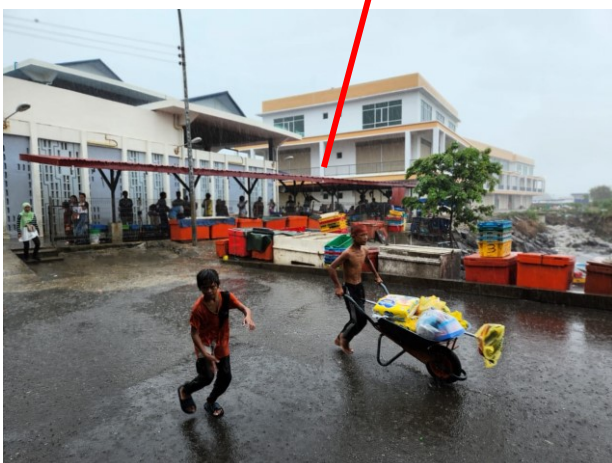


## **Field Visit to Semporna to Assess the Operation of Open Market and Marine Collection Centre and other issues related to Environment and Usage of Commodity (Diesel).**

3 days visit was carried out during 1<sup>st</sup> week of April 2024 (6-7<sup>th</sup> April 2024) to Semporna. The objectives of the field visit are to assess the Operation of Marine Collection Centre, Marine Open market including other issues related to Marine Environment Management and Usage of Global-based Commodity (Diesel).

### **Open market and Marine Collection Centre in Semporna.**

We have visited one of the Open Market and Marine Collection Centre/Hub that is located within 1 km radius from the central market of Pekan Semporna.



One of the Open Market



One of the Marine Collection Centre

## Open market

At least three Mameng (Local name) is found that is illegally sell by the community in one of the Open markets. The humphead wrasse (*Cheilinus undulatus*) @ Mameng is a large species of wrasse mainly found on coral reefs in the Indo-Pacific region. It is also known as the Māori wrasse, Napoleon wrasse, Napoleon fish, so mei 蘇眉 (Cantonese), mameng (Filipino), and merer in the Pohnpeian language of the Caroline Islands.

Photo of the humphead wrasse (*Cheilinus undulatus*) @ Mameng, found in the open market.



The humphead wrasse is listed as endangered on the IUCN Red list and in Appendix II of CITES. Its numbers have declined due to multiple threats, including: Intensive, species-specific removal by the live reef food-fish trade throughout its core range in Southeast Asia, Destructive fishing techniques, including bombs and cyanide, Habitat loss and degradation, Local consumption, and its perception as a delicacy to locals and tourists, existence of export market for juveniles for the marine aquarium trade, Lack of coordinated consistent national and regional management, Inadequate knowledge of the species and Illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing (IUU Fishing)

The range of the price for the fresh and live marine product is from **RM150 to 380 per piece** (Not per kg). Some of the marine products that is available in this open market is shown in the following page.

Fishermen community that is selling the fresh marine product in the open market.

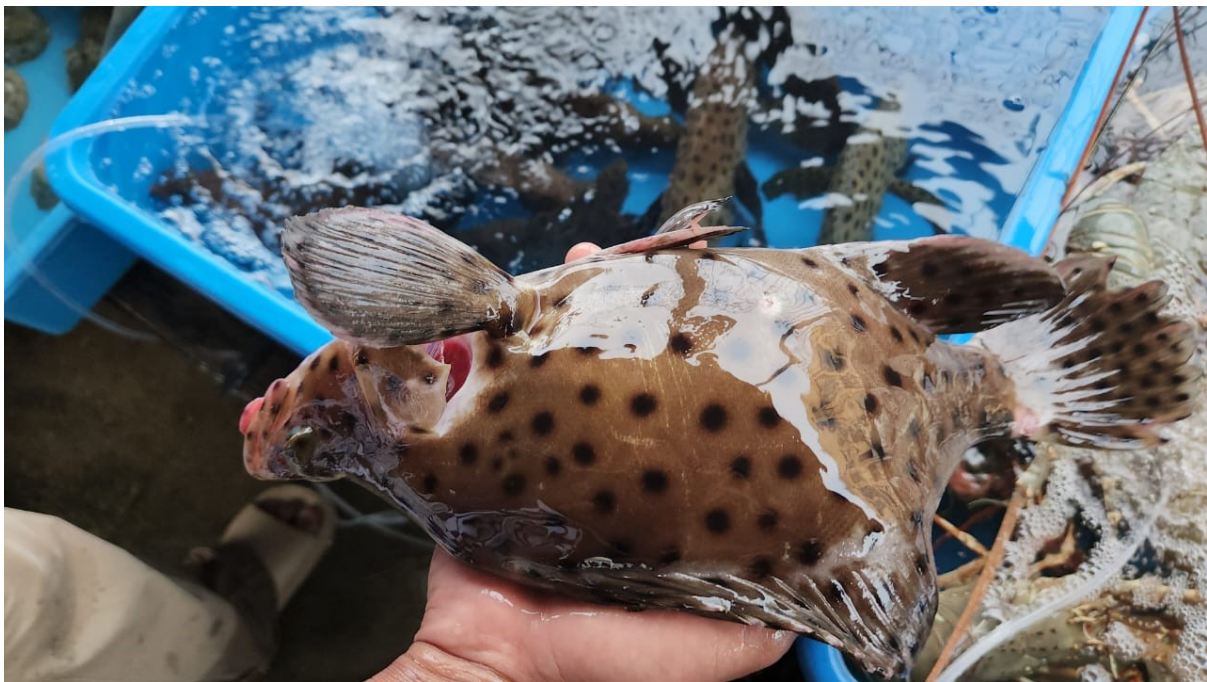




Tiger Prawn



Seaweed



Kerapu Tikus / The Humpback grouper / panther grouper / RM200 per kg



Three species of Lobster that is available in the Open market in Semporna

## **Marine Collection Centre/Hub**



Marine Collection Centre in Semporna. Most of the live products are delivered by the nearby fisherman community.

This photo shows the local fishermen sending their catch of the day to the Marine Collection Centre



Cash money provided by the Marine Collection Centre, direct payment to the fisherman.



This photo shows grading work by the Marine Collection Centre



Discharge of wastewater from the marine collection centre, including unmanaged waste within the marine ecosystem will pollute the quality of the marine landscape in the long term.

Several actions need to be carried out seriously and systematically by the respective enforcement and government agencies. This includes the safety and health issue, waste-water treatment issue, water quality monitoring issue, systematic waste management issue, community awareness programme and development of Blue Community program to fulfil the Blue Certification and SDGs

## Usage of Diesel in Tourism and Fisheries Industry



We have found several tour operators abusing their diesel/petrol permit. The above photo shows that the man is trying to buy diesel that is more than 100 litres (that is allowed per day).

There is a lot of follow up actions that need to be carried out to fulfil Blue Port and Blue Trade in Semporna, for example Fuel Station is required to verify name of Tourism Company and is required to ask the Tour Operators (normally general workers) to show the Purchase Permit Document to ensure that diesel is sell following the standard regulation set by the government.

Record of Petrol and Diesel Purchase from this tourism company to be recorded to monitor the usage trend of our petrol and diesel within the marine tourism industry, reflecting the volume of tourist that is coming to Semporna.

The Fuel Station has allowed these men to buy the diesel without proper documentation (Company nametag and diesel to purchase diesel)



## **Summary**

A follow up actions need to be carried out under the plant platform of BIMP EAGA. These include.

1. Awareness programme for the fisherman community on the protection species in the marine ecosystem.
2. Water quality monitoring programme within industry site that produce pollution to the marine landscape.
3. Systematic waste management program to be strengthened.
4. Enforcement to monitor the purchase of diesel by the tourism industries to be developed with proper and systematic record by the authorised diesel station.
5. Record of Fish landing to be established to enable the monitoring of marine product (species and volume) harvested including the origin of the marine product.
6. Registration platform for the tourists that coming to Semporna should be established for monitoring and safety reasons.