

FISHERMEN FORCED TO STAY ASHORE

Most of them dare not venture out to avoid wrath of tropical storm

FITRI NIZAM AND ADRIAN DAVID
KUALA TERENGGANU
cnews@nstp.com.my

FISHERMEN in the state are lying low following the arrival of tropical storm *Pabuk*, which had lashed the state's coastline with rain and powerful winds.

The fishermen, however, said usually, they would not go out to sea during the monsoon season, and the presence of the storm

had firmed up their decision.

One fisherman, Tuan Muda Tuan Hassan, 67, from Chendering, said it is the norm for fishermen in the east coast to rest during the monsoon given the uncertain weather and massive waves.

"Normally, we only get to go out to sea around two to three times a week. We get to spend only around five to six hours before we have to return to shore.

"The last time most of us went out to sea was Friday. *Pabuk* isn't a big factor. It just means that we'll have to wait longer ashore," said Tuan Muda, who had been a fisherman for 50 years.

Another fisherman, Alwi Jusoh,



Fisherman Alwi Jusoh looking at the horizon at the Chendering fishing jetty in Kuala Terengganu yesterday. The authorities have advised the people to postpone activities at sea and along the beaches because of tropical storm 'Pabuk'. (Inset) Lieutenant-Colonel Che Adam Abdul Rahman.

56, said the authorities had informed them of the storm.

He said he himself had not been out to sea for almost a week due to the poor weather.

"Based on our estimates, it looks like many of us, especially those with small boats, will have to wait longer until the seas become calmer," he said at the

Chendering jetty here yesterday.

Terengganu disaster management committee secretariat Lieutenant-Colonel Che Adam Abd Rahman of the state Civil Defence Department said they had not received any reports of untoward incidents.

He said checks in several locations in Marang and outlying districts found strong winds

along the coastline, with waves as high as 2m.

He said the weather was dangerous for small boats. He advised a postponement of all activities at sea and along the beaches.

He said the department will also monitor the weather along the coastline so it could provide early warning to those living there in the event of inclement weather.