

Distribution of Fish Species in Relation to Water Quality Conditions in Bengawan Solo River, Central Java, Indonesia

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Original Research

Distribution of Fish Species in Relation to Water Quality Conditions in Bengawan Solo River, Central Java, Indonesia

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Abstract

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Bengawan Solo River is heavily modified into reservoirs and dams. Starting from Karanganyar to Sragen District, mass fish deaths happen up to 3-4 times a year due to organic matter pollution. The research was conducted to determine water quality during the rainy season (April 2020) and the dry season (August 2020). Samplings were carried out in three zones: the upstream zone (I) in Sukoharjo District, Central Java; the middle zone (II) in the Solo City, Karanganyar, and Sragen District, Central Java; and the downstream zone (III) in Ngawi and Bojonegoro District, East Java. Results showed that the waters of Bengawan Solo in zone I were not affected by waste. After reaching zone II, there was a heavy pollution effect. In zone III, the water quality has returned to normal levels (recovery). The fish species in zone I were dominated by exotic fish such as Nila (*Oreochromis niloticus*) and Jambal Sius (*Pangasianodon hypothalamus*). The fish species in zone II was dominated by Sapu sapu (*Pterygoplichthys pardalis*). In zone III were dominated by native fish species such as Jendil (*Pangasius polyuranodon*), Seren (*Cyclocheilichthys enoplos*), Bendol (*Barbichthys laevis*), Wader (*Rasbora* spp.), Keting (*Barbonymus gonionotus*), Daringan (*Mystus microcanthus*), and Tagih (*Hemibagrus nemurus*).

Keywords: water quality, pollution, fish distribution, recovering, river

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fish (*Channa striata*), Lele (*Clarias* spp.), and Mujair (*Oreochromis mossambicus*). Mujair is an escaped fish from farming in ponds. Based on the sampling results from fishers at the observation station of Tenggak Village and Cemeng Village, Sragen District, the dominant fish species is Sailfin Catfish (*Pterygoplichthys pardalis*). At certain times, many fish get intoxicated due to contamination, namely Tawes (*Barbodes gonionotus*), Daringan (*Mystus nigriceps*), and Tagih (*Hemibagrus nemurus*).

Sailfin Catfish are mostly found in the middle zone (zone II) because this area is heavily polluted. This fish species lives in waters that contain a high organic matter load. Hence, Sailfin Catfish is a bioindicator of waters that are contaminated with organic matter. If the river has lots of Sailfin Catfish, is an indication that the waters are heavily polluted by organic matter [58]. Incidentally 3-4 times a month in Karanganyar District to Sragen District, many fish die massively due to waste disposal which is suspected to be from the alcohol industry in Bison Village, Karanganyar District. In this incident by the local community called “pladu”, a lot of intoxicated fish, floating on the surface are very easy for fishers to catch with the scoop-net fishing gear. Species of fish caught during “pladu” are those that are sensitive to pollution such as Tawes (*Barbodes*), Nilem (*Osteochilus*), Bader (*Cyclocheilichthys*), Wader (*Mystacoleucus*), etc. There are indications that the Bengawan Solo River in Sragen Regency and its surroundings is heavily polluted, there are many Sailfin Catfish [50].

In the downstream zone (zone III) there are 33 types of fish. At the observation station of Kabalan Village, Bojonegoro District, East Java, many native fish species have important economic value, namely Wagal (*Pangasius polyuranodon*), Tawes (*Barbodes gonionotus*), Tagih (*Hemibagrus nemurus*), Jambal (*Pangasius djambal*), Lumbet (*Cryptopterus* sp.), Lemper (*Notopterus notopterus*), Bendol (*Barbichthys laevis*), Seren (*Cyclocheilichthys* sp.), Betutu

(*Oxyeleotris marmorata*), Kutuk (*Channa striata*), Sepat (*Trichogaster trichopterus*), Sili (*Macragnathus aculeatus*), Bader (*Cyclocheilichthys enoplos*), Keting (*Barbonymus gonionotus*), and Daringan (*Mystus microcanthus*). Native fish species have dominated in zone III because the water quality has recovered, large fish species such as Jambal (*Pangasianodon hypophthalmus*) and Tagih (*Hemibagrus nemurus*) are found in the deep part of the river especially during the dry season. Downstream (zone III) has the highest fish diversity compared to either the middle part of the river (zone II) or the upstream part of the river (zone I). This result was in agreement to an earlier study on fish diversity in the Brantas River, East Java, where it is said that the diversity of fish in the upstream (Karangkates Reservoir) is lower than the downstream (Surabaya River) which has a very high diversity value [59]. Bengawan Solo River’s fish biodiversity is affected by the fluctuation of fish resources. According to result of research by Liu et al. [60], fish resources have a direct impact on fish biodiversity, the sustainable development of freshwater fisheries, and the health of ecological environments in the entire Yangtze River basin, China.

Fish Catch Composition

The fish catch composition of each location shows varying results because each location has different water quality and each fish species will have a different response to water quality [61]. Fish catch data from fishers in the upstream zone (zone I) on Bendung Colo Village, Sukoharjo District during the rainy season was the catch of 3.1 Kg/day/person consists of Cyprinidae 1.6 Kg, Snakehead = 0.6 Kg, Cichlids = 0.9 Kg (Table 5), while during the dry season the catch 2.14 Kg/day/person consisting of Cyprinidae 1.64 Kg, Catfish 0.39 Kg, Snakehead 0.06 Kg, Cichlids 0.05 Kg (Table 6). Fish catch composition in zone I are dominated by Cyprinidae, an indication that the water quality in zone I is still good, not much polluted.

Table 5. The Fish Catch Data in Some Location of Bengawan Solo River in Rainy Season.

Location	Catch Data of Fishes (Kg)					Total (Kg)
	Cyprinidae	Catfish	Snakehead	Cichlids	Sailfin Catfish	
1. Zone I						
•Bendung Colo	1.6	0	0.6	0.9	0	3.12
2. Zone II						
•Kampung sewu	0.8	0	0.7	0.8	2.2	4.5
•Bison	0	0	0	0	4.8	4.8
•Tenggak	0.6	0	0	0	2.6	3.2
3. Zone III						
•Ngawi	2.4	2.1	0.8	0.9	0.3	6.5
•Kanor	2.8	3.8	0	1.2	0	8

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