

Fatwa Commission of the Indonesian Ulema Council (MUI), in a meeting of the
The Commission together with the MUI Daily Management and the Assessment Institute
Food, Medicines and Cosmetics of the Indonesian Ulema Council (LP.
POM MUI), on Saturday, 4 Rabi'ul Akhir 1423 H. / June 15, 2002

M., after :

Consider:

21

1. The Word of Allah SWT about the necessity

Consuming Halal and Thayyib

(good), the law of consuming types of food

animals, and the like, including:

يَأْتِيهَا النَّاسُ كُلُّوْا مِمَّا فِي الْأَرْضِ حَلَالًا طَيِّبًا وَلَا تَتَّبِعُوا خُطُوَاتِ الشَّيْطَانِ ۚ إِنَّهُ لَكُمْ عَدُوٌّ مُّبِينٌ ١٦٨

"O humanity! Eat from what is lawful and good on the earth and do not follow Satan's footsteps. He is truly your sworn enemy." (2:168)

"O humans! Eat what you want

halal is better than what is available

on earth, and do not follow

the steps of the devil; because of the

Satan is an enemy

It is clear to you" (QS. al-Baqarah [2]: 168).

1. that among Indonesian Muslims,

Legal Status of Consuming Crabs

its halalness is still questioned;

2. that therefore, the MUI Fatwa Commission

Consider the need to set a fatwa

About the Legal Status of Consuming

crabs, as a guide for Muslims

and other parties who need it.

وَالْإِنجِيلِ يَأْمُرُهُمْ بِالْمَعْرُوفِ وَيَنْهَاهُمْ عَنِ الْمُنْكَرِ وَيُحِلُّ لَهُمُ الطَّيِّبَاتِ وَيُحَرِّمُ عَلَيْهِمُ الْخَبَائِثَ

“He commands them to do good and forbids them from evil, permits for them what is lawful and forbids to them what is impure” (7:157)

فَكُلُوا مِمَّا رَزَقَكُمُ اللَّهُ حَلَالًا طَيِّبًا وَاشْكُرُوا نِعْمَتَ اللَّهِ إِنْ كُنْتُمْ إِيَّاهُ تَعْبُدُونَ ۝ ١١٤

“So eat from the good, lawful things which Allah has provided for you, and be grateful for Allah’s favours, if you ‘truly’ worship Him ‘alone’.” (16:114)

يَسْأَلُونَكَ مَاذَا أُحِلَّ لَهُمْ ۖ قُلْ أُحِلَّ لَكُمْ الطَّيِّبَاتُ

“they ask you, ‘O Prophet,’ what is permissible for them ‘to eat’. Say, “What is good and lawful.” (5:4)

وَكُلُوا مِمَّا رَزَقَكُمُ اللَّهُ حَلَالًا طَيِّبًا ۖ وَاتَّقُوا اللَّهَ الَّذِي أَنْتُمْ بِهِ مُؤْمِنُونَ ۝ ٨٨

“Eat of the good, lawful things provided to you by Allah. And be mindful of Allah in Whom you believe.” (5:88)

أُحِلَّ لَكُمْ صَيْدُ الْبَحْرِ وَطَعَامُهُ مَتَّعًا لَكُمْ وَالسِّيَاطِرَ وَحُرِّمَ عَلَيْكُمْ صَيْدُ الْبَرِّ مَا دُمْتُمْ حُرِّمًا ۖ وَاتَّقُوا اللَّهَ الَّذِي إِلَيْهِ تُحْشَرُونَ

٩٦

“It is lawful for you to hunt and eat seafood, as a provision for you and for travellers. But hunting on land is forbidden to you while on pilgrimage. Be mindful of Allah to Whom you all will be gathered.” (5:96)

هُوَ الَّذِي خَلَقَ لَكُمْ مَا فِي الْأَرْضِ جَمِيعًا

“He is the One Who created everything in the earth for you.” (2:29)

2. The Prophet's hadiths regarding the halalness and haram of something consumed, including:

أَيُّهَا النَّاسُ! إِنَّ اللَّهَ طَيِّبٌ لَا يَقْبَلُ إِلَّا طَيِّبًا. وَإِنَّ اللَّهَ أَمَرَ
الْمُؤْمِنِينَ بِمَا أَمَرَ بِهِ الْمُرْسَلِينَ. فَقَالَ: يَا أَيُّهَا الرُّسُلُ كُلُّوا مِنْ
الطَّيِّبَاتِ وَاعْمَلُوا صَالِحًا، إِنِّي بِمَا تَعْمَلُونَ عَلِيمٌ. وَقَالَ:
يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا كُلُوا مِنْ طَيِّبَاتِ مَا رَزَقْنَاكُمْ.
ثُمَّ ذَكَرَ الرَّجُلَ يُطِيلُ السَّفَرَ، أَشْعَثَ أَغْبَرَ، يَمُدُّ يَدَيْهِ إِلَى
السَّمَاءِ: يَا رَبِّ! يَا رَبِّ! وَمَطْعَمُهُ حَرَامٌ، وَمَشْرَبُهُ حَرَامٌ،

641

وَمَلْبَسُهُ حَرَامٌ، وَغُذِيَ بِالْحَرَامِ. فَأَنَّى يُسْتَحَابُ لِذَلِكَ؟ (رواه
مسلم عن أبي هريرة)

"O mankind! Verily, Allah

is thayyib (good), will not accept

except for the thayyib (good and halal); and

Allah commands the believers

all that He commanded to

the apostles. He said, 'O messengers!

Eat from good food

(halal) and do righteous deeds.

Verily, I am All-Knowing.

what you do' (QS. al-Mu'minin [23]:

51), and he said, 'O you who

Faith! Eat among the good rizki-

good that We have given you...' (QS. al-

Baqarah [2]: 172).

Then the Prophet narrated a man-

the man who traveled a long way,

his hair was disheveled, and his body

covered in dust. While raising his hand

to the heavens he prayed, 'O Lord; Oh my God...'

(Pray on the way, especially with

Such conditions, in general, are granted

by Allah--pen.). Meanwhile, people's food

it is haram, the drink is haram, the clothes are haram

haram, and it is fed with the

illegal. (The Prophet commented), 'If

Thus

Opinion of Prof. Dr. H. Hasanuddin AF, MA

(member of the Fatwa Commission) in the paper

Crab: Halal or Haram and explanation

which he conveyed at the Fatwa Commission Meeting

MUI, as well as the opinions of the meeting participants, on the day of

Wednesday, 29 May 2002 A.D. / 16 Rabi'ul Awwal 1421

H.

5. Opinion of Dr. Sulistiono (Faculty Lecturer

Fisheries and Marine Sciences IPB) in

paper Eco-Biology of Mangrove Crab (*Scylla*)

spp) and his explanation of the crab that

delivered at the MUI Fatwa Commission Meeting

on Saturday, 4 Rabi'ul Akhir 1423 H. / 15

June 2002 A.D. as follows:

a. There are 4 (four) types of mangrove crabs that

often consumed and become a commodity,

namely:

1) *Scylla serrata*,

Scylla tranquebarrica,

Scylla olivacea, then

Scylla paramamosain. These four types of mangrove crabs are only called "crabs" by the general public. b. Crabs are a type of aquatic animal, for the following reasons:

Breathing with gills,

Habitat in water,

It will never lay eggs on land, but in water because it requires oxygen from water. c. Crabs -- including the four types above (see figure 1) there are only one:

Living in fresh water,

live in the sea, and

lives in seawater and in fresh water; No one lives or lives in two realms: in the sea and on land.

The MUI Fatwa Commission meeting in the meeting that crabs are water stars, both in seawater and in freshwater حيوان البحر / الحيوان المائي يعيش في البر والبحر

); and not animals that live or inhabit two realms: in the sea and on land (

حيوان البحر / الحيوان المائي

Stipulate : FATWA ON CRAB

1. Crab is halal to consume as long as it does not cause danger to human health.

2. This decree shall be effective from the date of its determination, provided that If in the future it turns out that there are mistakes, it will be corrected as it should be.

So that every Muslim and those in need can

to know this, appealing to all parties to disseminate

Fatwa.

MUI Fatwa on the Permissibility of Crabs (2002)

1. Background of the Fatwa

The Indonesian Ulema Council issued this ruling because:

- Many Muslims were **uncertain about the halal status of crabs**
- Crabs have characteristics that raised questions:
 - Do they belong to **sea animals** or **amphibious animals**?
- A clear guideline was needed for the public

2. Scientific Clarification About Crabs

Experts explained that crabs:

- **Breathe with gills**
- **Live in water (sea or freshwater)**
- **Reproduce in water**
- **Are not truly land animals**

Examples of commonly consumed crabs:

- *Scylla serrata*
- *Scylla tranquebarica*
- *Scylla olivacea*
- *Scylla paramamosain*

👉 Conclusion:

Crabs are classified as **aquatic animals (ḥayawān baḥrī)**, not land animals.

3. Key Islamic Evidence Used

The fatwa is based on Qur'anic principles such as:

- Permissibility of **good and lawful food (halal & ṭayyib)**
- General rule:

“Lawful for you is the game of the sea and its food” (Qur'an 5:96)

👉 This verse is central:

It establishes that **sea animals are generally halal**

4. Final Legal Ruling

👉 Crabs are:

✅ **HALAL to consume**

With one condition:

- 🚫 They must **not be harmful to human health**

5. Important Condition

Even though crabs are halal:

- If they are:
 - Toxic
 - Contaminated
 - Harmful

👉 Then:

✗ Consumption becomes **prohibited (haram)** due to harm

(Based on the principle: “Do not harm yourself or others”)

6. Key Reasoning Behind the Fatwa

The ruling depends on **classification**:

| Category | Ruling |
|--------------------------------|------------------|
| Sea animals | ☑ Halal |
| Land animals (non-halal types) | ✗ May be haram |
| Amphibious animals | ⚠ Often disputed |

👉 Since crabs are **aquatic**, they fall under:

Permissible sea food

7. Bottom Line

- ✓ Crabs are **halal** in Islam according to MUI
- ✓ They are considered **aquatic animals**
- ✓ Permissibility is based on **Qur'an 5:96**
- 🚫 Must be **safe and not harmful**