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Improving fish catch

Terengganu investing RM12m in fish forecasting system

KUALA TERENGGANU: The Terengganu Government is spending about RM12mil on research and development to come up with a fish forecasting system in waters off the east coast of Peninsular Malaysia to increase fish catches.

Fisheries director-general Datuk Junaidi Che Ayub said the project, which began last year and was expected to be completed in 2010, would determine fishing areas for the setting up of the fish forecasting system.

"Fish forecasting technology can forecast potential fishing areas," he said after launching the system at the Marine Fishery Resources Development and Management Department in Chendering here on Tuesday.

Also present were Mimos Berhad president and chief executive officer Datuk Abdul Wahab Abdullah and National Fishermen's Association (Nekmat) manager Norizaman Ghazali.

Junaidi said the research project was undertaken jointly by the Fisheries Department, Fisheries Development Authority of Malaysia, Malaysia Centre for Remote Sensing, Nekmat and Mimos.

He said the project would be extended to waters off Sabah and Sarawak as well as the Indian Ocean if it achieved its objectives.

The forecasting system, to be named IKANG, the abbreviation for *Ikhtiar Ke Arah Nelayan Gemilang* (Striving Towards Shaping Fishermen of Distinction), is divided into five components.

The components are gathering of marine data, compilation of sea surface data via satellite, database development, model development and dissemination of information to fishermen.

»Fish forecasting technology can forecast potential fishing areas«

DATUK JUNAIDI CHE AYUB