



Monitoring and sampling of shellfish in Port Dickson waters will be carried out from time to time. PIC BY NUR AISYAH MAZALAN

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## DROP IN BIOTOXIN LEVELS

# Ban lifted on harvesting, sale of PD shellfish

**TAMPIN:** The Department of Fisheries has lifted the ban on the harvesting and sale of shellfish, including mussels, in the waters of Port Dickson and Melaka following a drop in biotoxin to safe levels.

Deputy Agriculture and Food Security Minister Datuk Arthur Joseph Kurup yesterday said biotoxin readings from laboratory monitoring and analysis showed a drop to below 400 parts per billion (ppb) for the 15th sample.

“So fishing in the affected areas can continue. Monitoring and sampling will still be carried out

from time to time.”

He said this after officiating at the “Pesta Mengoca Komuniti Perikanan” in Kampung Sungai Jerneh Fish Estate, Gemencheh, near here.

Present were Tampin member of parliament Datuk Mohd Isam Mohd Isa and Fisheries director-general Datuk Adnan Hussain.

Kurup said people had been advised to be vigilant and follow announcements by the authorities to ensure food safety.

On April 4, department deputy director-general (management) Wan Aznan Abdullah said labo-

ratory analysis at the Kuala Lumpur Fisheries Biosecurity Centre found that algae had caused mussels in Port Dickson waters to be contaminated and unsafe to eat.

Kurup said the state was the biggest contributor to the aquaculture sub-sector at 5,587.4 tonnes of fish production with a value of RM73.8 million last year.

“This involves 431 registered aquaculture operators, and Tampin contributed RM2.9 million to freshwater fish production,” he said. **Bernama**