



**LAPORAN LIPUTAN MEDIA HARIAN
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UNIT KOMUNIKASI KORPORAT
KEMENTERIAN PERTANIAN DAN INDUSTRI MAKANAN
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Fishermen affected during first 2 weeks of Movement Control Order

MIRI: The fishing community here was only affected by the Movement Control Order (MCO) during the first two weeks of its implementation as the people adhered to the government's directive to stay at home.

Thereafter, they experienced brisk business as demand for seafood at the fishermen's wet markets in Bekenu, Bakam and Kampung Batu Satu Lutong picked up again.

Marine Fisheries Department Region III head Buniamin Kiprawi said since then most fishermen at the markets said their catch were quickly taken up without any left behind.

"Yes, fishermen were affected the first two weeks of MCO but after that they experienced good sales as majority of their customers were already waiting at the wet markets to buy their fresh catch," Buniamin said yesterday.



Abdul Hamid Hassan

He said the public slowly came out to buy seafood at the wet markets and they observed the standard operating procedure as set by the authorities.

"There is no denying that some of the fishermen who used to sell their catch to middlemen found they could not do so as restaurants were ordered to be closed," he added.

On the issue of encroachment by trawlers on the fishermen's zone, he said the department would work together

with Malaysian Maritime Enforcement Agency Miri to curb the problem.

A fisherman operating at Batu Dua Lutong-Kuala Baram road, Abdul Hamid Hassan, claimed that local fishermen were competing with the fishing trawlers encroaching on their fishing zone during the MCO and conditional MCO, especially during good weather, to catch as much fish as they could.

Due to that, he added, their catch had been less than before.

"These trawlers operate at night, but during the day they 'run' to their specific fishing zone to avoid detection.

"By the time we cast our nets at our fishing zone in the morning we are left with the leftovers only," he lamented, adding that local fishermen could not compete with the trawlers as they used machines and winch.

Killer red tide heading towards Kedah

Fish farmers should relocate farms from affected areas, advises Fisheries Department

By LO TERN CHERN
andylb@thestar.com.my

BALIK PULAU: The red tide that killed tens of thousands of farmed fish in Penang and Perak is now heading to Kedah.

Technically called harmful algal blooms (HAB), the phenomenon was first detected in the sea off northern Perak.

The Fisheries Department said during an investigation on May 29, the Fisheries Research Institute found high concentrations of Cochlodinium algal, one of the red tide species, in waters near Kuala Kurau, Kuala Gula and Tanjung Pliandang in Perak after a large number of fish, farmed in floating cages at sea, were found dead.

pared to harvest if the fish do not look normal.

"Do not simply dispose of dead fish in the sea as it can contribute to an increase in nutrients which causes growth of plankton," it said in a statement.

The department said while the spike in Cochlodinium is an annual occurrence worldwide and toxic to marine life, it does not affect humans.

"Fish in the wild are not affected as they can swim away," it said, adding that fishermen continued to report good catches at sea.

Universiti Sains Malaysia's Centre for Marine and Coastal Studies director Prof Datuk Dr Aileen Tan said researchers had detected a spike in the level of chlorophyll in

waters around Penang.

"The first peak was on May 21 during spring tide, followed by the second peak on May 28 during neap tide.

"High levels of chlorophyll-A indicates high concentrations of phytoplankton. Growth of bad phytoplankton that form HAB is possibly triggered by the recent rain, which flushed nutrients from land to sea," she said.

Prof Tan said a cyclical pattern was showing because large numbers of fish deaths had occurred between April and August last year.

"Fish in cages died by the thousands in Penang and Perak last May. If fish deaths occur or repeat at similar times in different years, coinciding with prolonged hot

weather followed by rainy seasons, then it can be linked to a combination of natural factors.

"We do have harmful algae in our waters but they can bloom HAB with a high input of nutrients.

"We cannot do much about the rain or the existing harmful algae but we can better manage waste that flows into the sea, which feeds them," she added.

On Wednesday, thousands of large snappers and trevallies were washed ashore in Balik Pulau and left a foul stench as their carcasses rotted.



Watch the video
thestartv.com



"The fish were killed by HAB. Following the cases in Perak and Penang, we forecast similar incidents will occur in Kedah and urge farmers there to be cautious.

"Farmers should relocate their fish from affected areas and be pre-

The Iconic Kea Farm Stalls In Cameron Highland Are Being Moved To A Safer New Location!



A lot of businesses are truly suffering during this Conditional Movement Control Order (CMCO), some of them more than others as there are places in Malaysia such as Cameron Highlands, where businesses and daily income rely on tourists.

But for other businesses, this time indicates a change for the better.

The Penang Kini Facebook page took to their profile to showcase the move of the iconic Kea Farm roadside stalls that lined both sides of a road heading in and out of Cameron Highlands.

They wrote, "It was supposed to be a busy day to head to the compulsory-to-visit place when you're in Cameron Highlands, but the Kea Farm booths have been demolished.

"This location has always been legendary since way back when and it leaves behind a lot of nostalgia. Whoever has been to Cameron Highlands will always say it's a must to stop there."



"But worry not. Just ahead of where the stalls used to be, is the new, comfortable, safer, organised and spacious grounds for the vendors to open up shop. Here are pictures of the new space. When is CMCO going to end? We can't wait to enjoy the cold air and relax," they added.



out the new location ourselves!

And true enough, the new space definitely looks safer and better for the vendors as when they were still set up by the sides of the narrow road, there were many risks such as the potential of a bad driver ramming into the stalls and landslides.

Plus, parking was always an issue that caused traffic congestion there.

We're happy to see that these vendors, who are gems of the Cameron Highlands community, are being well taken care off.

We can't wait for the CMCO to be over so that we can check

Kajang market reopens after two-week closure



Hee (third from right) and Zulkefli (on his left) visiting Pasar Awam Kajang which reopened yesterday.

PASAR Awam Kajang traders are glad they can once again earn a livelihood after the market was reopened by Kajang Municipal Council (MPKj).

The market was shut after five people comprising two foreigners and three locals tested positive for Covid-19, leading to the market being shut down on May 21.

Selangor environment, green technology, science, technology, innovation and consumer affairs committee chairman Hee Loy Sian visited the market yesterday and called on traders to follow the

standard operating procedure.

Accompanying him were MPKj president Datuk Zulkefli Khalid, his deputy Najmuddin Jemain and heads from the council's valuation, licensing, enforcement as well as solid waste and public cleansing management departments.

Persatuan Penjaja Pasar Kajang (PPPK) chairman Lee Kok Leong said on Monday, traders and their workers took part in a gotong-royong to clean the place.

This was in addition to an earlier disinfection exercise carried out by MPKj together with the Health Ministry.

MPKj's Valuation Department second assistant officer Ahmad Fairullah Selamat said to ensure social distancing, only 30 customers would be allowed into the market at any one time.

"Each customer is given only 20 minutes to shop. To ensure compliance, association members will give constant reminders to customers to keep to the time frame," said Ahmad Fairullah.

He added that the market received up to 1,200 customers a day on weekdays and 3,000 during weekends.

PPPK vice-chairman Zahira Effendy Ariffin said the association members and Rela personnel would be manning the single entrance to ensure visitors register their names and contact numbers, undergo temperature screening and sanitise their hands before going into the market.

"Some 10 traders have been put on duty daily to ensure customers abide by the entry requirements and social distancing rules.

"We also have five Rela personnel on standby. MPKj will also send their staff on weekends when there is a larger crowd," said Zahira Effendy.