

## **1. What is the status of Marine Resources including Marine Biodiversity in Brunei Darussalam Waters'**

From the previous analysis conducted by the Department of Fisheries, it can be concluded that the level of exploitation of marine resources had shown a decline of demersal resource in terms of fish density by 79% overall (21% remaining) and furthermore, it was also found that the decline is more prominent in the coastal areas by 87 %, which are at a depth of between 0 to 50 meters. In Marine biodiversity, the country has registered successfully a total of 410 species of coral (reef building corals) and accounted for 478 species on the South China Sea Eco Region; 711 species of reef fish; 331 mollusks and 17 species stomatopod (kind of shrimp) are found in the coastal areas.

## **2. How the Department of Fisheries solve the problem of overfishing?**

Knowing that the declining of fishery resources in Brunei Darussalam waters, continuous efforts in developing and maintaining fisheries resource management is necessary to lessen the capacity of the fishing activity (reducing the fishing license in accordance with fishing gears) to restore fisheries resource at a sustainable level . These management measures taken are as follows: -

- Freezing the number of fishing licenses through the moratorium on the issuance of new fishing licenses for commercial bottom trawlers in zone 2 which have been imposed since 2000.
- The implementation of new mesh size regulations using 51 mm square mesh netting for the trawl cod end, among all commercial trawlers in the country commenced in 2002.
- The enforcement of moratorium on fishing operations in the zones 1, starting in 2008. This is aimed to control or mitigate exploits that in Zone 1 with regard to the type of fishing gears used, the type of boat and type of fishing business (individual or corporate).
- Construction and deployment of artificial reef in specific areas for the purpose of habitat enrichment which is planned to generate fish breeding grounds and to assist increase the marine biodiversity.
- Participate as a key player in implementation of the Brunei Darussalam National Plan of Action in 2011 to promote responsible fishing practices including combating illegal,

unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing in nation's maritime zones in agreement with The Regional Plan of Action comprising the South China Sea, Sulawesi Seas (Celebes Sea) and the Arafura-Timor Seas.

- Implementation of Coral C.A.R.E. Programme specifically in conservation, protection, rehabilitation and replanting of degraded/damaged coral reefs in May 2015.
- Establishment of Marine Protected Areas to increase marine resource productivity and enhance food security through protecting and conserving our marine natural heritage specifically marine life nursery and breeding grounds (Coral reefs) in Brunei Darussalam waters.
- Implementation of Shark Ban Regulation