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Prawns from Sungai Linggi safe for consumption?

PORT DICKSON: People near Sungai Linggi here are worried that the giant prawns at the river may be unsafe for consumption.

The residents claimed it might have been caused by tubatoxin, which was used to catch the prawns, besides pollution from factories in the area.

Resident representative Md Isa Adam, said the incident was worrying, especially to fishermen in the village, who relied on giant prawns as the source of income.

"Lately, the water has turned muddy... I'm not sure what contributed to it, however, I have been informed that the manufacturing activity had led to the release of chemical residue into the river," he said.

"There is also the element of the greed of some fishermen who had resorted to using tubatoxin to catch more giant prawns... this has also polluted the river.

"I had once tried to take the prawns from the river and put them in a pond, but I was shocked to find the water in the pond turn black and I had to replace it with clean water several times."

Isa said he had lodged a complaint with the relevant authority and met local leaders to find a solution to the matter, but no action had been taken thus far.

"I hope the authorities will conduct an investigation and monitor such activities to protect the safety of everyone involved.

"I don't want what is happening to the Orang Asli in Kuala Koh, Gua Musang to occur here.

"I'm also worried the giant prawns sold to consumers will later cause side effects in the long run," he said.



Resident Ramlan Jaafar showing some of the prawns caught at Sungai Linggi on Tuesday. PIC BY IQMAL HAQIM ROSMAN

Negeri Sembilan Department of Environment (DoE) director Norhazni Mat Sari confirmed that the department had received the complaint and an investigation was launched.

She said data collected by DoE put Sungai Linggi as a third-class river due to pollution.

"Regarding the river pollution from industrial areas, so far no discharge (of chemicals from the

plant) had directly caused the fish and prawns to die.

"However, this case may also be referred to the Fisheries Department for further investigation," she said.