

'Seafood shortage unlikely as fishing activities will continue'

NST 07/11/22 m/s 6

GEORGE TOWN: The country's seafood supply will likely not be affected by the northeast monsoon that runs from this month to March.

Malaysia Fisheries Development Board chairman Muhammad Faiz Fadzil said the monsoon season would only affect the east coast.

He said even then, only small boats in Zone A — those allowed to fish from zero to five nautical miles — on the east coast would be barred from going to sea.

"Bigger boats in the east coast allowed to fish in Zone B and Zone C will still go out to sea.

"So, a shortage is unlikely as fishing activities will still go on," he told newsmen, adding that the board has a 90-metric tonne stockpile of fish.

"In total, there is 1,600 metric tonnes of fish in the stockpile,

which is more than enough for our people," he said, noting that they also had imported fish.

He warned those in the supply chain not to take advantage of the northeast monsoon to hike seafood prices.

Meanwhile, Faiz said the Fisheries Development Board was planning to repair 30 per cent of the 397 fishing jetties across the country that are in a dilapidated state next year.

"We have to make sure that the jetties' facilities are in good condition so that there is no disruption in the delivery of fish.

"Our focus next year is to make sure that 30 per cent of the jetties, which are mostly 30 to 40 years old, are repaired."

Faiz was met after the Rahmah Mesra Madani programme with fishermen in Teluk Bahang here.