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FPHP BULLETIN HOT & TOUR

THE CROSSROADS;
UNVEILING FOOD, TRENDS, & CULTURAL EXPERIENCES

NEWSLETTER VOL. 1/2023

"Embracing & Escalating FPHP Creativity & Passion in Writing"



**Welcome Notation &
Managing Editor;
Volume Introduction**

**An Overview of Clan Culture in the
Hotel Industry in Malaysia**

**NASI AMBENG-
'THE IRONY OF
MALAYSIAN JAVANESE
COMFORT FOOD THAT'S
A PAIN TO PREP'**

F&B AND BEES

**A WEEKEND GETAWAY
TO SUNGAI MERBOK:
Exploring the
Enchanting Mangroves**



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THE CROSSROADS; FOOD, TRENDS, & CULTURAL EXPERIENCES



MY FIRST SQUID FISHING MOMENT OF THE SEASON IN TERENGGANU

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(DR.), RABIATUL ADAWIYAH AB RAHMAN & JOHANNA
ADLIN AHMAD

Squid fishing or in Malay known as 'candat sotong' is a popular pastime on the East and West Coasts of Malaysia. This activity has become a yearly tradition as the season approaches following the end of the monsoon. The squid fishing activity, which is also known as squid jigging, starts from April to July every year in the seas of the East Coast.

With concentrated locations at Chendering, Marang, Setiu, Besut, Dungun, Kemaman, and Kuala Terengganu. Since there are many species of squid spotted 'berkandang' in the East Coast's seas, it cannot be denied that the squid in the East Coast is larger in size than the squid in the West Coast. During this season, boat owners locally called 'tekong bot' are extremely busy fulfilling boat rental requests from squid fishing enthusiasts who are really keen to carry out this activity during their short trip.

These enthusiasts purposely spend their spare time squid fishing in the open seas. Those who come with their families like wives, children, and in-laws, simply joined the activity to feel the thrill of catching squid in the open seas, like me included. This method involves nailing squid that uses a nail tool that consists of various shapes depending on suitability. Each type of nail can raise various species of squid such as Torok squid, Frog squid and so on. There are in fact two methods which are to use a rod like we use to fish, and another method is to use a reel without a rod.

Both methods use a special bait-type hook that is called either the Hayabusa, Yamashita or Yo-Zuri. This bait is made of shiny, luminous, and colorful plastic to attract the attention of squid because its nature is attracted to the light. In addition to attracting the squid's attention to the bait, the technique of using green or yellow light is used. With this light, squid will be more attracted to eating the bait. When landing, the light will be directed towards the sea to attract the attention of the squid and at that time the landing will be thrown into the water.

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The bait should be moved by pulling and releasing to attract the attention of the squid. So now, let me tell you about my first visit here with my family, which occurred during the recent public holiday, Penang Heritage Day. The opportunity to experience the excitement of capturing squid in Terengganu was not squandered. We decided chose a homestay in the Chendering district because it is closer to the LKIM Marang Jetty and easier to get to. The best time to capture this squid is between sunset and sunrise. We headed to the port at 4 p.m. to board a rented boat that



would take us to the middle of the sea. According to the boatman, if the weather is good and the timing is appropriate, the catches per person might range from 20 kilograms

'The best time to capture this squid is between sunset and sunrise.'

BY FADHLINA MAHAT, ARNIEYANTIE ABDUL HADI (DR.), RABIATUL ADAWIYAH AB RAHMAN & JOHANNA ADLIN AHMAD

to hundreds of kilograms in one night and it would be incredibly fresh. The wind was howling, and the waves were crashing when we arrived in the middle of the sea.

Regardless of experience, those who participated in this activity for the first time will "fall" after struggling with the movement of the waves. The boatman informed us that the 'cure' for seasickness is to lie down and rest for a few minutes to ease dizziness and vomiting. The other occupants of the boat continued to gather squid for as long as they could while the "fallen" laid down to relieve dizziness and nausea. When the wind started to pick up, the boatman encouraged us to head back to land earlier than the original schedule for our own safety. After struggling for our catch, our boat was able to lift 40 kilograms of squid, which was distributed equally among the members of the trip.

We finally safely arrived home at 4 a.m. in the morning.

Due to the weather, we didn't get much of a result that night, but we were all grateful to be able to bring back incredibly fresh squid to enjoy it. That day our family started breakfast with a fresh menu of homemade flour-dipped squid, which was really appealing. Alhamdulillah.

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