IMPACT OF HARMFUL ALGAL BLOOM (HAB) IN MALAYSIA[[1]](#footnote-1)

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AbstRACT

Various research is being carried out globally to determine the impact of harmful algal bloom. With the size of Malaysian coastline of 4,675 kilometres, economic activities such as fisheries and tourism has contributed significantly to Malaysia’s GDP every year. Within the tourism sector, coastal tourism is by far the most significant in terms of tourist flows and generation of income. However, recently fisheries and coastal tourism industry in Malaysia are threatened by the frequent event of massive fish kills. One of the main causes for such event is the harmful algal bloom (HAB). Current HABs studies in Malaysia are more towards identifying the species of harmful algal bloom but not on measuring the economic impact. Understanding the economic impact of HABs to Malaysian coast will help mitigate the impact of harmful algal bloom in the long run. The objective of this paper is to highlight the perception of economic impact of harmful algal bloom and which of the sectors; fishery, tourism, public health and monitoring, will be affected the most by harmful algal blooms in Malaysia. The results from the analysis of data collected from respondents in three coastal locations in Malaysia have shown that harmful algal bloom incidence in Malaysia has the dominant economic impact to fishery sector. Apart from that, the perception of economic impact of the HAB has also significantly explained by coastal monitoring cost, tourism and distance from HAB location. This finding suggests that HAB is a threatening event to the fishery, tourism and coastal monitoring cost. This calls for proactive measures from government to minimize the economic impact of HAB in the long run through better detection of HAB events.

**Keywords:** economic impact, Harmful Algal Bloom, coastal fishery, coastal tourism, coastal monitoring cost**,**

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