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Thursday March 8, 2007

## Divers to lay artificial reefs near Pulau Tioman

KUANTAN: At least 300 local and foreign divers will deploy artificial reefs that will be home for the marine life in Soyak Island off the famous Tioman Island next month.

The event is a conservation effort under the Pahang Regent Reef project launched four years ago.

It is one of the earliest publicised conservation effort that took place in September 2003 - a result of close cooperation between Tioman Development Authority (TDA), Pahang government and various representatives from the public and private sectors.

In next month's event, to take place on April 14, the Tengku Mahkota Pahang, Tengku Abdullah Sultan Haji Ahmad Shah, is expected to lead the rest of the divers.

They will lay eight clusters of PVC pipes in various locations that will become new homes to a variety of corals, fish and other marine life.

State Culture, Arts and Tourism Committee Chairman Datuk Maznah Mazlan said the clusters would attract fish to swim around the artificial reefs, an experience that divers would look forward to savour.

"This project was initiated by the Tengku Mahkota Pahang Tengku Abdullah in his first dive in 2003 at Pulau Renggis near Berjaya Tioman," she said during a press conference held here on Wednesday.

She added that a total of 50 reef balls were laid on the seabed for corals to grow and to allow other marine life to breed.



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Among those in the private sector that had come forward to help in the conservation work by laying artificial reefs on the seabed were DHL Express, KUB (M) Bhd and PJ Hilton, she added.

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