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Research paper

The Evaluation of Dissolved Oxygen (DO), Total Suspended Solids (TSS) and Suspended Sediment Concentration (SSC) in Terengganu River, Malaysia

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Abstract

Terengganu River Basin is situated in the north eastern coastal region of Peninsular Malaysia. 29 sampling stations were selected. The water quality parameters were measured such as Dissolved Oxygen (DO), Total Suspended Solids (TSS) and Suspended Sediment Concentration (SSC). Results showed that the range of DO (2.11 mg/L – 8.07 mg/L), TSS (0.4 mg/L – 128.2 mg/L) and SSC (0.07 mg/L – 25.6 mg/L). The distribution of land use and land cover activities effected to the level of water quality in watersheds. The analyses of variance (ANOVA) was applied and provide a better understanding for the complex relationships among water quality parameters. Graphical data helps a better view of the overall analysis to appoint sources of pollutants to their effect. Terengganu River Basin is a shallow and has a sensitive ecosystem that responds to the land use changes and development activities of its surroundings. Water quality analysis showed that TSS and SSC were higher in the dry season but DO were higher in the wet season. Overall, the water in the Terengganu River Basin classified slightly contaminated especially the main sources of pollutants were possibly waste products and waste from development activities such as sand mining, farming, residential and agricultural.

Keywords: *Terengganu River Basin; Water Quality; Dissolve Oxygen (DO); Total Suspended Solid (TSS); Suspended Sediment Concentration (SSC).*

1. Introduction

A river is a natural flowing towards an ocean, sea, lake or another river. The river flows into the ground and becomes dry at the end of its course without reaching another body of water. Water plays an essential role in human life and environmental. Water is often used for domestic purposes especially for drinking. Water for different purposes has its own requirements for the composition and purity and each body of water has to be analyzed on a regular basis to confirm the suitability and sustainability. Water is the most important for sustaining life and resource in all economic activities associated with agriculture, industry and urbanization. Water pollution is a phenomenon that is characterized by the deterioration of its quality as a result of various human activities, land use distribution and climate changes [1–4]. The type of water contamination is directly related to anthropogenic practices and non-point or point source, which can be quantified in terms of the population density and land use type in the watershed [21, 22]. The study includes three methods that were used in this research including Dissolved Oxygen (DO), Total Suspended Solid (TSS) and Sediment Suspended Concentration (SSC). Therefore, the objectives were to determine and classify Water Quality Index (WQI) based on connection between TSS, SSC and DO at the monitoring stations along the Terengganu River Basin. DO is a measure of the amount of oxygen freely available in water and it is commonly expressed as a concentration in terms of mg/L. DO refer to the level of free, non-compound oxygen present in water or other liquids. It is an important parameter in assessing water quality because its influence on the organisms living within a body of water. TSS are solids in water that can be trapped by a filter. It is both a significant part of physical and aesthetic degradation and a good indicator of other pollutants, particularly nutrients and metals that are carried on the surfaces of sediment in suspension. TSS can include a wide variety of material, such as silt, decaying plant and animal matter, industrial wastes, and sewage. High concentrations of suspended solids can cause many problems for stream health and aquatic life. SSC is generally transported within and at the same velocity as the surrounding fluid (water or wind). SSC data are produced by measuring the dry weight of all the sediment from a known volume of a water-sediment mixture. The problem of this research is address the issue of the validation of relationship between the quantitatively the water quality in rivers and physical-ecological interactions between the ecological variables. This study to develop a simple estimation tool for outlining oxygen demand parameter of concern in the Terengganu River which are to determine the concentration levels of DO level on the oxygen budget from oxygen demand parameters, TSS and SSC concentration level. Secondly to utilize a correlation and simple linear regression equation model to estimate the extent of depletion and delineate the parameter of concern. The result of this model may provide for a short term estimation purposes [5-8].

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2. Study Area

The length and the catchment area of Terengganu River are 70 km and 356 km^2, respectively. The Terengganu river watershed consist of urban, semi-urban, and natural areas depending in the percent of land use such as forest, commercial, communication, residential, sand mining, urbanization, agriculture, farming and other purposes. Terengganu River is a major river that caused to serious flood each year especially rainfall season starting the early of November and ends in March (Malaysian Meteorological Department, MOSTI). Sampling was undertaken along Terengganu River Basin, which represents from water quality level from downstream, upstream and middle-stream. With the variations of the local monsoon climate, Terengganu River receives variable level of rainfall, which is from 0 to 1750 mm in dry and wet months respectively and Terengganu state receives huge amount of rain water and the river overspills its bank to create the annual flood event [9]. It is the one of the basins undergoing considerable development and urbanization and is does subjected to pollution from point and non-point sources. From the observation, the situation in Terengganu River Basin indeed in critical and there is a needed for a comprehensive study in order to manipulate the level of the water quality for environmental sustainable management. This study involves 29 main sampling stations that has been determined using DGPS which located around the catchment representing the length of the Terengganu River (upstream to downstream areas) (Table 1 and Figure 1). The research was performed on wet season (January 2016) and dry season (July 2016). The population density is concentrated at the towns of Kuala Terengganu (from Station 1 until Station 6) and Kuala Berang (Station 11). The water samples were collected from 29 sampling station for Dry season and Wet season based on TSS, SSC and DO.

Table 1: Location of Sampling Station at the Terengganu River, Terengganu, Malaysia

Sampling Stations	Latitude	Longitude
Station 1	103° 8'21.92"E	5°20'23.93"N
Station 2	103° 6'20.14"E	5°19'26.55"N
Station 3	103° 5'56.80"E	5°19'40.59"N
Station 4	103° 5'12.22"E	5°18'48.53"N
Station 5	103° 5'12.42"E	5°18'32.74"N
Station 6	103° 5'50.67"E	5°17'7.75"N
Station 7	103° 3'3.64"E	5°16'14.99"N
Station 8	103° 1'32.70"E	5°13'9.00"N
Station 9	103° 1'40.09"E	5°12'42.04"N
Station 10	103° 2'9.46"E	5° 7'37.61"N
Station 11	103° 0'31.30"E	5° 4'8.14"N
Station 12	102°58'43.16"E	5° 3'22.80"N
Station 13	102°57'58.26"E	5° 4'39.67"N
Station 14	102°56'41.24"E	5° 4'37.96"N
Station 15	102°56'10.96"E	5° 3'48.46"N
Station 16	102°55'46.47"E	5° 2'26.86"N
Station 17	102°55'37.24"E	5° 1'55.10"N
Station 18	102°56'28.08"E	5° 3'54.70"N
Station 19	102°57'4.74"E	5° 4'37.88"N
Station 20	102°58'16.48"E	5° 3'43.35"N
Station 21	103° 0'8.50"E	5° 4'8.88"N
Station 22	103° 0'25.47"E	5° 4'31.96"N
Station 23	103° 2'21.33"E	5° 8'2.35"N
Station 24	103° 2'35.85"E	5°11'2.74"N
Station 25	103° 1'50.56"E	5°12'36.82"N
Station 26	103° 2'21.83"E	5°13'26.72"N
Station 27	103° 4'38.05"E	5°16'37.05"N
Station 28	103° 5'29.09"E	5°17'37.90"N
Station 29	103° 5'27.17"E	5°18'57.56"N

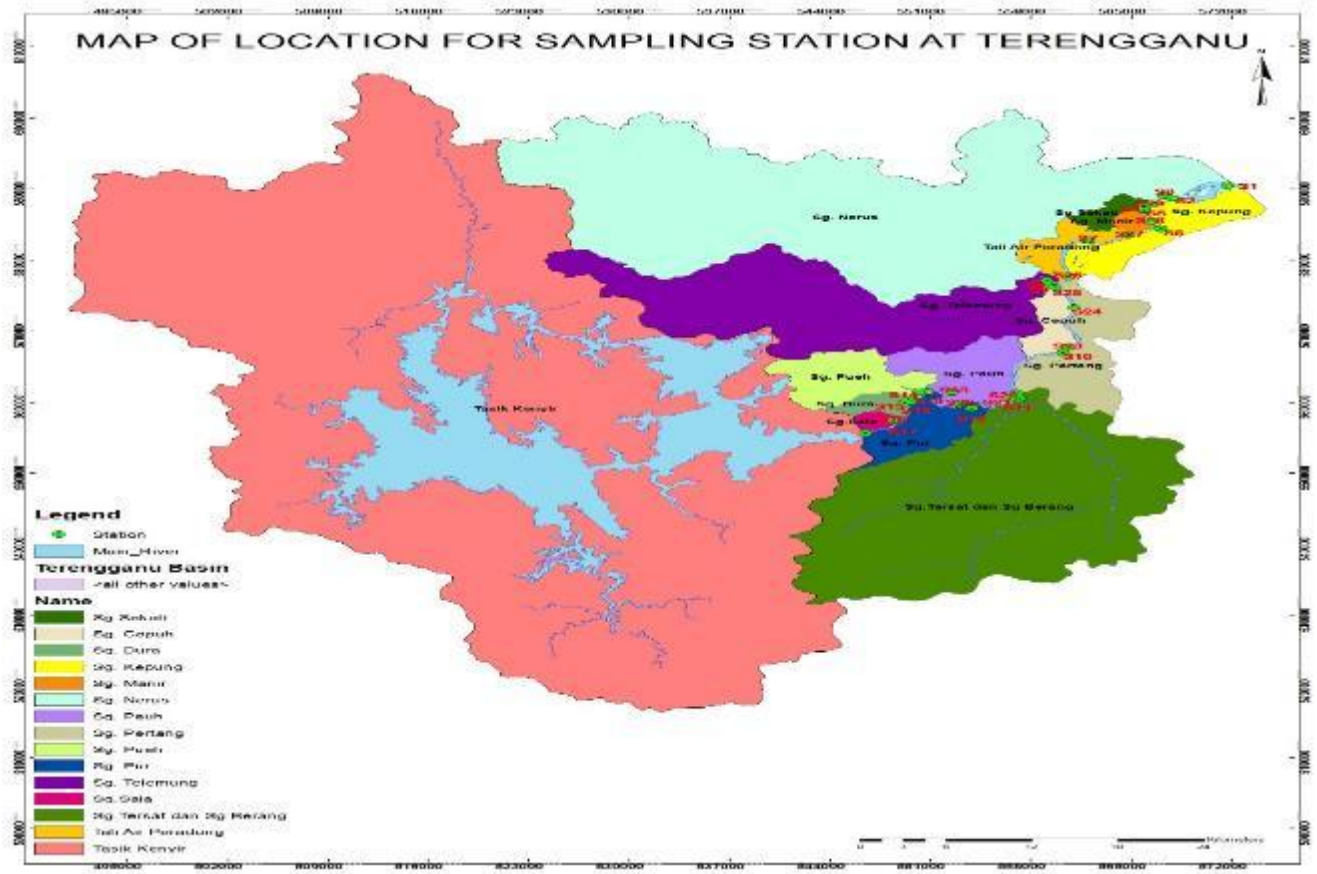


Fig. 1: The Location of Sampling Stations at the Terengganu River, Terengganu, Malaysia

3. Methodology

All the parameters which comprised of DO (mg/l), TSS (mg/l) and SSC (mg/L) were analyzed in accordance to the American Public Health and Association (APHA) standard methods for water and wastewater. The measurements of in situ parameters were DO (mg/L), determined by using the water-quality Multiprobe Model DO meter YSI 58. This multiprobe meter was calibrated before field sampling. TSS and SSC following the procedure outlined by the Gravimetric method 250 ml water sample was needed for each study area was performed by weighing the membrane filter paper 0.45µm (Figure 2). TSS and SSC is measured based on (Equation (1)). Precisely precaution steps should be taken when the river water sample were taken. Interference of the river water flow should be minimum to avoid deposition of the measured suspended sediment [2, 7, 10, 11].

$$\text{TSS/SSC} = \{(\text{WBF} + \text{DR}) - \text{WBF}\}\ (\text{mg}) \times 1000 / \text{VFW}\ (\text{mL}) = \text{mg/L} \quad (1)$$

*WBF = Weight of membrane filter; DR = Dry residue; VFW = Volume of filtered water



Fig. 2: (a) Water Sample (b) Membrane Filter Paper (c) Electronic Weighing (d) Filtration Apparatus Connected to a Vacuum Pump (e) Dried Membrane Filter

Analysis of variance (ANOVA) is a statistical test for detecting differences in group means when there is one parametric dependent variable and one or more independent variables. This article summarizes the fundamentals of ANOVA for an intended benefit of the clinician reader of scientific literature who does not possess expertise in statistics. The emphasis is on conceptually-based perspectives regarding the use and interpretation of ANOVA, with minimal coverage of the mathematical foundations. Computational examples are provided. Assumptions underlying ANOVA include parametric data measures, normally distributed data, similar group variances, and independence of subjects. Correlation analysis is a method of statistical evaluation used to study the strength of a relationship between two, numerically measured and continuous variables. This particular type of analysis is useful when a researcher wants to establish if there are possible connections between variables. It is often misunderstood that correlation analysis determines cause and effect; however, this is not the case because other variables that are not present in the research may have impacted on the results [7, 11, 12].

4. Results and Discussion

The concentrations of DO in unpolluted waters are usually close to, but less than, 10 mg/L. The minimum and maximum concentration of DO in Terengganu River is 2.11 mg/L (Station 3) and 8.07 mg/L (Station 11) respectively during wet season. During dry season recorded the higher DO is 6.05 mg/L (Station 19) and 2.3 mg/L (Station 17). Waste discharges higher in organic matter and nutrients can lead to decreases in DO concentrations as a result of the increased microbial activity (respiration) occurring during the degradation of the organic matter. The measurement of DO can be used to indicate the degree of pollution by organic matter in the river, the destruction of organic substances and the level of self-purification of the water. The higher concentration of TSS and SSC recorded from middle to downstream stations; Station 1 until Station 9 which are recorded the highest concentration is 67.2 mg/L (wet season) and 128.2 mg/L (dry season) at Station 7, 25.6 mg/l (Station 7) during wet season and 24.8 mg/L (Station 9) during dry season respectively were probably due to discharges of wastes from municipal and development activities. The development construction activities at the river banks near along the downstream and middle stations has probably caused the soils of the river bank to become looser and easily eroded [23]. As a result, the TSS and SSC concentration was higher along downstream and middle-stream areas. Terengganu River is situated downstream of the basin and was expected to show a high TSS and SSC concentration due to its proximity to Kuala Terengganu but a low concentration of TSS was recorded. The sediment solid can be define as the organic and inorganic materials which is moved from one place to another place through the erosion process and deposited in a new location. TSS and SSC used to identify the level of sedimentation problems in the river catchment.

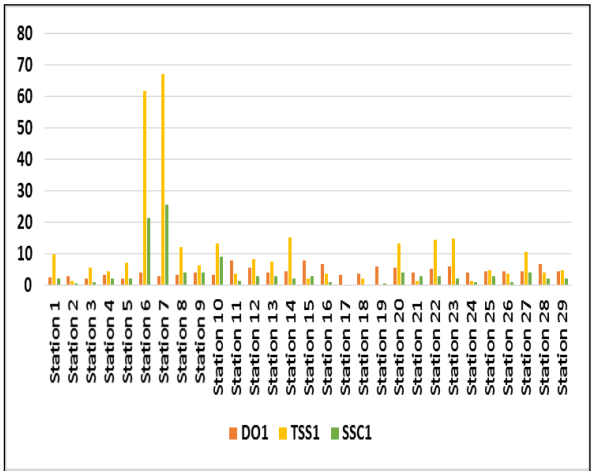


Fig. 3: The Distribution of DO, TSS and SSC at Terengganu River Basin, Terengganu during Wet Season (January 2016)

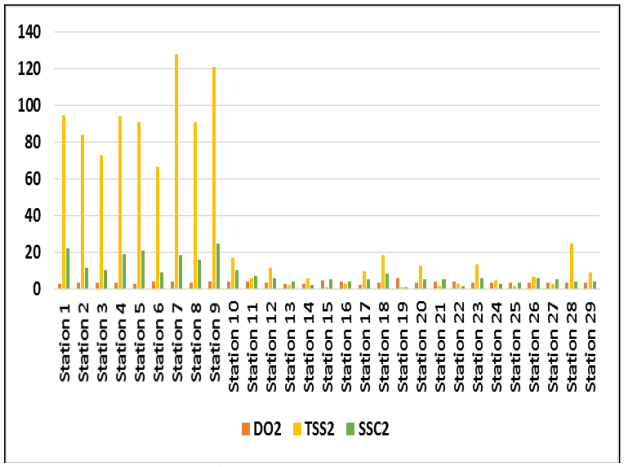


Fig. 4: The Distribution of DO, TSS and SSC at Terengganu River Basin, Terengganu during Dry Season (July 2016)

The three water quality parameter pattern due to 29 station categories are unable to be precisely distinguished, where the discriminate raw data set only recognized three significant ($p < 0.05$) water quality parameter patterns during wet season (p-*value* = 0.018007) (Table 2 and Table 3) and dry season (p-*value* =1.18E-05)) (Table 4 and Table 5). All water quality parameters show significant difference due to spatial variation ($p < 0.05$). Based on this result, as for the future sampling strategy these water quality

parameter and sampling station could be used to classify the level of water quality status. All parameters were statistical significant. The box and whisker plot of wet season and dry season (Figure 5) shows that DO, TSS and SSC were statistical significant with $p < 0.005$ in 29 stations in Terengganu River Basin. Based on box plot below, the plot trend is random plotted, which are DO, TSS and SSC showed low mean value at 29 stations in Terengganu River. The status of water quality expressed with sub water quality parameters, which concluded that all locations are still under control but the quality of water needs to improve. The main sources of pollution were defined as industries area, poultry, residential areas, recreational park, sewerage and urban areas. Urbanization and agriculture highly significantly influenced the water quality status [24, 25]. Regarding to this output we found that forested area gave the strong positive value with DO indicates the least pollution. This might be because of strict implementation of pollution control rules and regulations on water quality for industries and other commercial sectors and/or the introduction of some remedial measures taken by the Terengganu River management team and the Department of Environment (DOE) in recent past [13-16].

Table 2: Data Summary for Wet Season of ANOVA Single Factor Results of Terengganu River, Terengganu

Summary (Wet Season)				
Groups	Count	Sum	Average	Variance
DO	29	130.3	4.493103	2.455951
TSS	29	305	10.51724	245.69
SSC	29	110.47	3.80931	33.07056

Table 3: Data Summary for Wet Season of ANOVA Results of the Data at Terengganu River, Terengganu

ANOVA						
Source of Variation	SS	df	MS	F	P-value	F crit
Between Groups	790.2901	2	395.1451	4.215382	0.018007	3.105157
Within Groups	7874.064	84	93.73885			
Total	8664.354	86				

Table 4: Data Summary for Dry Season of ANOVA Single Factor Results of Terengganu River, Terengganu

Summary (Dry Season)				
Groups	Count	Sum	Average	Variance
TSS	29	996.4	34.35862	1792.544
SSC	29	244.84	8.442759	45.72244
DO	29	99.93	3.445862	0.534725

Table 5: Data Summary for Dry Season of ANOVA Results of the Data at Terengganu River, Terengganu

ANOVA						
Source of Variation	SS	df	MS	F	P-value	F crit
Between Groups	15971.26	2	7985.631	13.02854	1.18E-05	3.105157
Within Groups	51486.43	84	612.9337			
Total	67457.69	86				

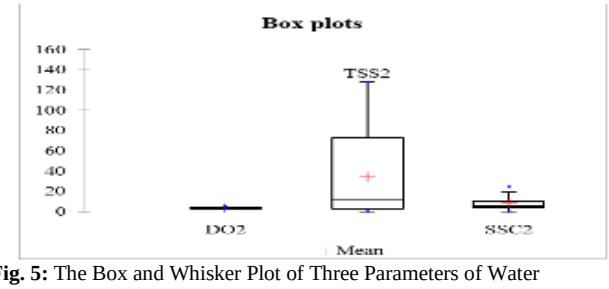


Fig. 5: The Box and Whisker Plot of Three Parameters of Water Quality Parameters during Dry Season (July 2016) in Terengganu River Basin, Terengganu, Malaysia, 2016

If correlation is found between two variables it means that when there is a systematic change in one variable, there is also a systematic change in the other; the variables alter together over a certain period of time. If there is correlation found, depending upon the numerical values measured, this can be either positive or negative. Positive correlation exists if one variable increases simultaneously with the other, i.e. the high numerical values of one variable relate to the high numerical values of the other. Negative correlation exists if one variable decreases when the other increases, i.e. the high numerical values of one variable relate to the low numerical values of the other. From the result, it shows that there is a liner relationship between two variables. We reject hypothesis null and accept hypothesis alternative. We can conclude that, DO (mg/l) and TSS and SSC shows negative linear relationship with r = -0.20565 and r = -0.20083 (wet season).

Based on the result in hypothesis testing for correlation, the researcher accepts ha (hypothesis alternative) because there is have negative relationship between DO (mg/l) and TSS and SSC. There is strength of relationship between TSS and SSC which r is equal to 0.961053 during wet season (Table 6). During dry season (July 2016), TSS and SSC shows negative linear relationship with r = -0.11694 and r = -0.1601(dry season) Based on the result in hypothesis testing for correlation, the researcher accepts ha (hypothesis alternative) because there is also have negative relationship between DO (mg/l) and TSS and SSC. There is strength of relationship between TSS and SSC, which r = 0.916995 during dry season (Table 7) [9, 17-20].

Table 6: Results of Correlation for Wet Season at Terengganu River, Terengganu, 2016

	DO	TSS	SSC
DO	1		
TSS	-0.20565	1	
SSC	-0.20083	0.961053	1

Table 7: Results of Correlation for Dry Season at Terengganu River, Terengganu, 2016

	TSS	SSC	DO
TSS	1		
SSC	0.916995	1	
DO	-0.11694	-0.1601	1

5. Conclusion

Water quality status in Terengganu River values were increasing in flow direction of the river (upstream to downstream). Terengganu River Basin is a shallow and small river which has a sensitive ecosystem that responds to the land use changes and activities of its surroundings and climate changes. Water quality analysis showed that SSC and TSS were higher in the both season but Terengganu River is still characterized as good water quality except for some physical characteristics that fluctuate as a result of natural annual season changes. Although the river is used for various water-based activities, it still receives higher water quality status can be considered as good water quality to excellent water quality. The law enforcement is expected to be carried out especially to illegal land use activists around Terengganu River Basin to preserve and conserve this priceless treasure. Terengganu River is a major river in the state that is directly connected to Kenyir Lake in Hulu Terengganu, if without control of the strategic will be disrupt the river ecosystem in the long term and it will give a negative impact on the environment, economics and society. The increasing the suspended solid could lead to increase the turbidity and the odours and colour of water.

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