

FISHERIES POLICIES UNDER THE NEW  
SECOND SABAH STATE AGRICULTURE POLICIES

**XI. FISHERIES DEVELOPMENT**

125. The fisheries industry is an important industry in the state, and play a significant role in providing fish protein to the population. The state is self-sufficient in the production of fish and is a net-exporter of fish. The state has the potential and the necessary fisheries resources to further increase production especially in deep-sea fishing in the Exclusive Economic Zone waters and brackishwater aquaculture.
126. The policy thrusts for the fisheries sector will be on increasing production for food security and export, enhancement in productivity and competitiveness, increasing private sector investment, the exploitation and conservation of fisheries resources on a sustainable basis, human resources development and the rationalisation of fisheries-related institutions.
127. The development of fisheries industry will be accelerated and further developed on a commercial and integrated basis through the rational and sustainable development of both capture fisheries and aquaculture for economic development, domestic food production and security and export. In addition, development in small-scale fisheries will be continued to achieve rural development and poverty alleviation objectives.
128. The efforts to promote and intensify the development of robust and environmentally sound fisheries, including aquaculture, will be underpinned with the guiding principle of sustainable utilisation and management of resources to ensure the quantity, diversity and availability of fisheries resources in sufficient quantity for perpetuity. The effective conservation, management and development of fisheries resources will give due regard to biological, technology, economic, social,

environmental and cultural aspects. Sustainable and complementary development is targeted to be achieved in marine, coastal or freshwater development zones by promoting the integration of the multiple interest and uses therein.

129. To support and sustain existing fishing and aquaculture industries and to develop new ones, the economic foundations of this sector will be strengthened. These include upgrading human resources development, developing research and development capability and technology, expanding infrastructure and support service, financing and incentives and enabling an effective legal, administrative and institutional framework. Human resource development will focus on the provision of more skilled workers in both fishing and aquaculture and will include master fishermen, skippers, fishing gear and aquaculture technologists. A coordinated investment in fisheries and aquaculture research and technology development with close mutually benefiting partnership with the private sector that will enhance the competitiveness of local fisheries will be implement.
130. Efforts will be given to increasing the efficiency and productivity of the fisheries sector and its competitiveness. To increase efficiency and productivity, automation and mechanisation will be intensified in the fisheries sector including in fishing, fish handling and aquaculture production as well in product processing and manufacturing.
131. Focus will be given to the vertical integration of upstream activities including aspects of production, processing and marketing. To improve the marketing of fish and fish products, the market distribution and market information system will be improved. Efforts will be made to develop and implement seafood safety and quality assurance programs for fisheries and aquaculture, including compliance with internationally accepted product quality and safety standards such as Hazard Analysis Critical Control Point ( HACCP ) in all processing plants.

132. Private sectors investments in commercial fishing, aquaculture especially in large-scale operations, and feed and fry production to be encouraged.
133. The development of fishery-based value-added activities and industries including processing of food and industrial products will be further accelerated to take advantage of both local and export markets. In addition, cultivars selection in aquaculture as well as down-stream fisheries-related product choice, development and processing will be guided by the product-based approach in which focus will be given to targeting specific market demand, preference and potential for particular fisheries products. Market opportunities in export niche and specialty markets will be exploited.
134. To increase market appeal and acceptance for fish products, efforts will be made to develop and implement seafood safety and quality assurance programs for fisheries and aquaculture, including compliance with internationally-accepted product quality and safety standards such as HACCP. In addition, to enhance the quality of fisheries products, innovative processing technologies and new product development will be promoted.
135. The market distribution and market information system for fish products will be rationalised and improved. Market education for producers, processors and consumers related to characteristics and handling of aquaculture and seafood products will be implemented.

### **CAPTURE FISHERIES**

136. In marine capture fisheries, the goal will be to maximise production from existing fisheries resources and stocks and shall be pursued on a rational, maximum sustainable yield basis. Emphasis will be given to increasing fish production from deep sea fishing. For nearshore and coastal fisheries, efforts will be to maintain current production levels to

ensure and sustain the long-term and continued productive exploitation of these resources. To ensure sustainable development and to maintain an efficient and competitive edge in marine capture fisheries production, the adoption of efficient and resource-friendly marine and fishing technologies will be encouraged. Joint ventures between local and foreign private sector will be promoted under regional groupings such as BIMP-EAGA to engage in deep-sea distant-water fishing.

137. For inland freshwater capture fisheries, exploitation of these resources will be permitted for rural and riparian communities governed by the principles to maximum sustainable yield and biodiversity conservation.
138. The upgrading and strengthening of regulatory and enforcement efforts to effectively enforce fisheries laws and to ensure fisheries resources are systematically and sustainably managed will be emphasized. Efforts in the management of fisheries resources will be supported and bolstered by research and data gathering on fish stocks and other aquatic resources and the environment including baseline data.
139. Marine recreational and sport fisheries will be promoted as part of the agro-tourism development strategy.
140. Steps will be taken to ensure the conservation of natural and ecosystem resources such as mangroves forests and wetlands which fisheries resources are dependent upon for long-term integrity and sustainability.
141. The upgrading and expansion of onshore facilities and services including adequate and modern fish landing facilities, cold storage spaces, auction centers, slipways and ship repair yards and marketing facilities will be undertaken.

## **AQUACULTURE**

142. Aquaculture is targeted to contribute to the increase in production from the fisheries sector. Aquaculture production will be increased by encouraging more aquaculture ventures including marine, brackish water and freshwater fish ponds, fish cage culture, pen culture and on-bottom and off-bottom culture, seed and fry production centers as well as ornamental and aquarium fish culture. Large-scale aquaculture farming which operations have vertical integration of production and value-added processing at the farm level will be encouraged.
143. To increase the efficiency and productivity level of aquaculture enterprises and to ensure the development of a sustainable aquaculture industry in Sabah, aquaculture development will be rationalised and systemised to attain a commercial level. Cost-effective, sustainable and environmentally compatible development including aquaculture production practices, technologies and systems and harvest will be promoted.
144. For orderly development as well as effective provision of necessary infrastructure and support facilities as well as to rationalise and integrate land and fisheries resources use and management, aquaculture development areas will be identified and zoned. A comprehensive database on land, which will include a portfolio of viable marine, coastal and inland areas will be prepared to provide information on the availability of land for the private sector to venture into aquaculture production.
145. Candidate species for aquaculture will be those are high value and have popular local and export market acceptance as well as for niche markets including shrimps, seaweed and ornamental fish. Research and development programmes for cultivation and husbandry, propagation, improvement of aquatics cultivars, genetic improvement, varietal

selection, disease prevention and management, fed and fry production, and environmentally friendly systems, will be implemented.

146. The setting up of aquaculture farms that cater for aqua-tourism will be encouraged.

## **XII. ECONOMIC FOUNDATION**

147. The realization of the objectives of SAP2 will require a stronger economic foundation, the strengthening of key supporting services and the development of local collateral support industries for the agricultural sector. These are important factors needed to further increase the efficiency and productivity of the sector, enhancing its competitiveness, as well as creating a more conducive environment for its development and growth.