

**DUGONG STRANDING IN PENINSULAR MALAYSIA: PAST
AND PRESENT**

MOHAMAD MUNAWIR BIN M.SALLEH

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Mohamad Munawir M. Salleh.

PUSAT PEMBELAJARAN DIGITAL SULTANAH NUR ZAHIRAH
UNIVERSITI MALAYSIA TERENGGANU (UMT)
21030 KUALA TERENGGANU

1100093361		

Lihat Sebelah



DUGONG STRANDING IN PENINSULAR MALAYSIA: PAST AND PRESENT

By

Mohamad Munawir Bin M.Salleh

Research Report submitted in partial fulfillment

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UNIVERSITI MALAYSIA TERENGGANU**

**DECLARATION AND VERIFICATION REPORT
FINAL YEAR RESEARCH PROJECT**

It is hereby declared and verified that this research report entitled Dugong Stranding in Peninsular Malaysia: Past and Present by Mohamad Munawir B. M.Salleh, Matric No. UK 25008 have been examined and all errors identified have been corrected. This report is submitted to the School of Marine Science and Environment as partial fulfillment towards obtaining the Degree in Bachelor of Science (Marine Biology), School of Marine Science and Environment, Universiti Malaysia Terengganu.

Verified by:

First Supervisor **PROF. MADYA DR. SAIFULLAH ARIPPIN JAAMAN**
Timbalan Pengarah

Name: **Institut Oseanografi dan Sektoran
Universiti Malaysia Terengganu**

Official stamp: **21030 Kuala Terengganu, Terengganu**

Date: **16/6/14**

.....
Second Supervisor

Name:

Official stamp:

Date:

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

TUMEC	-	Turtle and Marine Ecosystem Center
DoFM	-	Department of Fisheries Malaysia
CITES	-	Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora
IUCN	-	World Conservation Union
NE	-	Northeast
SW	-	Southwest
sq km	-	Square kilometer
cm	-	centimeter
n	-	frequency

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ABSTRACT

Data of dugong stranding in Malaysia is important in determining the status of dugong in Malaysia. Two objectives that was focused on for doing this project are to determine the temporal (seasonal) and spatial (location) variation pattern of dugong in Peninsular Malaysia and to determine the hotspot location of dugong stranding in Peninsular Malaysia. No aerial or boat survey was done to collect the data for this project. Data relating to dugong stranding in Peninsular Malaysia was collected from Turtle and Marine Ecosystem Center (TUMEC). Data collected shows that the collection and recording of data regarding dugong stranding in Malaysia start from 1924. 1999 are the year that has the most number of data recorded (n=11) due to high awareness level of local people. From this observation, it can be concluded that dugong stranding pattern in Peninsular Malaysia do vary temporally. In 1999 dugong was included in one of the regulation in Fisheries Department that aims to protect dugong species in Malaysia. Spatial variation do affect dugong stranding pattern in Peninsular Malaysia where Johor has the most cases recorded throughout the year (n=39). It is due to the factor of habitat suitability in Johor that made dugong to choose Johor as its habitat for breeding and feeding. Sungai Pulai in Johor is a region that has shallow water body and holds the largest seagrass beds in Peninsular Malaysia. However, conservation effort should be done due to the factor that lot of threat can endangered dugong population in Peninsular Malaysia. Urbanization near the area of dugong habitat should be reduced for its may harm dugong accidently.

KEDAMPARAN DUGONG DI SEMENANJUNG MALAYSIA: DULU DAN SEKARANG

ABSTRAK

Data berkenaan kedamparan dugong di Malaysia adalah penting untuk menentukan status populasi dugong di Malaysia. Dua objektif yang diberi perhatian dalam menjalankan projek ini adalah untuk menentukan corak variasi musim dan setempat kedamparan dugong di Semenanjung Malaysia dan mengenal pasti lokasi “hotspot” kedamparan dugong Semenanjung Malaysia. Tiada survey secara udara atau menggunakan bot dilakukan untuk mengumpul data projek ini. Data berkenaan kedamparan dugong di Semenanjung Malaysia diperolehi daripada Pusat Penyu dan Ekosistem Marin (TUMEC). Data yang diperolehi menunjukkan operasi pengumpulan dan merekod data berkenaan kedamparan dugong di Malaysia bermula sejak tahun 1924. Tahun 1999 merupakan tahun yang mencatatkan kes kedamparan dugong paling banyak ($n=11$) kerana kesedaran yang tinggi masyarakat setempat. Dari pemerhatian ini, boleh disimpulkan bahawa corak kedamparan dugong di Semenanjung Malaysia mempunyai variasi dari segi musim. Dalam tahun 1999 dugong telah disenaraikan dalam salah satu peraturan Jabatan Perikanan yang bertujuan untuk melindungi spesis dugong di Malaysia. Variasi setempat turut memberi kesan kepada corak kedamparan dugong di Semenanjung Malaysia di mana Johor mencatatkan kes tertinggi di sepanjang tahun ($n=39$). Ini mungkin kerana faktor kesesuaian habitat yang mendorong dugong untuk memilih Johor

sebagai habitat untuk beranak dan makan. Sungai Pulai di Johor adalah kawasan yang mempunyai kedalaman air yang cetek dan menampung kawasan rumput laut terbesar di Semenanjung Malaysia. Walaubagaimanapun, usaha pemuliharaan sepatutnya dijalankan kerana banyak faktor yang boleh membahayakan populasi dugong di Semenanjung Malaysia. Pembangunan disekitar kawasan habitat dugong haruslah dikurang kerana ia mungkin mencederakan dugong secara tidak sengaja.