# LAPORAN LIPUTAN MEDIA HARIAN
## RABU 17 DISEMBER 2025

| BIL. | TAJUK KERATAN AKHBAR | KEMENTERIAN / JABATAN / AGENSI |
|---|---|---|
| 1. | HANYA 15 PERATUS BUAT PEMBELIAN, PENGGUNA KURANG BELI BERAS PUTIH TEMPATAN, LOKAL, HARIAN METRO, M/S – 13 | KEMENTERIAN PERTANIAN DAN KETERJAMINAN MAKANAN (KPKM) |
| 2. | LKIM, FAMA DIMINTA ATASI MANIPULASI BEKALAN IKAN, NASIONAL, BERITA HARIAN, M/S – 7 | |
| 3. | FISHERIES DEPT STEPS UP AID TO SUPPORT FISH FARMERS DURING MONSOON, NATIONAL, THE SUN, M/S – 4 | JABATAN PERIKANAN MALAYSIA (DOF) |
| 4. | SPRM PERLIS CADANG ENAM PENAMBAHBAIKAN TATAKELOLA PPK, NEGARA, KOSMO, M/S – 9 | LEMBAGA PERTUBUHAN PELADANG (LPP) |
| 5. | TAHNIAH KEPADA SEMUA PEMENANG ANUGERAH AGRO BIZ AWARDS 2025, TERUSKAN MENERAJUI DAN MENCIPTA IMPAK DALAM INDUSTRI AGROMAKANAN NEGARA, HARIAN METRO, M/S – 11 | AGROBANK |
| 6. | 'SUKAR ELAK IKAN MAHAL KETIKA MUSIM TENGKUJUH', NASIONAL, BERITA HARIAN, M/S – 11 | LAIN-LAIN |
| 7. | JAMAL ABDILLAH DEDAH CABARAN TERNAK LEMBU, NASIONAL, SINAR HARIAN, M/S – 8 | |
| 8. | AQUACULTURE FUTURE, FRONT PAGE, THE STAR, M/S - 1 | |
| 9. | BOOSTING THE SEA'S BOUNTY, NEWS, THE STAR, M/S – 2 & 3 | |

UKK KPKM

UNIT KOMUNIKASI KORPORAT
KEMENTERIAN PERTANIAN DAN KETERJAMINAN MAKANAN
(UNTUK EDARAN DALAMAN KPKM, JABATAN DAN AGENSI SAHAJA)

| TARIKH | MEDIA | RUANGAN | MUKA SURAT |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 17/12/2025 | HARIAN METRO | LOKAL | 13 |

**PENGGUNA KURANG BELI BERAS PUTIH TEMPATAN**

# Hanya 15 peratus buat pembelian

**Oleh Fahmy A Rosli**
am@hmetro.com.my

**Kuala Lumpur**

Kementerian Pertanian dan Keterjaminan Makanan (KPKM) mengakui peningkatan pengeluaran Beras Putih Tempatan (BPT) masih berdepan cabaran apabila sambutan pembelian dalam kalangan pengguna kekal rendah iaitu sekitar 10 hingga 15 peratus sahaja.

Menterinya, Datuk Seri Mohamad Sabu berkata, walaupun isu BPT sering dibangkitkan secara lantang di Parlimen, realitinya permintaan di pasaran tidak seperti yang digambarkan.

Beliau berkata, antara faktor yang mempengaruhi corak pembelian pengguna adalah penurunan harga beras import yang mengakibatkan rakyat memilih beras pada harga lebih sederhana.

"BPT...kami cuba buat pengeluaran, tapi nampaknya pembelian agak rendah. Hanya 10 hingga 10 peratus sahaja.

"Mula-mula kami jual sekampit, kami minta orang beli dua kampit dan sehingga kami longgar (pembelian) kepada lima kampit. Itu pun 10 hingga 15 peratus sahaja.

"Ini kerana beras import harganya turun yang menyebabkan rakyat pengguna memilih harga beras agak sederhana," katanya mengulas kekurangan stok BPT yang masih berlaku dalam pasaran negara ketika ini.

Beliau berkata demikian selepas menjadi tetamu Podcast Utama Buletin TV3 di Balai Berita di sini, semalam.

Terdahulu, ketibaan Mohamad disambut Ketua Pegawai Kewangan Kumpulan Media Prima, Rosli Sabarudin; Pengarang Kumpulan Berita dan Hal Ehwal Semasa (NCA), Azhari Muhidin dan Timbalan Pengarang Kumpulan BH, M Thillinadan.

KPKM sebelum ini memaklumkan bahawa pihaknya akan menilai semula mekanisme baharu pembekalan beras putih susulan Program Khas BPT Bersubsidi akan tamat September lalu bagi memastikan rakyat terus mendapat bekalan mencukupi pada harga berpatutan.

**"Mula-mula kami jual sekampit, kami minta orang beli dua kampit dan sehinggalah kami longgar (pembelian) kepada lima kampit. Itu pun 10 hingga 15 peratus sahaja"**

*Mohamad*

Menurut kementerian itu, penilaian turut mengambil kira penyelarasan harga Beras Putih Import (BPI) pada kadar RM2,600 satu tan metrik di pintu gudang Padiberas Nasional Berhad (BERNAS) yang berkuat kuasa 15 Mei lalu, serta langkah menangani amalan pencampuran beras di pasaran.

KPKM juga memberikan jaminan bahawa bekalan beras akan terus dipantau bagi memastikan rakyat mendapat akses kepada bekalan yang mencukupi pada harga berpatutan.

Program BPT Bersubsidi yang dilaksanakan pada 1 Mac lalu adalah usaha kerajaan dalam menyasarkan subsidi dengan lebih berkesan, di samping menjadi sebahagian daripada fasa transisi pembekalan beras putih di Malaysia.

| TARIKH | MEDIA | RUANGAN | MUKA SURAT |
|---|---|---|---|
| 17/12/2025 | BERITA HARIAN | NASIONAL | 7 |

# LKIM, FAMA diminta atasi manipulasi bekalan ikan

*Mohamad beramah mesra dengan Azhari (dua dari kiri), Farrah Naz, Husain dan Thillinadan selepas temu bual bersama BH di Balai Berita, Kuala Lumpur, semalam.*
(Foto Hairul Anuar Rahim/BH)

## Pihak ambil kesempatan buat untung di saat sukar diberi amaran

**Oleh Fahmy A Rosli**
fahmy.azril@bh.com.my

**Kuala Lumpur:** Menteri Pertanian dan Keterjaminan Makanan, Datuk Seri Mohamad Sabu memberi amaran kepada pihak yang cuba mengambil kesempatan menaikkan harga ikan, semata-mata mahu mengejar keuntungan ketika orang ramai bergelut dalam keadaan sukar.

Beliau mengarahkan Lembaga Kemajuan Ikan Malaysia (LKIM) dan Lembaga Pemasaran Pertanian Persekutuan (FAMA) untuk membentangkan laporan terperinci kepadanya,

Manipulasi bekalan punca harga ikan melambung

*Keratan akhbar BH, semalam.*

termasuk syor untuk menangani isu berkenaan.

Mohamad berkata, beliau akan memanggil persatuan dikatakan terbabit dalam 'rantaian' kegiatan memanipulasi harga ikan di pasaran negara.

"Ia berulang. Kadang-kadang orang ambil peluang. Sepatutnya berlaku kecemasan, (contoh) kita pergi ke luar negeri.

"Apabila berlaku katakanlah pertempuran di sesuatu tempat dan rakyatnya terpaksa keluarga pergi ke tempat lain.

"Semasa hendak keluar itu, kalau tambang teksi itu katakanlah 100 dolar dinaikkan sehingga 300 dolar. Padahal masa itu, sepatutnya membantu dan perangai seperti itu ada di mana-mana.

"Kita harap pengusaha di Malaysia, buatlah keuntungan tetapi jangan bersifat manipulasi kerana membebankan orang ramai.

"Ini harapan kita supaya sifat manusia itu kita kena kawal supaya kadang-kadang mereka hendak buat keuntungan, menjerut ketika rakyat berada dalam keadaan yang susah. Ini perlu diatasi," katanya di Balai Berita, di sini, semalam.

Yang turut hadir, Ketua Pegawai Kewangan Kumpulan Media Prima, Rosli Sabarudin; Pengarang Kumpulan Berita dan Hal Ehwal Semasa (NCA), Azhari Muhidin; Timbalan Pengarang Kumpulan Berita dan Hal Ehwal Semasa Media Prima yang juga Pengarang Kumpulan New Straits Times, Farrah Naz Abd Karim; Pengarang Kumpulan Harian Metro, Husain Jahit dan Timbalan Pengarang Kumpulan BH, M Thillinadan.

**LAPORAN KHAS**

### Ada pemborong tamak

*BH* semalam mendedahkan berlaku manipulasi harga ikan dalam pasaran negara seperti didedahkan Pengerusi LKIM, Muhamad Faiz Fadzil pada temu bual bersama *BH*.

Muhamad Faiz berkata, kenaikan harga ikan dalam pasaran negara bukan berlaku disebabkan musim tengkujuh atau kekurangan hasil tangkapan nelayan semata-mata, sebaliknya, Muhammad Faiz menegaskan keadaan turut berpunca daripada manipulasi pasaran oleh sebahagian pemborong.

Tindakan pemborong menyimpan bekalan yang banyak sebelum mengeluarkannya ketika stok kurang menjadi antara punca utama harga ikan melambung, walaupun nelayan tetap ke laut dalam cuaca tidak menentu.

Harga ikan lazimnya meningkat antara 30 peratus hingga 45 peratus berikutan cuaca Monsun Timur Laut yang bermula pertengahan November dan berlanjutan hingga Mac depan.

| TARIKH | MEDIA | RUANGAN | MUKA SURAT |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 17/12/2025 | THE SUN | NATIONAL | 4 |

# Fisheries Dept steps up aid to support fish farmers during monsoon

**PUTRAJAYA:** The Department of Fisheries is providing various forms of assistance to ensure the continuity of fish farming operations during the Northeast Monsoon season and in preparation for next year's aquaculture cycle.

Fisheries director-general Datuk Adnan Hussain said the assistance includes the distribution of livestock inputs, technical advisory services, monitoring of the aquaculture environment and mitigation measures against harmful algal blooms and fish diseases through the Fisheries Research Institute.

"The implementation of the Aquaculture Breeding and Seed Development Plan through the Nucleus Breeding Centre and the Master Multiplier Centre has produced more than five billion seeds annually, with an estimated production value of around RM690 million, involving 490 private hatcheries and nurseries.

"This ensures a high-quality and resilient seed supply in the face of climate change challenges," he said in a statement.

Adnan said Geographic Information System technology through MyDOFGiS and the Early Warning System are also being used to provide accurate and timely information to farmers, allowing preventive measures to be taken earlier.

"These measures also enable farmers to adjust their operations, including cage management, seed stocking rates, feeding practices and water management, to minimise the impact of disasters," he said.

He added that the integrated assistance reflects the government's continuous efforts to support aquaculture farmers affected by flooding and to ensure operational continuity ahead of the next farming round.

"We understand the challenges faced by farmers due to the floods during the 2024 and 2025 Northeast Monsoon seasons. Through this integrated assistance under the Agricultural Disaster Fund, the government is working to ensure farmers can quickly restore operations and prepare for the 2026 farming cycle," he said.

The assistance will be channelled in accordance with procedures set by the Agriculture and Food Security Ministry to reduce losses while safeguarding income and well-being within the fishing community.

He added that the department has assured that every approved farmer will receive assistance once all conditions are met, enabling them to continue aquaculture activities next year.

During the 2024 and 2025 monsoon seasons, 594 aquaculture farmers received assistance amounting to RM7.9 million through the Agricultural Disaster Fund. – Bernama

| TARIKH | MEDIA | RUANGAN | MUKA SURAT |
|---|---|---|---|
| 17/12/2025 | KOSMO | NEGARA | 9 |

# SPRM Perlis cadang enam penambahbaikan tatakelola PPK

**PETALING JAYA** – Suruhanjaya Pencegahan Rasuah Malaysia (SPRM) Perlis membentangkan enam cadangan penambahbaikan tatakelola kepada Lembaga Pertubuhan Peladang (LPP) Negeri Perlis bagi memperkukuh tadbir urus, pemantapan integriti serta pencegahan rasuah dalam pengurusan kewangan Pertubuhan Peladang Kawasan (PPK).

Pengarah SPRM Perlis, Mohd. Nor Adha Ab. Gani berkata, penambahbaikan tatakelola itu memberi penekanan kepada pengurusan penerimaan bayaran tunai serta pematuhan tatacara pemberian kredit dan pinjaman input pertanian bagi mengurangkan risiko ketirisan dan salah guna kuasa.

"Penambahbaikan ini bertujuan memastikan setiap proses kewangan dilaksanakan secara telus, berakauntabiliti dan mematuhi peraturan yang ditetapkan," katanya dalam satu kenyataan semalam.

Beliau berkata, SPRM turut mengesyorkan pelaksanaan program pembudayaan integriti, pengukuhan nilai murni serta peningkatan kesedaran antirasuah secara menyeluruh di semua PPK sebagai langkah pencegahan berterusan.

Katanya, cadangan penambahbaikan itu memfokuskan kepada dua isu utama iaitu pengurusan penerimaan bayaran tunai melalui Sistem Primari Pertubuhan Peladang (SPPP) serta pengurusan pemberian kredit dan pinjaman input pertanian.

"Antara cadangan dikemukakan termasuk penambahbaikan Garis Panduan Sistem Merekod Penerimaan Tunai dengan penyediaan perincian tatacara perekodan hasil atau tunai menerusi SPPP.

"Selain itu pewujudan Borang Akuan Serah Terima Wang Tunai bagi memastikan pengurusan tunai dilaksanakan secara lebih telus dan teratur turut dicadangkan.

"Bagi urusan pinjaman pula, LPP disaran menguatkuasakan pematuhan terhadap Arahan Pendaftar Pertubuhan Peladang (AP4.1.6) berkaitan panduan pemberian kredit dan pinjaman," katanya.

| TARIKH | MEDIA | RUANGAN | MUKA SURAT |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 17/12/2025 | HARIAN METRO | | 11 |

| TARIKH | MEDIA | RUANGAN | MUKA SURAT |
|---|---|---|---|
| 17/12/2025 | BERITA HARIAN | NASIONAL | 7 |

# 'Sukar elak ikan mahal ketika musim tengkujuh'

**Kota Bharu:** Harga ikan segar di pasar sekitar Kelantan naik di antara RM2 hingga RM8 sekilogram sejak awal bulan lalu, susulan cuaca yang tidak menentu sehingga menjejaskan hasil tangkapan nelayan tempatan.

Peniaga ikan, Norafaika Kamarudin, 33, berkata ikan selayang dijual RM12 hingga RM14 sekilogram, berbanding RM8 hingga RM10 sekilogram sebelum ini, manakala ikan tenggiri pula kini dijual RM40 hingga RM42 sekilogram, berbanding RM36 hingga RM38 sekilogram.

Katanya, harga ikan kembung juga meningkat kepada RM24 sekilogram berbanding sebelum ini RM20 hingga RM22 sekilogram dan ikan selar pula dijual RM24 berbanding RM16 hingga RM20 sekilogram sebelum ini.

"Bekalan ikan pada masa ini bergantung kepada hari kerana ada ikan tiada bekalan. Saya masih lagi menjual ikan segar yang menjadi pilihan pelanggan meskipun harganya mahal sikit," katanya.

Norafaika berkata, kebanyakan penduduk Kelantan memilih ikan segar berbanding ikan sejuk beku disebabkan kualiti ikan yang lebih baik biarpun harganya mahal.

Bagi mendapatkan bekalan ikan segar, katanya, beliau menunggu pemborong di Pusat Transformasi Luar Bandar (RTC) Tunjong seawal 4 pagi dan jika terlambat, sukar untuk memperoleh ikan yang elok.

"Buat masa ini, hanya nelayan yang menggunakan bot besar keluar menangkap ikan di laut, manakala kebanyakan nelayan bot kecil pula tidak turun ke laut bimbang keselamatan mereka kerana cuaca tidak menentu.

"Beberapa pasar sudah mula menjual ikan sejuk beku.

"Peniaga yang menjual ikan segar belum beralih kepada ikan sejuk beku dan masih mendapatkan bekalan ikan segar walaupun harga yang diperoleh daripada pemborong lebih mahal," katanya.

Seorang lagi peniaga, Husin Mamat, 52, berkata setiap kali musim tengkujuh akan berlaku kenaikan harga ikan, tetapi minggu ini, beliau masih menjual pada harga lama.

"Sejak peralihan monsun pada bulan lalu hingga kini, bekalan ikan diperoleh seperti biasa kerana masih terdapat nelayan yang dapat turun ke laut.

"Harga ikan memang meningkat ketika musim tengkujuh dan ini sukar dielakkan," katanya.

*Ikan segar masih jadi pilihan penduduk biarpun bekalan berkurangan ketika tengkujuh.* (Foto Ghazali Kori/BH)

| TARIKH | MEDIA | RUANGAN | MUKA SURAT |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 17/12/2025 | SINAR HARIAN | NASIONAL | 8 |


# Jamal Abdillah dedah cabaran ternak lembu

Jamal hampir empat tahun mengusahakan ladang fidlot di Bukit Merah Taiping, Perak.

Laporan *Sinar Harian* pada Selasa.

## Terhimpit kos operasi, pasang surut untung rugi

Oleh NORAFIDAH ASSAN

**SHAH ALAM** - Kos makanan ternakan tinggi terus menjadi antara cabaran utama dalam industri penternakan lembu, khususnya bagi pengusaha tempatan yang terlibat secara langsung dalam pengeluaran bekalan lembu dan daging negara.

Penyanyi legenda, Datuk Jamal Abdillah yang juga pengusaha ternakan lembu berkata, penternakan lembu memerlukan kesabaran kerana prosesnya mengambil masa panjang dan berdepan pelbagai kekangan.

"Apa pun cabaran, hadapi sahaja sebab penternakan lembu dan pengeluaran daging ini memang proses jangka panjang yang sangat diperlukan negara.

"Saya sendiri berdepan pelbagai kekangan dan sudah tentu salah satunya kos operasi selain pasang surutnya untung rugi dalam dunia perniagaan seperti ini.

"Bagaimanapun, pengusaha perlulah sentiasa mendapatkan nasihat, ilmu atau perkara berkaitan daripada pihak bertanggungjawab supaya ternakan kita menepati standard yang diperlukan bagi mengelakkan isu lain," katanya kepada *Sinar Harian* pada Selasa.

Media sebelum ini melaporkan, Malaysia memerlukan lebih tiga juta ekor lembu menjelang 2040 bagi memenuhi keperluan bekalan daging dan tenusu domestik, kata Ketua Setiausaha Kementerian Pertanian dan Keterjaminan Makanan (KPKM), Datuk Seri Isham Ishak.

Jelas Isham, pembangunan industri ruminan negara menjadi antara fokus utama KPKM dalam perancangan jangka panjang untuk memperkukuh sektor agromakanan melalui penerapan teknologi moden seperti kecerdasan buatan (AI) dan dron bagi meningkatkan produktiviti sektor itu.

> Apa pun cabaran, hadapi sahaja sebab penternakan lembu dan pengeluaran daging ini memang proses jangka panjang yang sangat diperlukan negara."
>
> - Jamal

Dalam pada itu Pelantun lagu *Kekasih Awal dan Akhir* itu berkata, pengalaman mengurus ternakan menunjukkan kos makanan merupakan faktor paling besar yang perlu dihadapi pengusaha.

"Ketiadaan padang ragut berskala besar memaksa pengusaha bergantung kepada makanan berasaskan palet dan dedak yang harganya agak mahal.

"Kalau 50 kilogram palet itu harganya boleh cecah sehingga RM60, jika 100 ekor lembu untuk tempoh tiga bulan, kos makanan sahaja boleh mencecah sekitar RM40,000," jelasnya.

Jamal yang hampir empat tahun mengusahakan ladang fidlot di Bukit Merah Taiping, Perak berkata, ladangnya mampu menempatkan sehingga 300 ekor lembu, namun ketika ini sekitar 200 ekor diternak bergantung kepada kos dan keperluan pasaran, khususnya bagi jualan runcit dan ibadah korban.

Dalam usaha jangka panjang, beliau berkata, perancangan untuk memiliki kawasan padang ragut yang luas amat penting bagi mengurangkan kos makanan dan memastikan kelangsungan penternakan.

"Kalau ada kawasan padang ragut yang besar dan luas, kos makanan pun turun dan tidak mustahil ramai pengusaha boleh wujud.

"Sehubungan itu, saya berharap kerajaan atau pihak berkaitan dapat memudah cara untuk mendapatkan kawasan padang ragut sesuai kepada pengusaha yang benar-benar serius dalam bidang penternakan lembu.

"Beri peluang kepada mereka yang 100 peratus fokus pada penternakan. Bila lebih ramai penternak wujud, masalah kekurangan lembu negara ini boleh ditampung pada masa hadapan," ujarnya.

| TARIKH | MEDIA | RUANGAN | MUKA SURAT |
|---|---|---|---|
| 17/12/2025 | THE STAR | FRONT PAGE | 1 |

# Aquaculture **future**

Penang is on track to become Malaysia's most developed state in terms of sustainable fish farming, with 60% of its harvest sourced from a 104.55ha aquafarming zone. >2&3

| TARIKH | MEDIA | RUANGAN | MUKA SURAT |
|---|---|---|---|
| 17/12/2025 | THE STAR | NEWS | 2 |

# Boosting the sea's bounty

## Penang's investment in aquaculture shows promising path to sustainable farming

By IMRAN HILMY
imran@thestar.com.my

A fisherman preparing his boat at Penang's Batu Maung jetty before going out to sea. — Photos: LIM BENG TATT/The Star

PENANG is taking multiple measures including boosting aquaculture to safeguard food security and reduce pressure on marine resources.

To date, five Aquaculture Industrial Zones (ZIA) covering a total of 104.55ha have been established statewide.

These are located at Pulau Jerejak (36.5ha), Pulau Betong (0.96ha) and Batu Maung (4.38ha) on Penang island, as well as Pulau Aman-Bukit Tambun (20.16ha) and Sungai Udang (42.55ha) on the mainland.

Penang agrotechnology, food security and cooperative development committee chairman Fahmi Zainol said safeguarding marine life was essential to ensuring the state continued to have diverse sources of protein from the sea.

"About 60% of Penang's fish supply currently comes from aquaculture, with wild-caught fish contributing the remaining 40%, unlike many other states where wild catch remains dominant.

"We want to position Penang as one of the most developed aquaculture states in the country."

Fahmi said all ZIA sites have been operating since July 31 last year, adding that among the species farmed were seabass (*siakap*), snapper (*jenahak*), giant trevally (*nyok-nyok*), golden pomfret (*bawal emas*) and grouper (*kerapu*).

He said the establishment of ZIA allowed the state to regulate the industry more effectively, protect aquaculture areas from competing forms of development and ensure orderly, sustainable fish-farming practices.

There are currently about 200 aquaculture operators and entrepreneurs in the industry, all of whom hold licences and are regulated by the Fisheries Department and other relevant agencies.

"These measures are crucial to maintaining an organised and sustainable aquaculture industry," Fahmi said.

He added that the state encouraged fish farmers to be certified under Malaysia Good Aquaculture Practices (myGAP) and Food Quality Control (FQC), to strengthen Penang's aquaculture sector.

In addition to aquaculture development, he said Penang's stock replenishment programmes saw the release of a total of 1,639,112 fish and prawn into public waters this year.

The releases included inland species such as catfish (*baung*), tinfoil barb (*lampam sungai*) and freshwater prawn, as well as marine species including seabass, tiger prawn and 15,505kg of cockles.

"Additionally, 187 artificial reefs have been deployed across Penang's waters to enhance marine habitats," Fahmi said.

### Fish-landing points

As of last October, three jetties have emerged as Penang's main fish landing points, collectively handling more than 21,600 metric tonnes (mt) of seafood.

Fahmi says the establishment of aquaculture industrial zones has allowed Penang to ensure orderly sustainable fish-farming practices.

Zarina says Penang's Fisheries Department has tightened fishing vessel licensing controls and strengthened enforcement.

Fahmi said the Kuala Muda jetty in north Seberang Perai recorded the highest landings at 10,203.10mt, followed by the Batu Maung fishermen's jetty in the southwest district (6,517.65mt) and Sungai Udang jetty in south Seberang Perai (4,898.80mt).

"These jetties are more than just unloading points for fishermen. They function as strategic hubs serving both traditional coastal vessels and larger deep-sea boats."

Fahmi said the jetties, managed by Fisheries Development Board (LKIM), were equipped with essential infrastructure such as subsidised fuel tanks, which reduced operating costs for fishermen.

"They also serve as key centres for fish auctions, wholesale distribution and market supply, ensuring the smooth movement of seafood across Penang."

He said the volume of fish handled at these locations underscored their critical role in sustaining Penang's fisheries economy and safeguarding the state's food supply.

Fahmi said the Batu Maung jetty also housed the state's Area Fishermen's Association (PNK) whilen its surrounding commercial developments provided additional income opportunities for the local community.

"These landing points play a vital role in supporting both small-scale and commercial fishing activities, forming the backbone of Penang's fisheries infrastructure."

### Steady supply

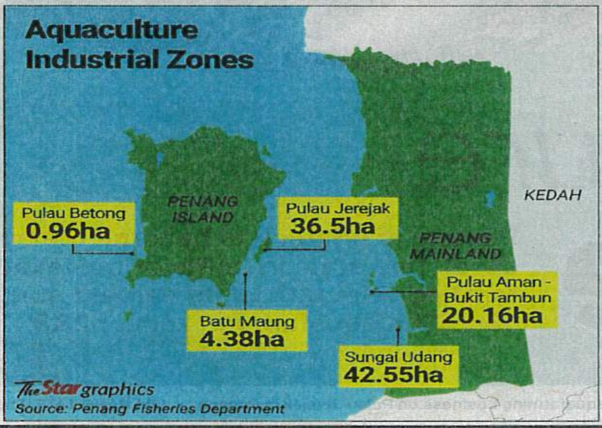
Penang's fish stocks remain stable despite long-standing concerns over declining catches, with official data showing an overall increase in landings in 2023 and 2024.

Penang Fisheries Department director Zarina Zainuddin said fish landings in the state rebounded after a sharp drop during the Covid-19 movement restrictions.

In 2020, Penang recorded 56,849mt of catches valued at RM719.8mil.

Landings fell to 35,375mt in 2021, with a corresponding drop in value to RM587.4mil.

The catch recovered in 2022, with landings rising to 47,607mt



| TARIKH | MEDIA | RUANGAN | MUKA SURAT |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 17/12/2025 | THE STAR | NEWS | 3 |

# Balancing development and ecology in Penang's southern waters

By TAN SIN CHOW
sctan@thestar.com.my

A PROJECT developer has completed a large-scale fish and prawn restocking programme in collaboration with researchers from Centre for Marine and Coastal Studies (Cemacs), Universiti Sains Malaysia.

The initiative by Silicon Island Development Sdn Bhd (SIDBS) involved the release of 25,000 seabass juveniles (*Lates calcarifer*) and 52,000 tiger prawn juveniles (*Penaeus monodon*) at strategic locations around Penang this year.

Cemacs director Prof Datuk Dr Aileen Tan said seabass juveniles were released near Pulau Kendi, where artificial reefs were deployed in April.

The release was carried out in four phases between May and August.

"These habitats are critical as they provide shelter, food and breeding grounds, allowing the juveniles to survive and reach maturity," she said.

"Under natural conditions, male seabass typically mature at around 60cm, and females at about 80cm.

"We are seeding the next generation of healthy fish stocks."

For prawn restocking, Tan said the team focused on mangrove areas at Kuala Jalan Baru and Kuala Sungai Pinang in Balik Pulau, highlighting that mangroves functioned as natural nurseries rich in nutrients, which also offered protection from predators.

The prawn releases were conducted in five phases, from February to July.

"The tiger prawn was selected because it is the least abundant shrimp species in Balik Pulau.

"By focusing on the most vulnerable species, we strengthen the ecosystem," said Tan.

"Juvenile tiger prawns weighing 20g to 30g were released.

"They are expected to reach maturity in six to eight months, growing beyond 50g, with a carapace length of about 4cm."

SIDBS is a joint venture between Penang government via Penang Infrastructure Corporation (PIC), and SRS PD Sdn Bhd, a subsidiary of Gamuda Bhd.

The company is tasked with developing Silicon Island – a 931ha project at the southern tip of Penang island.

Silicon Island is envisioned as a low-carbon smart city centred on high-tech industries, green technology, sustainable living and long-term economic growth.

The development will integrate industrial zones, commercial hubs and residential areas within a planned green ecosystem.

An artificial reef structure being deployed near Pulau Kendi.

In April, 20 artificial reefs – resembling miniature, unfinished condominiums – were deployed off Pulau Kendi as part of efforts to restore marine life and ecosystems in the southern waters of Penang.

Each reef weighed between nine and 21 tonnes, comprising two large units and 18 smaller ones.

The deployment initiative was jointly undertaken by PIC, SIDBS and Cemacs under the Penang South Islands (PSI) Ecology Offset Masterplan (PEOM).

Tan said, "You can build, but you must also replenish. You can modernise, but you must also remember tradition.

"The challenge is to do both. What we are seeing in Penang is an attempt to balance development and ecology, not by chance, but by design.

"As Penang moves forward with its largest coastal transformation, the challenge is in how communities and ecosystems move forward with it."

PIC chief executive officer Datuk Seri Farizan Darus said besides strengthening marine stocks, SIDBS was also providing new boats and engines to fishermen under the Social Impact Management Plan (SIMP).

To date, 127 fishermen operating in the vicinity of the project have benefitted.

SIDBS also provided fishermen and aspiring seafarers with a seven-day course conducted by Akademi Maritim Penjana Ilmu that covered chartwork, seamanship, meteorology and lifesaving appliances.

"We want to ensure that while progress continues, traditional communities like fishermen are empowered to adapt and benefit from new opportunities," said Farizan.

"This includes providing them access to proper training, certification pathways and alternative sources of income."

He said with sturdier boats, fishermen would be able to fish farther and more safely.

"You cannot simply provide boats without skills, or skills without sustaining the resource base. Sustainability means putting these pieces together.

"SIMP addresses the social dimension by ensuring fishermen can work safely, continue their traditions, or pursue new opportunities.

"PEOM addresses the ecological foundation by ensuring the sea itself continues to provide."

(Left) Eric Wong holding up a 5kg grouper, a fish popular for Chinese New Year celebrations. His family runs an aquafarming business on Pulau Jerejak, where his mother Teoh Lay Suan (above) helps out.

and value increasing to RM787.3mil, signalling a return to near pre-pandemic levels.

"For the 2023-2024 period, Penang recorded a positive growth trend," Zarina said.

According to Fisheries Department data, total fish landings increased from 38,226.24mt in 2023, valued at RM730.54mil, to 39,231.34mt in 2024, valued at RM685.65mil.

"This represents a 2.63% increase in volume, indicating a steady supply of fish in the state, despite fluctuations in market value," she said.

## Beefing up enforcement

Zarina said the department has tightened fishing vessel licensing controls and strengthened enforcement against illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing to prevent overfishing and protect marine ecosystems.

This includes restricting and banning destructive fishing methods such as *bubu naga* fish traps, as well as curbing illegal trawling in zones reserved for traditional fishermen.

In 2024, 83 vessels were detained for various offences, including illegal trawling and the use of prohibited fishing gear.

The vessels were seized and cases brought to court under the Fisheries Act 1985.

"Enforcement is carried out regularly, with patrols operating round the clock and responding promptly to reports," Zarina said.

## Fishing grounds

Zarina said fishermen in Penang and surrounding waters continued to operate across both inshore and offshore fishing grounds, with several areas emerging as key catch hotspots.

Among popular inshore areas are waters around Pulau Aman that are known for crabs and a variety of fish species.

"The Straits of Malacca remains a major fishing ground for pelagic (open sea) species such as Indian mackerel (*ikan kembung*) and scad (*ikan selar*).

"Off the south-western coast of Penang island, near the Straits of Jerejak, fishermen target a mix of coastal species, while larger trawlers operate further offshore towards the maritime borders with Perak and Indonesia."

Zarina said fishing patterns shifted seasonally, influenced by monsoon winds, fish migration and water conditions.

She said Penang's catch remained diverse, with pelagic species such as Indian mackerel, scad and Spanish mackerel (*tenggiri*) commonly caught near the surface.

Demersal species, including snapper, grunter (*gerut-gerut*) and various threadfin bream (*kerisi*), are found closer to the seabed, while shellfish such as prawn and crab continue to be a major and highly valued component of the state's fisheries.

Red snapper, another popular fish being reared at the aquaculture farm in Pulau Jerejak.