

Challenges and Opportunities for Giant Freshwater Prawn Farming in Sarawak, East Malaysia

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Giant freshwater prawn (*Macrobrachium rosenbergii*) is an important aquatic resource in Sarawak, supported by strong demand from recreational anglers and the local food industry. However, production still depends largely on wild harvests, which has created growing pressure on natural stocks. The common practice of capturing egg-bearing females is especially concerning, as it reduces recruitment and threatens the long-term sustainability of the species. To address these issues, greater community awareness and improved management of wild resources are highlighted, together with efforts to develop small-scale, community-operated hatchery systems. Sarawak's prawn aquaculture sector holds considerable potential for expansion, and there are clear opportunities for research collaboration in hatchery development, stock enhancement, and broodstock improvement for overcoming current challenges.

Keywords: wild harvest; egg-bearing; hatchery; broodstock; stock

巨型淡水长臂大虾 (*Macrobrachium rosenbergii*) 是砂拉越重要的水产资源，主要由

休闲垂钓者和本地餐饮业的强劲需求所支撑。然而，目前的产量仍主要依赖野生捕捞，这对天然种群造成日益增加的压力。捕捉抱卵雌虾的普遍做法尤为令人担忧，因为这会降低补充种群的能力，并威胁物种的长期可持续性。为应对这些问题，亟需提高社区对资源保护的意识，并加强对野生资源的管理，同时推动发展由社区运营的小型孵化场系统。砂拉越的长臂大虾养殖业具有显著的扩展潜力，在孵化技术开发、种群增殖放流以及亲虾改良等方面也存在明确的科研合作机会，以应对当前所面临的挑战。

关键词：野生捕捞；抱卵；孵化场；亲本；种群