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Reef to aid breeding of tuna

SEMPORNA: An artificial reef, measuring two square kilometres, will be put up in the waters along Tawau to Sipadan island to facilitate the breeding of tuna.

Known as "Unjam-unjam", the reef is part of similar initiatives by the Malaysian Fisheries Development Authority (MFDA) aimed at increasing biomass in the sea and the income of fishermen.

To form the reef, coconut fronds will be anchored to the seabed at a depth of 300m.

At the launch of the project here recently, state Agriculture and Food Industries Minister Datuk Seri Yahya Hussin said that a study by the MFDA and Universiti Putra Malaysia showed that the fish density in such environment was 30 per cent higher than open areas.

He said this could boost the income of fishermen by up to 88 per cent.

He warned fishermen not to use fishing methods such as cyanide poisoning and fish bombing, as this could destroy the reefs.

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