



Sulaiman Muda standing near the **collapsed** section of the seawall in Kampung Tok Jembal, Kuala Terengganu, yesterday. Pic by Satiman Jamin

Huge waves breach seawall

SWEPT AWAY: Fishermen's makeshift huts on the beach of Kampung Tok Jembal destroyed by waves

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THANKS to a seawall to protect boats from being washed away, fishermen in Kampung Tok Jembal, near here, now have ample warning to bring their boats further inland when big waves hit.

Fisherman Sulaiman Muda, 49, said in the past, boats were sheltered at huts but the waves could easily get to them during the monsoon season.

"We are thankful for the seawall built more than a year ago, stretching from Sultan Mahmud Airport about 2km away to our village.

"The monsoon waves used to reach our doorstep about 70m inland before the seawall was built."

However, Sulaiman said lashing waves had caused part of the seawall to collapse.

"Although the top of the existing wall is completely submerged during high tide, it still manages to protect us from the full brunt of the waves.

"But we hope the authorities will repair the collapsed section as the waves can enter through the gap," he said.

Sulaiman added that they had

stopped fishing more than a month ago to avoid the choppy seas during the monsoon season.

On Monday night, the high tide, combined with waves more than 3m high had destroyed two bamboo huts the fishermen had built on the beach to shelter their boats from the sun.

However, the fishing boats were safe as the fishermen had moved them further up the beach a few days before.

"The waves almost reached the edge of the road about 50m away.

"We have not gone out to sea for the past month. Instead, it has come inland to us," he said while checking his fibreglass boat for damage yesterday.

Meanwhile, Terengganu Drainage and Irrigation Department director Mat Hussin Ghani

said the department would evaluate the damage to the seawall.

"We will propose repair works on the damaged section, but its implementation will depend on the availability of funds," he said, adding that it would cost RM5,000 to build a metre of seawall.

Mat Hussin said the unusually high tides and huge waves were expected to ease off by next week.

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Sulaiman Muda
fisherman