



Borneo Aqua Harvest Chief Executive, Datuk Lo Fui Ming, (third from right) and other company officials checking some of the live grouper fish reared at its Silam farm in Sabah that arrived in Hong Kong on Dec 16.

Sabah firm set to become major exporter

# Live grouper to HK, China from Silam

HONG KONG: Sabah's first Mesdaq listed aquaculture-based Borneo Aqua Harvest Bhd is tapping into the high demand market for live fish in Hong Kong and China.

The company is set to become a major seafood exporter following a successful shipment of 18 tonnes of live grouper fish to Hong Kong.

The 10,000 fish that were cultivated at the company's fully integrated aquaculture farm at Silam in the east coast Lahad Datu district arrived in this Special Administrative Region on Tuesday (Dec 15).

Borneo Aqua Chief Executive, Datuk Lo Fui Ming, was among senior company officials on hand to supervise the unloading of the fish comprising the company's own crossbred Sabah Giant, Camouflage and Coral Rockcod grouper.

The fish was shipped to its distribution near the Lei Yue Mun seafood wholesale market in Kowloon on board its recently acquired second live fish carrier.

Noting that the mortality rate was only five fish, Lo said the shipment was a confidence boost for the company.

"It shows that we have been doing all the while in terms of sustainable methods of hatching and raising the fish have been the right approach," Lo said.

He said Borneo Aqua was targeting to export some 160 tonnes of various grouper species per month to the region by August or September next year.

Of this amount, 70 tonnes would be for fish weighing between 500gm and 850gm, 30 tonnes for fish weighing between 1.5kg and 1.9kg and 60 tonnes for fish tipping the scales above 5kg.

"We reckon that the monthly sale of the 70 tonnes of the 500gm to 850gm fish alone that fetch 160 Hong Kong dollars per kati (600gm) would generate a revenue of about RM8.4 million," Lo said.

Borneo Aqua director Datuk Mohd Affendi Hamdan, who was also present at the unloading of the fish, said the company was well placed



Lo at the company's distribution centre in HK, a stone's throw from the city's bustling Lie Yue Mun seafood wholesale market.

for strong growth as it is among the first fully integrated aquaculture firms in the country.

"We are in the aquaculture business from A to Z. From hatchery, rearing, research and development, making our own feed and now delivery and distribution," he added.

Established in 2004 and listed on the Mesdaq market a year later, Borneo Aqua at last count had about 1,900 broodstocks of various high-value fish species.

It operates two hatcheries at Pulau Palak and Kampung Sungai Kayu in Sandakan apart from its fish cage farm operations at Darvel Bay in Silam.