SERDANG: Universiti Putra Malaysia (UPM) has made a breakthrough in detecting water pollution with a kit that tracks the level of carcinogenic pollutants in fish.

UPM Aquaculture Department researcher Dr Annie Christianus said the pollutants, polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs), could now be measured accurately using the kit invented by UPM.

“Earlier technology could only give an indication of the presence of PAHs in fish and the aquatic environment. But our kit can produce the content of PAHs in fish bile accurately. In short, it can show the level of water pollution through the fish’s body,” she told reporters after introducing the kit here yesterday.

According to her, analysis of polluted water could not detect the presence of PAHs but it could be determined through the level of PAHs found in fish bile.

“The kit can help ensure our sources of food and water is safe. It is also very useful in studying long-term pollution in the aquatic environment especially for continuous monitoring,” she said.

She is confident the product, the result of two years of research, would be helpful to ensure fishing areas and waters in the country were free from such pollution and assist agencies involved to take proactive measures if the waters is polluted. – Bernama