Ecological Study of Sea Cucumber Central Moluccas

D. A. J. Selanno¹, Y.L. Natan², Pr. A. Uneputty³, Y. A. Lewerissa⁴ ¹⁻⁴ (Faculty of Fisheries and Marine Sciences, University of PattimuranAmbon – Indonesia)

Abstract: Teripang (Sea cucumber) is one of echinoderm members which has an important economical value and can be found in Moluccas Waters. Among Sea cucumber in Moluccas, H. scabra, H. nobilis, H. edulis, H. atra, T. ananas, and B. argus have been mass exploited causing the decreasing not only in their kind but also in their quantity. This study aims to determine the ecological condition of Sea cucumber in four locations in Central Moluccas Regency from July to December 2013. The results showed that there was the presence of species composition variety, density, different distribution pattern among locations. Diversity and similarity of Sea cucumber species among those locations were obtained to be low category. **Keywords:** Ecology, Echinoderm, Sea cucumber, Central Moluccas

I. Introduction

In Moluccas there are six Sea cucumber which have been exploited such as *teripang pasir* (*H. scabra*), *teripang batu* (*H. nobilis*), *teripang batu keling* (*H. edulis*), teripang perut merah (*H. atra*), *teripang ananas* (*T. ananas*), and *teripang patola* (*B. argus*) [1],[2]. Teripang (Sea cucumber) has been known as a delicious food in several countries such as China, Japan, Corea including USA [1],[3] It is caused by teripang has the high nutrient contain with protein, fat, water, mineral, and ash content composition of 43, 2, 17, 21, and 7 %, respectively. It has been also repoted as drug which has a curative effect [4],[5].

The main source areas of teripang in Indonesia comes from Moluccas particularly Southeast Molluccas [6],[7]. Nevertheless, population and size of teripang in this Province have decreased [7],[8]. Yusron (2001) reported that the density of teripang in Morela was only about 0,09-1,03 ind m⁻², whilst Malik (2013) obtained the density of this animal only about 0,004-0,123 ind m⁻² in the same place. It indicated the more decreasing occurence of teripang during 11 years [1],[9].

This study aims to determine the ecological condition factors of teripang for management purpose. By the knowing of the teripang ecological condition, it can be made a prediction in the future about the condition of teripang culture and create a suitable and continuing management model to solve teripang culture problems.

2.1. Time and Place of Research

II. Method Of Research

This study was carried out in July to September 2013 in four places in Central Moluccas namely, Suli, Morela, Ihamahu (P. Saparua), and Pelauw (P. Haruku) desa (Figure 1).

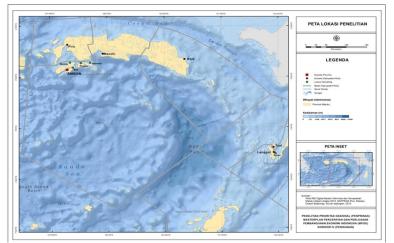


Figure 1. Location of study in Central Moluccas

2.2. Equipments and Materials of Research

Equipments and materials of research are listed in Table 1

No.	Equipment	Function		
1.	White board and Stationery writing	To write the result of observation in the field		
2.	Nylon strap	As transect strap		
3.	Roll meter	To measure transect line and observation quadrate		
4.	Float wooden and sinker	To mark the point in transet, point marker and squared		
5.	Digital camera	To take documentation of activities in the field		
6.	Plastic bag	To put sample and substrate		
7.	Refractometer	To measure sea water salinity		
8.	Thermometer	To measure waters temperature		
10.	pH meter	To measure pH		
11.	DO meter	To measure dissolved oxygen		
12.	GPS	To determine the location position		
14.	Tray and basin	To place sample		
15.	Ruler (cm)	To measure the length of teripang		
16.	Digital balance (g)	To measure the weight of teripang		

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2.3. Sample collection method

Sampling method used was a quadrate linear transect. Transect line was drawn perpendicular to the direction of the sea. Along transect line chosen were placed quadrates sizing of 10×10 m. *Teripang* species each obtained in the quadrates was counted and separately kept in plastic container containing sea water. Each teripang was then settled for ± 10 minutes and continued for measuring of length and weight. One to two of each species of teripang was taken out for being documented its dorsal and ventral tissue by using digital camera and fixated in 70 % alcohol for identification process by using method as described by Clark and Rowe (1971), Susetiono (2004 & 2007) [10],[11],[12]. Data was analyzed as described by Odum (1971},Khouw (2009), and Bakus, (2007). [13],[14],[15]. *In situ* environment parameters measured were temperature, salinity, pH, DO by using thermometer, refractometer, pH meter, and DO meter, respectively.

2.4. Data Analysis

The density of teripang species was measured by equation as followed:

Density
$$(ind/m^2) = \frac{Number of species each}{Square wide}$$

Relative density (%) = $\frac{Density of species each}{Density total of all species}$ X 100 %
Frequency of the presence (ind/m^2) $\frac{Square number of where species each obtained}{Square number total}$
Relative presence frequency (%) = $\frac{Presence frequency of species each}{Presence frequency total of all species}$ X 100 %

The other ecological parameters of teripang were counted based on Odum (1975)[16]. indexes as followed:

SHANNON-Wiener (H') species variety index to determine the variety of echinoderm was counted by equation as followed:

a.

$$H' = -\sum (pi)ln (pi)$$
b.

$$N_1 = e^{H'}$$

$$e = 2.71828$$

Equation (b) was used to determine the common species of teripang obtained.

Spesies concurrence index (e) - (EVENESS- SHANNON) to determine concurrence among echinoderm species was counted by equation as followed:

$$e = \frac{H'}{\ln S}$$

SIMPSON (D) species dominance index was counted by equation as followed:

$$D = \sum_{i=0}^{S} \frac{n_i (n_i - 1)}{N (N - 1)}$$

Note :

n_i: Number of species each at that time (ind)

- N: Number of all species (ind)
- $p_i: \qquad n_i\!/\!N$
- S: Number of sample species obtained from the observation at that time

Those ecological index value range based on Odum (1971) [13] were as followed: Shannon species variety index : H = 0 - 4

Eveness species concurrence index : e = 0 - 1Species dominance index : D = 0 - 1

Species similarity was counted by using equation as described by Bray-Curtis Similarities. Those ecological parameters were counted by using *software* Primer 6.

III. Results And Discussions

3.1. Description of location

Suli village coastal Waters has gradient topography with variation substrate namely, sandy, muddy, muddy sand, rocky to reef fracture. This study was carried out in segrass of Suli village Waters with position of $128^{0}18'04,3"-128^{0}18'24,5$ BT and $03^{0}37'36,8"-03^{0}37'45,5"$ LS.

Distance of ebbtide along of Morela village coastal Waters was around ± 200 m of the limit of highest tide until the lowest tide. Pelauw State coastal Waters has a characteristic ecosystem like tropic region such as mangrove, lamun, and coral reef. Location of study in this state was in the area of high and low tide with gradient coastal and muddy sand, sandy, craggy sand, equivalent of dead coral, and overgrown by algae community such as *Sargassum* sp. and *Laminaria* sp. and lamun community of komunitas such as *Enhalus acoroides*, *Cymodocea rotundata* and *Halodule pinifolia*.

Ihamahu State coastal Waters has three tropic main ecosystems namely, mangrove, seagrass with seven species of sea grass such as *Enhalus acoroides, Thalassia hemprichii, Cymodocea rotundata, Cymodocea serrulata, Halophila minor, Halodule uninervis* and *Syringodium isoetifolium* nevertheless, there were dominated by *Thalassia hemprichii* and *Cymodocea serrulata*) as well as coral reef species.

Quality Parameters of Environment Physical and Chemical

Teripang in location of study had variety substrates namely, sandy, muddy, rocky, craggy and craggy sandcastle, seagrass sand, and muddy sand. These substrate varieties had the correlation to the presence of particularly teripang species. Teripang could be found in habitat with sandy bottoms covered parts of the reef *sea grass*. Several species of teripang could be obtained in the habitat with many coral ridges (*boulders*) and around life reef group [17].

Temperature obtained during the study was range from 24 to 30 °C. This temperature was suitable for the growth of teripang. The optimum temperature for the growth of teripang is $20-25^{\circ}$ C (Gultom, 2004), $24 - 30^{\circ}$ C (Martoyo *et al.*, 1994), and $28-31^{\circ}$ C. Yusron and Widianwari (2004). Meanwhile, salinity was range from 20 to 35 psu. Sukmiwati *et al.*, 2012) reported that the normal salinity for the growth of teripang is range from 30-34 PSU, nevertheless several species of teripang can grow at the salinity of 21 PSU. [18], [19], [20] [21].

In addition, pH and dissolved oxygen (DO) observed during this experiment were range from 7.34 to 7.95 and 5.64-6.53 mg/L, respectively. According to Direktorat Konservasi and Tanaman Nasional Laut (2004) and KepMen Lingkungan Hidup no 51/2004, pH and DO which are suitable for the growth of teripang are 6,6–8,5 and 6.0-8,0 mg/L, respectively [22],[23].

3.2. Species Composition

Species composition obtained in Central Moluccas is listed in Table 2. In the four study locations were found 22 species of teripang consisted 2 ordo (Actinopyga and Apodida), 3 family (Holothuriidae, Stichopodidae and Synaptidae), and 8 genus (*Actinopyga, Bohadschia, Holothuria, Thelenota, Stichopus, Opheodosoma, Euapta* and *Synapta*) (Table 2).

In Takofi State Waters, North Moluccas was obtained 8 teripang spesies [24]. Compared to North Moluccas, Central Moluccas has a higher teripang species. Teripang found could be grouped in 3 categories based on their economical value. The great category, having the highest economical value is *Holothuria atra*, *H. scabra* and *H. edulis*. Meanwhile, spesies with the moderate category having the mild economical value are *Actinopyga echinites* and *A. mauritiana* and the others were included in the low category with the cheaper economical value. There are also species that have not been used such as species from Synaptidae family well known as "tali kain" in Moluccas.

Ordo	Family	Genus	Species
Aspidochirotida	Holothuriidae	Actinopyga	A. echinites
-			A. mauritiana
		Bohadschia	B. argus
			B. marmorata
			B. similis
			B. graffei
			B. tenuissima
			B. vitiensis
		Holothuria	H. atra
			H. edulis
			H. scabra
			H. rigida
			H. leucospilota
			H. hilla
	Stichopodiidae	Thelenota	T. anax
		Stichopus	S. vastus
Apodida	Synaptidae	Opheodesoma	O. clarki
			O. grisea
			O. glabra
		Synapta	S. maculata
			S. reticulate
		Euapta	E. godefroyii

3.3. Density

Density of teripang in the four locations is shown in Figure 1.

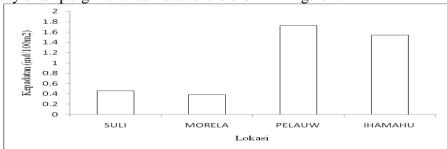


Figure 1. Density of teripang in the four locations in Central Moluccas waters

Teripang in the four locations in Central Moluccas had the variety of density. The highest teripang density in Suli, Morela, Pelauw, and Ihamalu State coastal Waters were *Bohadschia similis* reaching 0.16 ind/100m² (35.14%), *Holothuria leucospilota* reaching 0.123 ind/100m² (31.70 %), *Opheodosoma grisea* reaching 0.4516 ind/100m², and *Bohadschia similis* reaching 0.435 ind/100m² (27.94 %). Yusron (2004) obtained *H. scabra* (112 ind//100m²) as the highest teripang density in Pai Padaido Waters [1].

The presence of the highest teripang density variety was suspected to be caused by their ability to well adapt to the substrates in each location. *Bohadschia similis* was obtained to well grow on sandy substrate, sandy coral, muddy sand, and dead coral ridge in *Sea grass* ecosystem. Whilst, muddy sand and seagrass substrate were

habitats in which *H. leucosiplota* was well grown. Another species of teripang, *Opheodosoma grisea*, well adapt to sandy substrate grown by *Sea grass*.

According to Agusta *et al.*,(2012), substrate type which is dominated by rough sand has a special character giving an effect on eat habitual of teripang. It is due to the rich organic material of sandy bottom substrate. Sandy substrate contains the higher relative oxygen than the softer substrate. Rough sandy substrate consists of air pore which may cause the occurrence of more intensive water mixture. The teripang eat habitual is also effected by physical factors such as ebbtide, current and biological factors as well as ecological factors such as food supply and the ability of teripang to adapt and competing in the occupied habitat which are suitable for the teripang species [24], [25].

3.4. Presence Frequency and Distribution

Presence frequency and distribution of teripang are shown in Table 3.

Table 3. Presence frequency (%) and distribution pattern of teripang in Central Moluccas

No.	Spesies	Suli	Morela	Pelauw	Ihamahu	Distribution pattern
1.	Actinopyga mauritiana	1.92	-	-	-	-
2.	Bohadschia marmorata	1.92	2.941	5.52	23.17	Random, Group
3.	B. similis	30.79	-	0.92	17.48	Similar, Group
4.	Holothuria rigida	1.92	-	-	-	-
5.	H. atra	7.70	17.647	18.89	25.20	Group
6.	H. leucospilota	28.87	23.529	4.60	-	Group
7.	H. scabra	13.47	-	4.14	9.35	Group
8.	H. hilla	13.47	-	-	-	-
9.	B. argus	-	14.706	-	1.22	Similar
10.	B. graeffei		8.824	-	-	Similar
11.	Thelenota anax	-	14.706	-	-	Group
12.	H. edulis	-	14.706	-	8.94	Group
13	Euapta godeffroyi	-	2.941	-	-	Random
14.	A. echinites	-	-	1.38	2.03	Similar
15.	B. tenuissima	-	-	11.98	-	Group
16.	B. vitiensis	-	-	3.68	-	Kelompok
17.	Stichopus vastus	-	-	0.92	-	Similar
18	Opheodosoma grisea	-	-	25.80	5.69	Group
19.	O. glabra	-	-	22.11	-	Group
20.	O. clarki	-	-	-	2.85	Group
21.	Synapta maculate	-	-	-	2.44	Similar
22.	S. reticulate	-	-	-	1.63	Similar

Table 3 showed that presence frequency and distribution of teripang exhibited a difference in each location depending on suitable habitat. The highest presence frequency of teripang ranged from 0.92 to 30.79 % (Table 3). The highest presence frequency of teripang was *B. similis* (30.79%) followed by *H. leucospilota* (28.87%), *Opheodosoma grisea* (25.80%) and *H. atra* (25.20%). The other teripang species had presence frequency less than 25.20%. *B. similis* was found on pasir substrate and had an associate with overgrown *Sea grass* in Suli State Waters. As reported by Purwati (2005) that *B. similis* was found on sandy substrate which was grown by Sea grass. On the died reef substrate in Suli, it was obtained only one species of teripang namely *A. mauritiana* and the only one teripang species namely *H. rigida* was found on sandy substrate which was grown by *Sea grass* in the same State. The similar study was also reported by Aziz (1996) who investigated that *A. mauritiana* more grew on caloran of coral reef whilst, *H. rigida* dipped itself in *Sea grass* area [3],[26]

Distribution pattern of organisms in nature is divided by three main categories namely; similar, group and random [15]. Table 3 displayed that species of teripang found indicated these three distribution patterns. Each teripang species showed the different distribution pattern except *Bohadschia marmorata* (random & group) and *B. similis* (similar & group).

According to Bakus (1973), distribution pattern of teripang was different depending on kind and habitual of teripang itself. Naturally, teripang group grows for example *Holothuria scabra* commonly grows along with 3-5 individues. [27],[28]. The similar distribution pattern of teripang only occurs if there is the presence of competition among individues in the very hard community or the existence of positive difference causing the increasing of division of spaces in the community. In turn, group distribution pattern is the most common pattern and regulation on each individue. [6], [29].

3.5. Diversity

Species diversity of teripang was determined by the number spesies and individue abundance of each species. The analysis of species diversity in Central Moluccas Waters by Shannon index (H') ranged from 1.63 – 1.96 (Table 12). This value indicated the existence of low diversity. As reported by Odum (1975), criteria of Shannon index (H') are 0 - 4. If Shannon index is less than 2 it shows the low species diversity in turn, if that reaches 4 it exhibits the high species diversity. In North Minahasa, teripang diversity value obtained was higher ranging from 2.31 to 2.49 [16], [25].

The highest species diversity value was found in Pelauw State Waters and the lowest species diversity was obtained in Ihamahu State Waters. It was proved by the higher number species and species abundance obtained in Pelauw State Waters than in other States.

Indeks keserasian (e) spesies in each location was found to be in stable condition. It showed there was no competition among species. According to Magurran (1991), index criteria of concurence showing the stabil condition was if concurence index ranges from 0 to 1. It indicates that the individue abundance among species is almost similar [30].

Species dominance index (D) in each location showed that there has not been the occurence of species dominance eventhough, there have been several species showing the high individue number. It was supported by Odum (1971) who reported that domonance index criteria (D) ranges from yang 0 to 1. If dominance index similar to 0 there has been no the presence of species dominance and if dominance index almost 1 it can be said that it occured species dominance in the community. Species number having the highest individue number in each location can be seen of the N1 value [13].

The occurence of environment pressure level increasing in the community has commonly the effect in the decreasing existence of species variety (H') and concurence (e) and the increasing presence of species dominance. If there is the change of species variety and concurence it will affect on species dominance.[31]

Parameter	Suli	Morela	Pelauw	Ihamahu
S	8	8	11	10
Ν	74	88	390	404
Η'	1.63	1.69	1.96	1.85
D	0.23	0.21	0.17	0.19
1-D	0.77	0.79	0.83	0.80
e'	0.78	0.81	0.82	0.80
N1	5.07	5.41	7.07	6.34

Table 4. Ecological parameter value based on species abundance in Weda Island Waters

Note: S - Spesies number, N - individue number, H' - Shannon index, D -

Dominance index, Simpson - 1-D diversity index, e' – Evenness index, N1 – Hill dominance index

Species Similarity

The presence of teripang species in each location depended on the condition of location phisical with species similarity among locations reach16.40% and range from 17.07%-35.80%. It showed the existence of the high species difference level namely 83.60% (Figure 2).

Figure 2 showed the existence of two groups of teripang based on the location namely; group 1 Suli-Morela and group 2 Pelauw-Ihamahu. Suli & Morela State Waters had the similar species number of 8 species in which three of them could be found in two lacations namely; *Bohadschia marmorata*, *Holothuria. atra* and *H. leucospilota*. Although Pelauw State Waters had the less higher species number (11 species) than Ihamahu state Waters (10 spesies) There were found six teripang species in the two locations namely; *Bohadschia marmorata*, *B. similis*, *H. atra*, *H. scabra*, *Actinopyga echinites*, and *Opheodosoma grisea*.

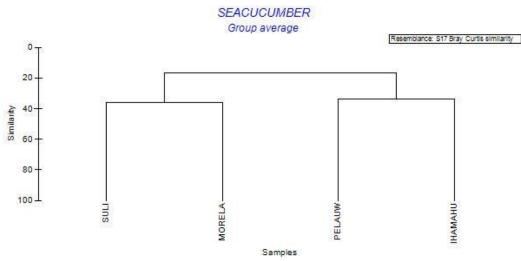


Figure 2. Species similarity of teripang among four locations in Central Moluccas

The highest species similarity was found to be occurred in Suli-Morela State Waters (35.80%), followed by Pelauw-Ihamahu, Pelauw-Morela, Ihamahu-Morela, Suli-Ihamahu, and the lowest was obtained in Pelauw-Suli State Waters (Table 5). It indicated the presence of high teripang species difference among locations in which only special species could be found in the four locations.

Table 5. Similarity value (%) of teripang species in the four locations in central Moluccas

	SULI	MORELA	PELAUW	IHAMAHU
SULI				
MORELA	35.80247			
PELAUW	14.22414	17.57322		
IHAMAHU	16.7364	17.07317	33.50126	

IV. Conclusion And Suggestion

This study showed that the relative chemical physical parameters were suitable for the growth of teripang species. There were 22 species of teripang which were found in Central Moluccas. Three species of them have the high economical value and two species have the moderate economical value. Species density and presence frequence of teripang species in each location were different depended on local ecological condition. In general, species density of teripang was obtained to be in low category. Distribution pattern of teripang species found was group, similar and random. Diversity of teripang species in Central Moluccas was in low category. The low category was also shown by species similarity among locations.

Therefore, it is suggested to study about ecological (waters quality, habitat and resource condition), economical social (local wisdom) and institutional aspects.

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