

Overfishing contributes to diminishing fishery resources

NST 24-04-2012 12
By PAUL MU
paul@newsabahtimes.com.my

PUTATAN: Deputy Chief Minister Datuk Yahya Hussin said overfishing was one of the major causes that contribute to the diminished fishery resources.

The damage done to the coral reefs, inappropriate use of fishing gear and pollution to the environment from the discharge of toxic effluents into the sea and rivers have also affected the resources.

Yahya, who is also the Agriculture & Food Industry Minister, said this when officiating

at the Fisheries Stock Enhancement Programme in Sabah for the Benefit of the Local Community – Giant Freshwater Prawns at Petagas River here yesterday.

The programme is jointly organised by Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS), through its Borneo Marine Research Institute (BMRI), State Fisheries Department, Putatan District Office and Community 1Malaysia Kampung Muhibbah in Putatan.

Yahya, who is also the Petagas Assemblyman, said the challenge for the fish-

eries sector now is to restore the marine stocks to ensure the continuation of the industry.

And to do so, he said the ministry through the Fisheries Department has been working actively with various parties to mitigate the fisheries resource problems.

"I am proud of the BMRI noble efforts as the new knowledge acquire from the outcome of the research will contribute positively to society, particularly the fishermen," said Yahya.

Besides that, he said the Fisheries Department, togeth-



Yahya (third right), Dr Kamaruzaman (second left), Abd Ghani (second right) and Jephirin releasing the fresh water prawn fries into the Petagas River

er with local communities had also implemented the 'tagal system' in the rivers and sea in Sabah to enhance the fisheries

resources.

Among those present includes UMS vice-chancellor Prof Dr Kamaruzaman Am-

pon, Putatan district officer Ag Abd Ghani Pg Yusoff and Fisheries Department deputy director Jephirin Wong.