

# TEN REASONS WHY YOU SHOULD HELP

By Aznir Malek

- 1) Our river fishes are NOT an infinite resource! They CAN become extinct!
  - There 380 recorded species of freshwater fish in Malaysia. Now, there are hardly 100 species left!
- 2) Fishes like the kelah, sebarau, kelesa and tengas are more valuable alive in the water than they are dead.
  - A dead kelah is worth about RM60 per kg., but dedicated anglers are willing to pay up to RM1500 to catch-and-release the same fish in our National Park rivers!
- 3) If our rivers are spoiled and depleted of these fishes, you have no wild places to fish
  - Fishing is not about just catching fish. It's about overcoming challenges in natural surroundings. If we lose the river fishes, you are only left with alien fish in small ponds and lombongs!
- 4) If these fishes disappear, local boatmen and guides will lose their livelihood.
- 5) River fishes, if we conserve them, will multiply and provide for both local communities and visiting fishermen.
- 6) Many of our fishes are unique to our country or the region. We would be the losers if they become extinct.
- 7) Kelah, kelesa, temoleh, toman, sebarau, tengas and tapah can be world-class sportfishes.
  - These fishes will provide the challenge and thrill for anglers, on par with the sport fishes of the world like trout, salmon, tigerfish, Nile perch, wels, taimen etc.
  - If we lose them, international fishermen will not come to our country, and we Malaysians will lose.
- 8) There are more than 1 million recreational fishermen in Malaysia, and probably 500 million fishermen around the world.
  - This represents a huge industry that involves fishing tackle, charters, hospitality, tourism etc.
- 9) Your future children or grandchildren have a right to inherit these fishes
- 10) It is your duty to help manage Mother Earth
  - We have taken from the Earth, so let's give something back...