

## **Aquaculture in Malaysia: a short review on current policy and legislation**

### **Abstract**

Aquaculture sector has shown an increasing trend in production outputs and values in the past few decades in Malaysia. Thus, environmental protection and preservation should be made priority in aquaculture development to ensure a more sustainable future. This paper attempts to provide a brief review on the major policies and legislations governing the aquaculture sector and the environment in Malaysia. Unlike its predecessors, the current agricultural policy, the National Agro-Food Policy 2011-2020, has made sustainable agricultural developments as one of its key thrusts. For the aquaculture sector, good practices in aquaculture activities are compulsory under the Aquaculture Industry Zone. However, the path towards sustainability as envisioned by the policy requires cooperation from all stakeholders in the aquaculture sector. The laws governing the aquaculture sector do include provisions for environmental protection, however, they are very limited in that environmental concerns are primarily addressed through the formulation of aquaculture plans without any specifics on environmental protection.