

BASIC KNOWLEDGE IN MARINE SCIENCES

Edited by

Normawaty Mohammd-Noor



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Shahbudin Saad

Institute of Oceanography and Maritime Studies, Kulliyah of Science, International Islamic University Malaysia, Jalan Sultan Ahmad Shah, Bandar Indera Mahkota, 25200 Kuantan

Introduction

Increased sedimentation has been identified as a stressor known to negatively influence coral at the polyp and colony level and as a factor controlling morphology and local distribution pattern of the reefs, (Jordan *et al.*, 2009). Suspended sediment leads to blocking of light, smothering of the coral mucus surface and increased risk of disease. Sedimentation rate on a reef is a highly important variable in studies of coral reef. Researches on sedimentation rate are often done by deployment of sediment traps, containers positioned vertically with an open top and capped base. The sediment traps used in this study were constructed of steel reinforcing rods, which hold three designated PVC containers with collection bottles inside approximately 50cm above the substrate. According to Storlazzi *et al.* (2009), sediment traps are now widely used as a standard method for monitoring sedimentation in coral reef environments. These sediment traps will remain submerged for certain period of time before they are removed and the sediment collected in the containers are dried and weighted as a quantifiable measurement of sedimentation on the reef (Morelock *et al.*, 2001).

Methodology

List of Equipment/Apparatus

- i. SCUBA equipment
- ii. Boat with outboard motors and safety equipment
- iii. Sediment trap
- iv. Hammer