



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

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Renewed call for total ban

Sharks hunted then sold openly at markets, say marine activists

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KOTA KINABALU: Pictures of sharks being sold in Sabah's east coast Semporna market are once again sparking calls for a total ban on the hunting and finning of all types of shark.

Marine conservationists and diving enthusiasts are raising their concerns once again as pictures of devil rays, bamboo sharks, black-tip sharks, porcupine fish, blue-spotted stingrays, and parrot-fish are being sold openly at the Semporna wet market.

The pictures were posted on the Luma Duyung Semporna Facebook page and shared among chat groups. There were also worries about whether the sharks were caught within Tun Sakaran Marine Park, home to the world-famous Pulau Sipadan diving paradise.

The diving community fears that the continued unrestricted sale of these species could irreparably harm the delicate marine ecosystem and jeopardise the stunning beauty of the underwater world that attracts tourists to the Semporna region.

Sabah Dive Squad Club president Sim Fui said these sharks are what divers "typically delight in encountering" during underwater excursions.

"The sale of endangered species



Threatened species: A bamboo shark being sold at the Semporna market place. — Photo courtesy of Luma Duyung Semporna

like devil rays and bamboo sharks at the Semporna wet market undermines the very essence of conservation efforts and sustainable tourism. We need stronger enforcement and stricter penalties for those involved in the illegal capture and trade.

"Protecting our marine life is not just about preserving the charm of diving destinations but also about safeguarding the ecological balance of our oceans," said Sim, whose club, also known as Deus Diving Club, has about 100 members.

He noted that it is illegal to fish within Tun Sakaran Marine Park, which is under Sabah Parks jurisdiction, while hunting for certain shark species is already banned by the Federal Government.

As of July 17, 2019, four shark species and two manta ray species have gained country-wide protection under the Federal Fisheries (Control of Endangered Species of Fish) Regulations 1999 and the Fisheries Act 1985.

These include the great hammerhead shark (*Sphyrna mokarran*), smooth hammerhead shark (*Sphyrna zygaena*), winghead shark (*Eusphyrna blochii*) and oceanic whitetip shark (*Carcharhinus longimanus*), as well as two ray species — the giant oceanic manta (*Manta birostris*) and reef manta (*Manta alfredi*).

Sim said it is time for the government to broaden the list of shark species to be protected from hunting, while enforcement is needed to ensure that fishing does

not take place within the marine park.

According to the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Red List, the short-fin devil ray is listed as endangered and is a rare sight in the world's oceans.

Various other shark species are listed as near-threatened or threatened in the IUCN list.

"It is time to work on more awareness programmes and provide alternative livelihoods for the local community to minimise the number of these species ending up in the wet market," said Sim.

"Otherwise, the practice of selling precious marine species will have a long-term impact on marine biodiversity and the diving industry," he added.

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Sungai Tembeling cetek penternak ikan sangkar terjejas pendapatan

JERANTUT – Keadaan Sungai Tembeling yang semakin cetek bukan sahaja menjejaskan penternak ikan sangkar malah turut menjejaskan aktiviti harian penduduk kampung di pesisir sungai berkenaan di Ulu Tembeling di sini.

Rutin harian penduduk beberapa kampung seperti Kampung Bantal, Kampung Bantal Seberang, Kampung Mat Daling dan Kampung Gusai kini yang banyak bergantung kepada bot penambang serta aktiviti nelayan darat terjejas kerana pergerakan bot agak terbatas.

Penduduk Kampung Bantal, Jamizan Rashid, 45, berkata, fenomena kemarau mula melanda di kawasan Ulu Tembeling yang menyaksikan air Sungai Tembeling beransur surut dan sebahagian kawasan mulai cetek sejak awal minggu lalu.

“Keadaan air cetek menyebabkan timbul pasir di kebanyakan tempat di sungai ini dan membentuk beting sepanjang antara tiga hingga empat meter di tepi dan tengah sungai.

“Keadaan ini menjejaskan

pergerakan bot penambang yang membawa penumpang dan hasil kampung serta menyukarkan nelayan sungai mencari rezeki,” katanya di sini semalam.

Ujar Jamizan, kelazimannya mulai bulan Jun hingga September setiap tahun paras air Sungai Tembeling mula cetek kerana tiada hujan di kawasan hulu sungai yang berkemungkinan disebabkan faktor fenomena La Nino.

Dalam pada itu pemandu bot penambang, Zulkefli Jamaludin, 58, berkata, sekiranya kemarau berterusan, keadaan Sungai Tembeling akan menampilkan keseluruhan pasir bermula di tengah sungai hingga ke tebing.

Katanya, keadaan ini sudah tentu menjejaskan penternakan ikan sangkar di kawasan hilir sungai dan menyebabkan banyak bot akan terkandas.

Bagaimanapun katanya, keadaan ini turut bertukar menjadi pesta apabila remaja dan kanak-kanak biasanya akan bermain bola sepak di kawasan berpasir pada setiap petang.

