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

**15 Ogos 2023**
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# Rehabilitating coral reefs on Redang Island

Jom!
By Izwan Ismail

CORAL reefs are among the most biodiverse and valuable ecosystems on our planet, providing a habitat for countless marine species and contributing significantly to the local economy through tourism.

In recent years, however, these delicate ecosystems have faced unprecedented challenges due to climate change, pollution and destructive human activities.

Recognising the importance of coral reefs and the need for their conservation, Reef Check Malaysia (RCM) has taken a proactive step in rehabilitating coral reefs around Redang Island.

Through its innovative coral rehabilitation programme, in collaboration with various stakeholders, RCM aims to preserve both the natural beauty of the area and its tourism appeal.

"The objective of the coral rehabilitation project is to conserve marine biodiversity through sustainable, community-based coral reef rehabilitation," said Cintai Redang programme manager Putri Asma.

## THE CORAL REHABILITATION MOVE

The Cintai Redang team, under the auspices of RCM, has joined hands with the Fisheries Department, Laguna Dive Centre, Tioman Marine Conservation Group (TMCG), and Coralku Conservation to execute the coral rehabilitation project.

This collective effort signifies a significant partnership between environmental organisations and the local community to safeguard the marine environment that sustains their livelihoods.

At the heart of the coral rehabilitation initiative is the Redang Marine Conservation Group (RMCG), a group of local youths who are passionate about marine conservation.

Drawing inspiration from the successful experiences of the TMCG, RMCG is dedicated to revitalising coral reefs and learning from the knowledge-sharing sessions. This collaborative approach highlights the importance of inter-community cooperation, where valuable insights and best practices are exchanged for the greater good.

## USE OF VARIOUS TECHNIQUES

One of the cornerstones of the coral rehabilitation programme is the use of different methods and techniques to ensure the highest survival rates for rescued corals.

The use of coated metal frames, cement blocks and coral clips has been tested, showcasing a commitment to finding the most effective restoration approach. This rigorous experimentation, combined with the planting of approximately 100 coral fragments per site, has contributed to the preservation of over 300 coral fragments.

Scheduled monitoring, carried out in cooperation with local community members and marine biologists, guarantees that these transplants have the best chance of thriving in their new habitat.

The rehabilitation effort extends beyond coral planting. The teams have undertaken the crucial task of removing ghost nets from the marine environment. These abandoned fishing nets pose a significant threat to marine life, often entangling corals and marine animals, thereby damaging the reef ecosystem. By removing about 50kg of ghost nets from Redang Island's waters, the teams have demonstrated their commitment to holistic conservation.

## CORAL TOOLKIT

An exciting development arising from the coral rehabilitation programme is the creation of a comprehensive coral rehabilitation toolkit. This toolkit will serve as a valuable resource for guiding effective coral restoration, particularly in community-based initiatives. By sharing the knowledge gained through practical experience, RCM aims to empower other conservation groups and communities to undertake similar projects, fostering a collective effort towards protecting our ocean's vital ecosystems.

As a testament to their dedication, RCM plans to publish a national toolkit by the end of 2024, encapsulating their findings and methodologies.

*Divers use different methods and techniques to ensure the highest survival rates for rescued corals.*

This resource will serve as a guide for future restoration projects, allowing others to benefit from their insights and successes.

The coral rehabilitation efforts on Redang Island underscores the importance of uniting communities, conservation organisations and local authorities in the shared goal of preserving our environment.

By taking proactive measures to rehabilitate coral reefs, RCM and its partners are not only safeguarding the natural beauty of Redang Island but also ensuring its continued appeal as a premier tourism destination.

NST ms13

*Reef Check Malaysia has taken a proactive step in rehabilitating coral reefs around Redang Island.* PIX COURTESY OF REEF CHECK MALAYSIA

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PROGRAM pelepasan semula benih ketam bakau dan dua juta udang galah ke sungai utama di Terengganu bertujuan meningkatkan sumber populasi semula jadi.

# Pelepasan semula benih ketam, udang tingkat hasil nelayan

UM MS 26

KELESTARIAN sumber akuatik merupakan kunci utama dalam memastikan sumber bekalan semula jadi dikekalkan agar sumber induk spesies bernilai komersial dapat dikekalkan untuk penghasilan benih yang berkualiti.

Naib Canselor Universiti Malaysia Terengganu (UMT), Prof. Datuk Dr. Mazlan Abd. Ghaffar berkata, di bawah program penyelidikan Kelestarian Sumber, program pelepasan semula benih ketam bakau dan 2 juta udang galah telah berjaya dilepaskan di sungai utama di Terengganu bertujuan meningkatkan sumber populasi semula jadi udang galah di kawasan tersebut.

"Maklumbalas positif dari pihak komuniti nelayan di kawasan tersebut menyatakan hasil tangkapan udang telah meningkat setelah setahun program pelepasan dijalankan. Kajian yang dijalankan HICoE AKUATROP menunjukkan bahawa kadar pelepasan semula benih udang galah sebanyak 200,000 ekor.

"Malah pelepasan semula benih ketam bakau dan udang galah ke dalam sungai akan

PELEPASAN semula benih ketam bakau dan udang galah akan memberi pulangan ekonomi RM450,000 kepada nelayan sungai terlibat.

udang galah nelayan meningkat dari purata 4kg (bernilai RM160.00) kepada purata 9kg (bernilai RM360.00)," ujarnya.

Universiti Malaysia Terengganu (UMT) melalui Pusat Kecemerlangan Pengajian Tinggi (HICoE) iaitu Institut Akuakultur Tropika dan Perikanan (AKUATROP) proaktif dalam menjalankan kajian dan penyelidikan berkaitan ilmu kelautan dan sumber akuatik serta keperluan makanan masa hadapan (Future Food) demi

AKUATROP telah diberikan penarafan HICoE oleh Kementerian Pendidikan Tinggi (KPT) pada Disember 2020 bagi memacu kecemerlangan penyelidikan IPT di dalam bidang penyelidikan nic makanan masa hadapan (Future food): Kelesfarian Akuakultur Shellfish. KPT telah meluluskan dana sebanyak RM6.75 juta kepada HICoE AKUATROP untuk tujuan ini.

Entiti itu memfokuskan kepada empat program

> **"Maklumbalas positif dari pihak komuniti nelayan di kawasan tersebut menyatakan hasil tangkapan udang telah meningkat setelah setahun program pelepasan dijalankan."**

mampu menyumbang kepada agenda keterjaminan makanan negara.

Tambah Mazlan, penghasilan 300,000 benih anak ketam di Hatcheri AKUATROP juga telah berjaya dilepaskan di kawasan hutan bakau di Sungai Pulai, Johor dan Tanah Bencah Setiu, Terengganu.

Di bawah program penyelidikan Teknologi Pembiakbakaan, kajian di HICoE AKUATROP memberikan tumpuan kepada spesis krustasea yang bebas dan tahan terhadap penyakit.

pasaran yang tinggi, nilai pasaran yang tinggi dan yang paling penting mampu meningkatkan sosio ekonomi petani serta masyarakat pesisir.

**MISI KETERJAMINAN MAKANAN**

Bagi menjayakan misi keterjaminan makanan, institut itu juga telah memulakan inisiatif penubuhan Broodstock Multiplication Centre (BMC).

Dengan adanya benih yang berkualiti, ianya akan meningkatkan hasil pengeluaran dan sekaligus akan mengurangkan kos pengeluaran.

"Kepentingan membangunkan induk yang bebas dan mempunyai ketahanan tinggi kepada penyakit perlu menjadi agenda utama khusus bagi kelestarian industri penternakan akuakultur di Malaysia.

"Institusi ini juga menggalas tugas membantu membangunkan induk spesis akuakultur baka tempatan berkualiti tinggi dengan penghasilan baka hibrid baharu, untuk bekalan kepada industri makanan laut di Malaysia khasnya dan serantau amnya," ujarnya

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# Pengusaha ikan sangkar di Chenor terjejas, ikan mati

UM M632

**Oleh SALEHUDIN MAT RASAD**
utusannews@mediamulia.com.my

**MARAN:** Kesan fenomena El Nino yang melanda negara sejak tiga bulan lalu menyebabkan Sungai Pahang di beberapa kampung tradisional di Chenor di sini berubah menjadi kering.

Ketua Kampung Pesagi, Abd. Rahim Yaakob, 70, berkata, Sungai Pahang dari Kampung Sanding ke Kampung Chedung dan Kampung Pesagi sejauh hampir empat kilometer berubah wajah menjadi daratan berpasir.

Menurutnya, paling terkesan dengan fenomena luar biasa itu lebih 20 pengusaha ikan sangkar apabila banyak ikan mati dan tidak sempat matang untuk dipasarkan.

"Lebih 200 sangkar milik pengusaha kebanyakannya sudah diangkat ke daratan kerana ikan tidak mampu hidup kesan peningkatan suhu air yang mempengaruhi pembesaran.

"Saya berani menyatakan bahawa kemarau tahun ini lebih teruk berbanding 2016 kerana sebahagian besar sungai berubah menjadi padang pasir sehingga penduduk boleh bermain bola di atas pasir tersebut," katanya di sini semalam.

**SUNGAI Pahang berubah menjadi padang pasir ibarat gurun di Kampung Pesagi di Chenor, Maran. - UTUSAN/SALEHUDIN MAT RASAD**

Menurutnya, banyak kes kematian lemas di pasir jerlus bukan sahaja berlaku di sekitar Kampung Pesagi tetapi juga di kawasan berpasir di daerah Temerloh dan Bera.Bilal Masjid Kampung Pesagi, Johari Abdul Rahman, 60, berkata, kemarau kali ini disifatkannya paling teruk kerana pasir timbul di permukaan membolehkan penduduk berjalan terus ke Pulau Pesagi dan Pulau Tanjung Berangan." katanya.

Seorang pengusaha ikan sangkar di Kampung Tanjung Berangan, Chenor, Mohd. Fadzli Abdul Malik, 43, terpaksa melelong ikan patin dan tilapia lebih 1,000 kilogram minggu lalu bagi mengelak kerugian.