



A stretch of eroded coastline in Sabah.

## We risk losing our fishing, oil rights

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WHILE global warming may be the cause of stronger currents and waves, resulting in coastal erosion, human activities have certainly contributed to this problem.

Damming rivers, for instance, is a major cause of delta subsidence, because of the reduction in sediment deposition at the river mouth.

Whatever the causes may be in the erosion of our coastlines, it is important that prompt and decisive action is taken to protect the areas affected.

Under international law, our 12 nautical miles territori-

al waters and 200 nautical miles exclusive economic zone (EEZ) begin at the low water mark (low tide).

When an area of the coast is lost to the sea, it affects our territorial waters and EEZ as well, and we might end up losing fishing and oil exploration rights.

Therefore, it is in the national interest to allocate adequate resources to the agencies involved to stop coastal erosion.

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