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Determination of primary productivity and Chlorophyll-a of Phytoplankton in Terengganu river, estuary / Hoo Lee Khing.



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**DETERMINATION OF PRIMARY PRODUCTIVITY AND CHLOROPHYLL *a*
OF PHYTOPLANKTON IN TERENGGANU RIVER, ESTUARY**

BY

HOO LEE KHING

**This project report is submitted in partial fulfillment of
the requirements for the Degree of Bachelor of Science
(Marine Biology)**

Faculty of Science and Technology

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ABSTRACT

This study was undertaken to assess the distribution of photosynthetic rate, chlorophyll *a* and dissolved oxygen (DO) level in Terengganu River, estuary. Two cruises were conducted; 27th June (Southwest monsoon season, SW - from *May to September*) and 7th November (Northeast monsoon season, NE - from *November to March*) of 2002. A total number of thirteen sampling stations were established in the study area.

The monsoon season period had played a great role on the result. The overall parameters were detected comparatively lower during the 2nd sampling than the 1st sampling due to highly freshwater flushing rate and little seawater intrusion occurred in the estuary during the NE monsoon season.

The DO detected was in low level with an average of 5.53 mg.L⁻¹ and 4.80 mg.L⁻¹ for the 1st and 2nd sampling trip respectively. The minimum level was detected near the upper part of the estuary. This may reveal that the consumption rate of DO was high, where this area was considered polluted by the sewage input from adjacent town area.

The net photosynthetic rate and chlorophyll *a* values in the water column of the estuary were generally low which recorded the average values of 48.611 mg C.m⁻³.hr⁻¹ and 8.257 mg.m⁻³ for the 1st sampling respectively. While for the 2nd sampling, the values were 43.186 mg C.m⁻³.hr⁻¹ and 2.704 mg.m⁻³. These values indicated that the study area is not productive. This is because the area does not provide a sufficient residence time for the phytoplankton to establish their biomass.

ABSTRAK

Kajian ini telah dijalankan untuk menaksirkan taburan fotosintesis, klorofil *a* dan oksigen terlarut (DO) dalam muara Sungai Terengganu. Sebanyak dua kali penyampelan telah dijalankan, iaitu pada 27hb Jun (Monsun Barat Daya, SW - dari *Mei ke September*) dan 7hb November (Monsun Timur Laut, NE - dari *November ke Mac*) tahun 2002. Sejumlah tiga belas station penyampelan telah dipilih di kawasan kajian ini.

Musim monsun telah memainkan peranan yang penting ke atas keputusan. Kesemua parameter yang diperolehi adalah lebih rendah pada penyampelan kedua berbanding dengan penyampelan pertama disebabkan oleh kadar pengaliran air tawar yang tinggi dan kurang kemasukkan air laut ke dalam muara sungai pada monsun NE.

Taburan DO yang dikesan adalah pada tahap rendah dengan purata nilainya 5.53 mg.L⁻¹ dan 4.80 mg.L⁻¹ untuk penyampelan pertama dan kedua masing-masing. Tahap minimum telah dikesan berhampiran dengan bahagian hulu muara. Ini menunjukkan bahawa kadar penggunaan DO yang tinggi pada kawasan ini yang dianggap telah dicemari oleh kemasukkan kumbahan dari kawasan pusat bandar yang berdekatan.

Kadar fotosintesis dan klorofil *a* di dalam air muara sungai ini adalah rendah secara umumnya, dengan nilai puratanya 48.611 mg C.m⁻³.jam⁻¹ dan 8.257 mg.m⁻³ masing-masing untuk penyampelan pertama. Manakala bacaan pada penyampelan kedua adalah 43.186 mg C.m⁻³.jam⁻¹ dan 2.704 mg.m⁻³. Nilai-nilai ini menandakan bahawa kawasan kajian adalah kurang produktif dimana ia tidak memberi masa penetapan yang memadai kepada fitoplankton untuk mengukuhkan biomasnya.