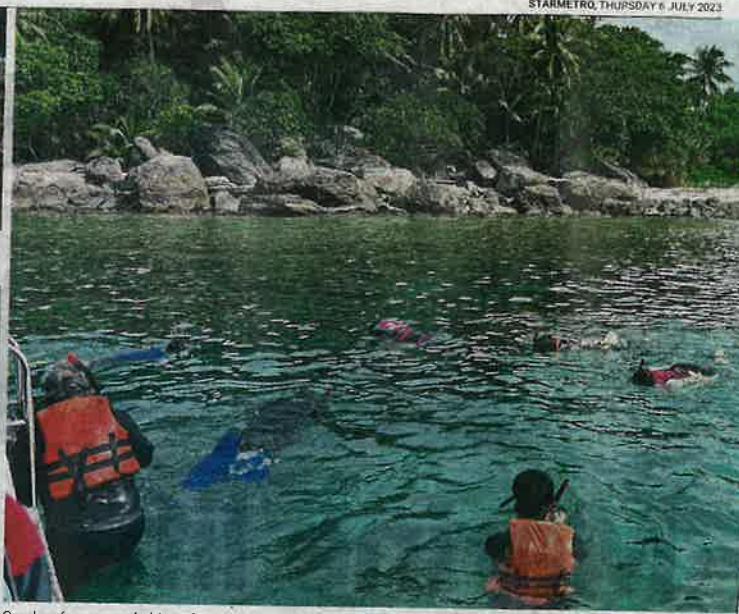
2 News

JOHOR

Coral bleaching is caused by the rising ocean temperatures. — Courtesy of Johor Fisheries Department



A dead boulder coral in Mersing. — Courtesy of Reef Check Malaysia



Coral reefs serve as habitats for small crustaceans, breeding grounds for fishes and are the main attraction at the Mersing islands

STAR METRO, THURSDAY 6 JULY 2023

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Dive right in to save coral reefs

NGO: Heat-induced mass bleaching will impact livelihoods and tourism

Story and photos by
REMAR NORDIN
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THE El Nino phenomenon, which causes unusual warming of surface waters, is directly impacting coral reefs at the Mersing islands in Johor.

Surveys of reefs done last month at Pulau Aan and Pulau Pemanggil by Reef Check Malaysia (RCM) and the Johor

Fisheries Department recorded water temperatures of up to 33°C, which is above the normal 28°C to 29°C range for the Mersing area, RCM manager Nazirul-Amin said.

During the dive, the team also saw the bleaching of some coral colonies, possibly because of rising water temperatures.

When the water is too warm, corals will expel the algae living in their tissues, causing it to

turn completely white. This is called coral bleaching.

While corals can survive a bleaching episode, they may die from the stress.

"This is the 15th year we have been conducting reef check surveys with the Johor Fisheries Department," said Nazirul.

"The surveys are conducted along a transect line that is laid at a constant depth at selected reef monitoring sites

"The data on the substrate (reef composition), invertebrate fish numbers, and human and natural impacts are recorded in four 20m-long sections along the line.

"It provides a snapshot of reef health within the surveyed area. Some of the reefs on these islands have been surveyed since 2008, so long-term trend information and changes in reef health have been recorded."

"Based on last year's findings, we have seen improvements in live coral cover at many of the surveyed reefs at the Mersing islands, reversing a declining trend that has been going on since 2016."

"However, we are concerned by what we have seen during our recent dive."

"If this warm water temperature phenomenon prolongs, a mass bleaching event is likely to

Corral locals, students to help protect marine life

LOCAL awareness is critical for the protection and preservation of the marine life ecosystem at the islands off Mersing.

Mersing Island and Reef Conservation (MIRC) secretary Ahmad Firdaus Shukir Omar said the organisation was looking into educating the public about how the use of sunscreens could damage coral reefs.

Parts of the United States, such as Hawaii and Key West, as well as the Caribbean nations have started banning sunscreen that contains chemicals such as oxybenzone, octinoxate and octocrylene.

The ban is also imposed in Thailand, where violators can be fined.

"Right now, visitors to the Mersing Islands who use sunscreen are unlikely to even be aware of the chemicals that they have applied. We urge those who are planning to swim in the ocean, to opt for eco-friendly sunblock brands."

Ahmad Firdaus, who is also the Mersing Tourism Association (MTA) secretary, said MIRC was established ear-

lier this year to enable non-governmental organisations (NGOs), villagers, the government and the public to join forces in conserving the environment.

"Reef Check Malaysia (RCM) is more focused on the conservation of reefs, not only in Johor but on other islands in other states as well, such as Pulau Tioman in Pahang and the islands in Semporna in Sabah, while the Tengah Island Conservation in Mersing is focused on the conservation of sea turtles."

"MIRC wanted to complement these conservation efforts."

He said the organisation focused on clown fish habitat conservation and removing ghost nets (fishing nets lost or abandoned in the ocean).

There are plans for MIRC to sign a memorandum of understanding with RCM, for the former to be trained on ghost net removal and marine life conservation.

The majority of our mem-



bers already have a diving licence and it is good to involve

more locals in conservation work," he added.

Ahmad Firdaus said MIRC was planning to organise the "One School, One Reef" conservation programme, where schools would be given a chance to adopt coral reefs attached to a frame.

The programme involves schoolchildren who will be taught how coral reef conservation works.

"They will be given pieces of coral reef which they can attach to a metal frame that will later



be placed in the sea. "They will be given monthly updates on the growth of the corals that they have planted," he said.

He added that MIRC was also planning to place solar-powered lights on the Mersing Islands to promote green energy usage.

When contacted, Sultan Iskandar Marine Park resource management and protection chief Nur Afifah A. Rahman

said the Johor Fisheries Department issued a warning regarding the increase in ocean

temperatures between 30°C and 33°C last month.

"We worry that the rise in temperature will lead to coral bleaching."

"We have increased our surveillance and monitoring to look for signs of coral reef bleaching and will report our findings to the Ecosystems Conservation and Biodiversity Branch and the Fisheries Conservation and Protection Division."

According to Nur Afifah, the bleaching process can be reversed if the water temperature cools and the corals recover their zooxanthellae within eight weeks after the incident.

"One way the public can help is to avoid touching corals when snorkelling and when swimming in shallow waters, as it may break the corals."

"Once broken, it will take years to recover."

"Avoid throwing trash into the ocean and do not pick or remove any corals, regardless if they are dead or alive, as doing so is a violation," she said. — **REMAR NORDIN**

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happen, and as a result, we might lose the corals.

The improvement in live coral cover at the Mersing islands that we have seen in previous years may be short-lived," Nazirul said.

As a member of the national Bleaching Response Committee, RCM is working with the Fisheries Department to continuously monitor the reefs around the Mersing islands as the heatwave grips the region, he said.

"We have asked local communities, dive operators as well as NGO partners to keep an eye out for signs of bleaching whenever they are out in the reef areas."

According to him, there isn't much they can do if wide-scale bleaching starts to happen "because we cannot reduce the seawater temperature".

As for an action plan, he pointed to the *Coral Bleaching Response Plan* published by the Fisheries Department.

The plan outlines several steps on how to react to bleaching, such as by managing local stressors to increase the resistance capacity of the reefs against warmer temperatures.

Managing local stressors by effecting site closures can restrict human activity in affected areas, thereby removing potential physical damage by divers, snorkelling, anchoring boats, fishing and other activities that can further weaken the bleached reefs.

This Nazirul said, would allow the corals to concentrate all their energy on survival and recovery from bleaching damage.

"We hope that this concerted effort by various parties will help us respond effectively to the bleaching event and inform the public on what is happening," he added.

RCM Mersing Sustainable Tourism programme manager Atieeth Fon Peris said the coral bleaching phenomenon would affect not only marine life but also the livelihoods of local communities and tour-

The release of sea turtle hatchlings is a major tourist draw at the Mersing Islands.



Nazirul says the improvement in live coral cover seen at the Mersing Islands may be short-lived.



Peris says coral bleaching will affect not only marine life but also the livelihoods of local communities and tourism players.



Norashimah says the tourism business depends entirely on the well-being and health of the environment.

"A local conservation group should be established. Whenever there is a problem, everyone can play a role."

Fahmi Abd Malik

ism player.

"Many Mersing folk work as fishermen and are involved in marine-based tourism so their income depends on the coral reefs."

"We know from scientific findings that a thriving coral reef ecosystem supports a healthy fish population and its underwater environment attracts tourists."

Mersing is known for its beautiful underwater scenery and the abundance of fish that are caught for sale.

"Without healthy reefs, the aspiration for Mersing to become a thriving hub for tourism would be greatly dimin-

ished," said Peris.

Tekuk Penyabong Resort Mersing senior manager Fahmi Abd Malik said a local conservation group should be established.

"For example, in Pahang, Pulau Tioman, the Tioman Marine Conservation Group includes all of the tourism industry players, village chiefs, government agencies, and conservation groups under one umbrella."

"Whenever there is a problem, everyone can play a role. The government can provide the funding, the experts can work out the solution and the public can be in charge of con-

servation and protection."

Tourism operators also seem to recognise the need for reef preservation.

Mak Su Chalet Pulau Tinggi owner Norashimah Sharom said coral reefs should be treated like treasures as they were the main attraction for visitors.

"People come to snorkel and dive in the Mersing waters because of its beautiful reefs, which are home to various types of marine life."

"So if the corals are dead, there will be no marine population and people will stop coming to the island."

Norashimah, who is also a sea turtle egg collector for the Johor Fisheries Department, said her guests witnessed the release of sea turtle hatchlings and this was a major attraction at her chalet.

"This tourism business depends entirely on the well-being and health of the environment."

"The sea turtles came here due to the abundance of food and healthy marine biodiversity; without it, we would also not be here," she added.