



LAPORAN LIPUTAN MEDIA
JABATAN PERIKANAN MALAYSIA

TARIKH : 23 MEI 2025 | 25 ZULKAEDAH 1446 H
HARI : JUMAAT

BIL.	AGENSI MEDIA	TAJUK
1.	The Star	- Additional funds to rid S'gor of 'ikan bandaraya' - Ensure clean source before consuming suckermouth catfish'

Ringkasan Eksekutif

Pada **23 MEI 2025**, sebanyak **2** liputan media berkaitan Jabatan Perikanan Malaysia telah diterbitkan. Daripada jumlah tersebut, **0** liputan bersifat positif, **2** bersifat neutral, dan **0** liputan negatif direkodkan.

Disediakan oleh :

Unit Komunikasi Korporat
Jabatan Perikanan Malaysia

1.	Tajuk	Ensure clean source before consuming suckermouth catfish'
	Akhbar/Media	The Star
	Muka surat/capaian	2-3
	Kategori Liputan	Neutral

Ensure clean source before consuming suckermouth catfish'

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SUCKERMOUTH catfish or *ikan bandaraya* can only be consumed if its habitat is free from pollution. Otherwise, steer clear, says an expert in native fish species and aquaculture. Universiti Selangor Faculty of Engineering and Life Sciences senior lecturer Dr Intan Faraha A. Ghani said heavy metals could be present in *ikan bandaraya* due to contamination in rivers. "*Ikan bandaraya* is safe to eat if the surrounding area is clean and free from pollution.

"However, the river's condition itself often leads to contamination," she added. Intan said that in polluted waters, types of fish were unsafe for consumption.

"The feeding habit of *ikan bandaraya* is the same as *ikan keli* (from the catfish family).

"In a river, within the same ecosystem, there are tilapia, catfish and *ikan bandaraya* consuming the same food.

"So, why single out *ikan bandaraya* as the only fish that is unsafe to eat?"

Intan referred to a programme to eradicate *ikan bandaraya* along Sungai Mansara in Petaling Jaya, Selangor, where some of the catch were eaten and

others processed into fish feed.

"Before processing into fish feed, we conducted tests to ensure the *ikan bandaraya* was safe for consumption.

"The fish was tested for harmful heavy metals such as mercury, lead and chromium, which are dangerous to humans."

Intan is among key collaborators working with the state government to reduce invasive fish population in Selangor's rivers.

Together, studies are being carried out to assess the commercial potential of *ikan bandaraya* while working to remove the alien species from Selangor's waterways.

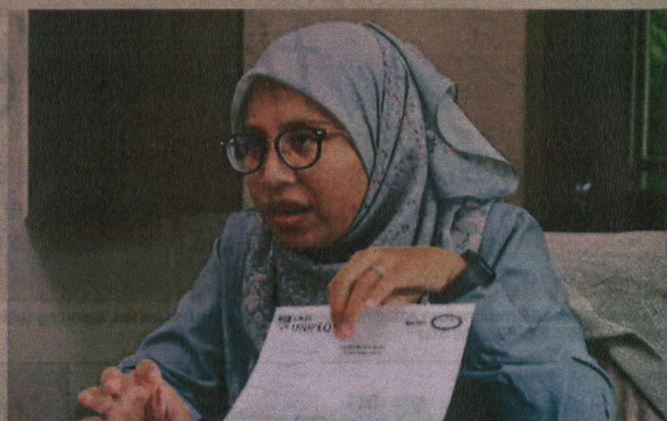
Intan also highlighted the nutritional value of *ikan bandaraya*, stating that it was high in protein.

"*Ikan bandaraya* typically contains around 16g of protein per 100g, which is higher than the 12g of protein per 100g in *ikan keli*.

"Some *ikan bandaraya* samples show protein levels as high as 18g per 100g, which is comparable to tilapia," she said, adding that this made the species an attractive option for fish farmers.

"We encourage fish farmers to consider *ikan bandaraya* as an alternative ingredient for fish feed due to the high protein content.

"We have even developed a formula for this," she said.



Intan says river contamination affects all fish species such as 'tilapia' and 'ikan keli', not just 'ikan bandaraya'.

However, Intan cautioned that there were risks.

"When we carried out tests, we found that some samples contained mercury."

She also cautioned about promotion of the fish's consumption, and advised those

carrying out cooking events featuring *ikan bandaraya* to ensure the fish was safe to eat.

"The most effective solution to the *ikan bandaraya* problem is to process the fish into landscape fertiliser.

"Using it for landscaping is appropriate."

RINGKASAN :

Suckermouth catfish or *ikan bandaraya* can only be consumed if its habitat is free from pollution. The fish was tested for harmful heavy metals such as mercury, lead and chromium, which are dangerous to human.

2.	Tajuk	Additional funds to rid S'gor of 'ikan bandaraya'
	Akhbar/Media	The star
	Muka surat/capaian	2-3
	Kategori Liputan	Neutral

Story and photos by GRACE CHEN
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SUCKERMOUTH catfish, better known locally as *ikan bandaraya* (*Hypostomus plecostomus*), is an invasive species that has been linked to the decimation of local river fish species.

It is said to have also affected the river ecosystem and been linked to the erosion of riverbanks by burrowing holes in them.

To put a stop to this, Selangor government introduced last September an incentive of RM1 for every kilogramme of suckermouth catfish caught.

State Infrastructure and agriculture committee chairman Datuk Izham Hashim said the state had allocated up to RM50,000 for *ikan bandaraya* catch, for that specific month.

The effort by Selangor Fisheries Department has been effective to the extent that over 20,000 tonnes of the fish was caught.

Selangor Fisheries Department director Noraisyah Abu Bakar said the department had been given an allocation of RM120,000 this year to continue the programme.

She advised *ikan bandaraya* hunters to look out for the department's event announcement on the incentive.

"Claims can only be made for *ikan bandaraya* caught at where the RM1 incentive programme is taking place.

"The RM1 incentive will be given on the day itself after fisheries staff weigh the catch," she said during a recent ecosystem conservation programme at Kampung Melayu Batu 13 in Sungai Buloh, Selangor.

To indicate how serious the problem of invasive foreign species have become in local rivers, she said over one tonne of the invasive fish was caught within two days by department staff and Universiti Teknologi Mara (UiTM) student volunteers during the programme.

The search-and-destroy mission was done with help from members of Squad Pemburu Ikan Asing (SPIA), a non-governmental organisation of anglers who caught the fish by casting nets in the river.

SPIA chairman Mohd Haziq A. Rahman, 35, described the problem as a serious one, based on the quantity of the catch.

"The distance of Sungai Buloh (the river), which flows into the Straits of Malacca, covers up to 40km.

Additional funds to rid S'gor of 'ikan bandaraya'

State fisheries dept ups bounty allocation to RM120,000



The 100m-catch radius for 'ikan bandaraya' along the river in Kampung Melayu Batu 13, Sungai Buloh.

"However, our catch-radius in the programme held at Kampung Melayu Batu 13 covered a distance of no more than 100m.

"It must also be remembered that the duration of the *ikan bandaraya*-catching exercise was only 1.5 hours per day for the two-day programme," he said.

Under normal circumstances, he said

an angler would have to wait at least an hour to land a catch.

The fastest would be 30 minutes, if the angler was very lucky.

However, in the *ikan bandaraya*-infested waters near Kampung Melayu Batu 13, three people were able to net up to 661kg on the first day.

On day two, the catch was 477kg with

help from student volunteers and three SPIA members, Mohd Haziq said.

Since last year, the Selangor Fisheries Department has caught about 20,946 tonnes of *ikan bandaraya*.

At the event, department staff said the fish would be turned into compost.

Village head Mohd Manan Awang, who is an eatery owner, cooked *ikan*



A Squad Pemburu Ikan Asing team member reaching into a hole in the river bank where Ikan bandaraya burrow and mate. The hole is a whole arm's length-deep.

Ikan bandaraya is a good source of protein for the volunteers' lunch.

One of the volunteers who tried the dish was UTM Associate Professor Dr Seena Ganesan from the Faculty of Applied Sciences.

"The texture is similar to stingray, but firmer," he said.

Although several of the fisheries staff said the meat was safe for consumption (provided the head, gills and guts were discarded), the challenge was in cutting through its thick armour.

Urging the public to refrain from freeing their aquarium fish into waterways, Noraisyah said the Selangor Fisheries Department had released a million fish fry over the past three years in a bid to repopulate rivers with local species.

"However, our efforts will come to naught if the public continue to pollute our waters with invasive species that will destroy the local fish population and put them in danger of extinction," she said.



Noraisyah: Our efforts will come to naught if people continue releasing invasive species into our waterways.



SPIA members and Universiti Teknologi Mara student volunteers casting a fishing net in search-and-seizure mission to get rid of Ikan bandaraya from Sungai Buloh during the recent initiative.



Mohd Menan with the Ikan bandaraya steam pedas he cooked for lunch.



Mohd Haziq showing the suckermouth catfish haul during the two-day prog.



Ikan bandaraya stay at a cookout in Sungai Langa, Selangor. Courtesy of Foreign Fish Hunter squad's (formerly known as Ikan bandaraya Hunter) Facebook page

but it should not be used for growing vegetables, as the produce will ultimately be consumed by humans," she stressed.

Itan said Ikan bandaraya was suitable as pet food too, such as fish feed.

Findings on metal content, she said, varied from one river to another.

"For instance in Sungai Damansara, tests detected chromium and zinc in Ikan bandaraya while in Sungai Langa, mercury and arsenic were found.

content in Ikan bandaraya but not in Sungai Damansara," she said.

"When we conducted sampling tests in 2022 at Sungai Langa, no heavy metals were detected in Ikan bandaraya.

"However, we cannot claim that Ikan bandaraya is the only fish affected by heavy metals.

"Other fish species such as keli, masin, dory and paku living in the same river can also be affected, so it boils down to the river's condition," Itan pointed out.

SARAWAK

Sarawak acts against alien fish

INVASIVE foreign fish species such as suckermouth catfish and African catfish have been identified as major threats to Sarawak's native fish ecosystem.

State Deputy Food Industry, Commodities and Regional Development Minister Datuk Dr Abdul Rahman Ismail said their presence threatened local species such as empurau and tengguli (kempas sarung).

Foreign fish species also disrupted the environmental balance and imposed livelihoods of local communities who rely on inland fishery resources, he said.

"Some of these alien fishes are farmed commercially.

"I hope farmers will not arbitrarily release these fishes into our rivers or lakes," he said in his reply to a question from Datuk Mohd Chee Kadir (GPS-Kabong) during the Sarawak State Assembly sating in Petra Jaya, Kuching.

Berhema reported Dr Abdul Rahman saying that the ministry, in collaboration with various agencies, had implemented a programme to hunt invasive foreign fish species in Sungai Sarawak.

This effort, he said, was aimed at reducing their threat, raising public awareness and conducting an inventory of inland fishery resources.

To a supplementary question from

Mohd Chee, Dr Abdul Rahman said such initiatives were also being undertaken to replenish local fish stock.

"Sarawak Agriculture Department under my ministry, is actively carrying out a programme to release native fry such as empurau, tengguli, kempas sarung as well as native gahak into rivers across Sarawak.

"This is part of efforts to restore ecosystem and improve native fish populations.

"In Kabong alone, in September, 1,000 of 5,000 kempas fry were released into Sungai Kambang, while in November 2024, 6,000 kempas fry released at Sungai Jambai Bentayang Orbas," he said.

Apart from inland waters, efforts also being intensified to strengthen marine fisheries resources, with a 201,972 artificial reef units anchored across 77 marine areas in Sarawak last year.

"In Kabong waters alone, 17 artificial reef units were anchored in July 2024 and another 17 units are scheduled deployed this August.

"This project is supported by an allocation of RM3.5 million from the Federal Government and BMD from the government," Dr Abdul Rahman said.

RINGKASAN :

Selangor Fisheries Department director said the department had been given an allocation of RM120,000 this year to continue the programme.