

The Living Fossil (Horseshoe crab)

Kamaruzzaman Yunus

Akbar John

Ahmed Jalal Khan Chowdhury

Zaleha Kassim



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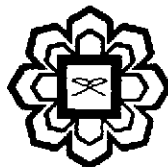
Editors,

Kamaruzzaman Yunus

Akbar John

Ahmed Jalal Khan Chowdhury

Zaleha Kassim



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CHAPTER -5

Hydrology of horseshoe crab nesting ground at Pahang coast –Part 1

Jalal, K.C.A., Akbar John, B.

*Institute of Oceanography and Maritime studies (INOCEM), Kulliyah of Science,
International Islamic University Malaysia, Jalan Sultan Ahmad Shah,
Bandar Indera Mahkota, 25200, Kuantan Pahang, Malaysia*

Abstract

We investigated the selected physicochemical parameters of the surface waters of the horseshoe crab nesting grounds at Balok and Pekan coast, Pahang, Malaysia. A complete year data from March 2010 to February 2011 was collected using advanced multiparameter meter model Hanna HI 9828 probe. The surface water temperature varied from 29.06^oC - 19.36^oC at Balok and 29.1^oC – 15.08^oC at Pekan station with mean annual temperature of 24.08±2.91^oC at Balok and 22.97±3.26^oC at Pekan. Surface water salinity varied from 30.11ppt – 2.09ppt at Balok and 33.45ppt – 3.38ppt at Pekan station with mean annual salinity of 17.9±10.63ppt at Balok and 20.5±10.04ppt at Pekan coastal waters. Physicochemical parameters showed apparent seasonal fluctuation in the salinity of the surface water was observed in both the sampling stations ($P < 0.05$) while other parameter (water temperature) did not vary significantly

Key words: Physicochemical parameters, Salinity, Temperature and horseshoe crab nesting ground.

Introduction

In recent years, there has been much emphasis on better understanding the physiochemical parameters of coastal marine waters especially variability that effect the basic biology, physiology and ecology of many benthic and pelagic organisms. In this respect, coastal environments are one of the most productive areas in the world that point out the necessity of having a proper knowledge regarding their benthic productivity and the environmental parameters influencing their subsistence. Several studies have been addressed on the influence of