

ACU 7102

**EFFECTS OF FISH CAGE CULTURE ON MACROBENTHOS DIVERSITY
AND ABUNDANCE IN THE MATANG MANGROVE ESTUARY (MALAYSIA)**



**A thesis submitted to the
Institute of Postgraduate Studies and Research
University of Malaya
In partial fulfillment of the requirement for the degree of
Master of Technology (Environmental Management)**

Perpustakaan Universiti Malaya



A510668898

OK

By

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2001

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I am deeply indebted to GOD for the strength and blessings in being able to complete this project. I would not be where I am if not for the tremendous support and encouragement from my beloved family. This goes especially to my mother who is also my friend; Madam Clementina Kaliman Sinur for being so supportive and understanding all this time. Thank you very much, MOM !!

The product of my thesis was not an individual effort. Many have contributed in some way or another. My heartfelt gratitude and appreciation to my supervisor Associate Professor Dr. Chong Ving Ching, for his guidance, advice, valuable suggestion, constructive criticisms and assistance throughout the duration of my project. Also to Dr. A. Sasekumar, the consultant for my project, for sharing his ideas and valuable knowledge on macrobenthos and assisting me in the identification of my samples.

I would not be doing my Masters if not of the financial support and also the uniqueness of the company's policy rendered by my company, Iklim Consult Sdn. Bhd. (local based environmental consultancy firm). Here, I wish to thank YB Wilfred Madius Tangau (MD) and the team (Angela Binidip, Juddy E. Jainol (Florida), Robert Lojitan, David Gintua, Benjamin Kudumpal (EcoForest) and Raymond J. Alfred (WWF) for their 'team spirit' and continuous encouragement throughout my studies.

This project is funded by the Ministry of Science, Technology and Environment Malaysia, under the scheme 'Intensified Research in Priority Area' (IRPA) under the grant no. 08/02/03/0644 (Cage Culture Project).

I would also like to acknowledge the staff of Institute of Biological Sciences (ISB), Faculty of Science, UM, i.e. Mr. Lee Thien Heng and Rajoo Nachiappan @ Raymond for their tremendous help in assisting me during my field trip. A special thanks to Mr. Lee Cheng Seong (boatman) and Uncle Tam @ Babe, also in helping me in my macrobenthos sampling where the hours spent in it were remarkable, yet it was real 'fun' and will linger in my thoughts always.....☺

I am extremely grateful to Associate Professor Dr. Peter Ng Kee Lin of National University of Singapore (NUS) for identifying the crabs and also the staffs of Raffles Museum of Biodiversity Research, namely N. Sivasothi, Kelvin K. P. Lim and Mr. K. L. Yeo for their hospitality, generosity, assistance and valuable knowledge during my visit in October 2000 for identifying purpose.

To all my wonderful labmates, i.e. Mr. Muhammad Ali b. Syed Hussein, Salem Zgozi (Libya), Valerie Sarpedonti (France), Ooi Ai Lin, Tin Joo Yen, Affendi Nasruddin and John Madin, thank you for your mutual understanding, encouragement, friendship and continuous support and help, throughout the duration of my project ! I will miss all the fun and memories we shared together, do keep in touch always and all the best in the up-coming future wherever you are !!

A special thanks to Ali for his tireless advice and guidance, for proof reading the drafts and psychological support throughout the duration of the project. Thank you '*beri plenti*' as *Lea Salonga*'s saying.....☺

Last but not least, I wish to extend my gratitude to all staff of Institute of Postgraduate Research and Studies especially to the librarians ('Terima Kasih KAK!') for their kind assistance throughout the duration of my study.

A special note to Dr. Chong: *words cannot express how much I really appreciate on your great assistance throughout the production of my final thesis.* "Thank you so much Dr. Chong" !

Thank You ALL !!!!

ABSTRACT

A study on the effects of fish cage culture on mangrove macrobenthos diversity and abundance was carried out in the Matang mangrove estuary, Perak, Malaysia. Multiple investigations consisted of 4-month study, 12-hour study and 1-day "grid" sampling. Six samplings (Dec 1999 – May 2000) were conducted along Sungai (River) Sangga Besar (SSB) (cage culture area) and Sungai Sangga Kecil (SSK) (non-cage culture area) by using a 0.1 m² Petersen Grab. Forty-four families (1 nemertean, 12 polychaete, 5 bivalve, 11 gastropod, 7 decapod, 2 isopod, 2 amphipod, 1 ophiuroid and 3 fishes), comprising of 53 species were found, which increased in abundance towards the sea. Water parameters were stable but pH was lower in SSB which could be related to aquaculture activities. SSK was characterized by deeper waters, higher dissolved oxygen and salinity. The low dissolved oxygen in the rivers was suspected to cause stress to the macrobenthos especially in cage areas affecting the sessile bivalves although gastropod abundance was high. The nassarid and *Assimineia* gastropods were shown from the RDA analysis to prefer sandy substrate characterising the cage areas as well as attracted to the left-over feed materials that the cage culture provided. Higher macrobenthic abundance and higher dissolved oxygen point toward a more pristine SSK. Polychaetes, crabs (*Xenophthalmus pinnotheroides*) and isopods (*Sphaeroma terebrans*) were found to be higher, while bivalves and gastropod were found to be significantly lower in SSK than in SSB. The results indicate that human intervention through fish and cockle farming may have altered the macrobenthic community in SSB. Diel or tidal phases did not play a significant role in diversity or abundance of macrobenthos although there were some significant interaction affects.

ABSTRAK

Satu kajian terhadap kesan pemeliharaan ikan dalam sangkar ke atas kepelbagaian dan kelimpahan makrobentos kawasan bakau telah dijalankan di kawasan bakau muara sungai Matang, Perak, Malaysia. Beberapa jenis penyampelan dijalankan melibatkan penyampelan 4 bulan, perubahan pasang-surut serta malam-siang melalui penyampelan intensif 12 jam serta penyampelan grid sehari. Penyampelan tersebut dilakukan sebanyak 6 kali (Disember 1999-Mei 2000) sepanjang Sungai Sangga Besar (kawasan sangkar ikan) dan Sungai Sangga Kecil (kawasan tidak bersangkar) menggunakan 'grab Petersen' bukaan 0.1m^2 . Sejumlah 44 famili (1 nemertean, 12 poliketa, 5 bivalvia, 11 gastropoda, 7 dekapoda, 2 isopoda, 2 amfipoda, 1 ophiuroid dan 3 pieces) yang terbahagi kepada 53 spesies telah ditemui dan didapati kelimpahannya meningkat menuju ke arah laut. Parameter air didapati stabil kecuali pH air yang lebih rendah di SSB yang mungkin akibat dari aktiviti akuakultur. Sungai Sangga Kecil pula merupakan sungai yang lebih dalam, mempunyai kandungan oksigen terlarut (DO) serta saliniti yang lebih tinggi. Kandungan DO yang rendah di kawasan sangkar di Sungai Sangga Besar disyaki menyebabkan tekanan terhadap makrobentos terutamanya di kawasan dalam sangkar lebih-lebih lagi terhadap bivalvia yang sesil sungguhpun kelimpahan gastropod didapati tinggi. Analisis RDA menunjukkan bahawa gastropod nassarid dan *Assimineae* menggemari kawasan berpasir seperti yang dicirikan oleh kawasan sangkar selain tertarik kepada saki-baki makanan dari sangkar ikan. Kelimpahan makrobenthos serta DO yang lebih tinggi di Sungai Sangga Kecil menunjukkan ia merupakan kawasan yang kurang terganggu oleh aktiviti manusia. Poliketa, ketam *Xenopthalmus pinnotheroides* serta isopod *Sphaeroma terebrans* didapati dengan jumlah yang lebih tinggi di sini, manakala bivalvia serta gastropoda ketara rendah di Sungai Sangga Kecil berbanding Sungai Sangga Besar. Keputusan

mencadangkan bahawa aktiviti penternakan ikan dalam sangkar dan kerang mungkin telah merubah komuniti bentik di Sungai Sangga Besar. Arus pasang-surut serta perubahan siang-malam tidak mempengaruhi kepelbagaian dan kelimpahan makrobenthos sungguhpun terdapat kesan daripada interaksi faktor-faktor tersebut.

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