

# Relationship between Lead (Pb) in Sediment, Seaweed and Brackish Water Ponds in Tegal City

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(Received 30 November, 2020; Accepted 31 December, 2020)

## ABSTRACT

Pb pollution caused by industrial and domestic waste is harmful to coastal areas, including ponds. In the present study, Pb concentration was measured from eight seaweed ponds. This study analyzed the relationship between Pb and water quality parameters in seaweed (*Gracilaria verrucosa*) ponds. Pb concentration in the pond water ranged from undetected to 0.025 mg l<sup>-1</sup>, Pb concentration in sediment ranged from 6,377 to 23,699 mg l<sup>-1</sup>, and that in seaweed ranged from Pb 0,028 to 3,240 mg l<sup>-1</sup>. Regression equation for relationship between Pb in water and Pb in sediment was  $Z = Pb Z = 13,702-207X$ ,  $R = 0,408$ ,  $R^2 = 0,167$ , The equation for relation between Pb in water and Pb in seaweed was  $Y = 0,006 + 44,833X$ ,  $R = 0,346$ ,  $R^2 = 0,120$ , and the relation between Pb in sediment and Pb in sediment and Pb in seaweed was  $Y = 1,759-0,117Z$ ,  $R = 0,453$ ,  $R^2 = 0,211$ . Pb concentration of the ponds water was below the quality standard determined by the Indonesian Ministry of Environment. Following PCA analysis, it was concluded that the Pb concentration in seaweed ponds was affected by pH (66.44%), salinity (23.34%), and nitrite (10.22%).

**Key words :** Relationship, Pb, *Gracilaria verrucosa*, Water quality, Pond

## Introduction

*Gracilaria verrucosa* is a potential commodity due to its easy production technique, relatively low risk of harvest failure, and high productivity, and high selling price. Seaweed farming can create significant economic multiplier effects since it absorbs many employments (Dahuri, 2011). Seaweed is a source of food that be directly consumed, or be used as animal feed, fertilizer, biogas, beauty, and pharmacy products (Valderrama *et al.*, 2013).

Pb is one of the toxic and hazardous heavy metals (Darmono, 2006). Heavy metals that contaminate pond water and sediment may be accumulated in biota and affect its growth starting at the organism

level until community, and even ecosystem level. Responses that occur in an aquatic ecosystem include bioconcentration, bioaccumulation, and biomagnification (Puspitasari, 2007). Heavy metal pollution that ecological damages the aquatic ecosystem by heavy metal pollution that ecologically damages the aquatic ecosystem is determined by pollutant's level and continuity, bioaccumulation, and toxicity (Ambariyanto, 2011).

Seaweed can act as biofilter (Komarawidjaya, 2005), which efficiently absorb nitrogen (Matos *et al.*, 2006), ammonia (Shimmoda *et al.*, 2006), phosphate (Komarawidjaya, 2008), and as biosorbent (Ata *et al.*, 2012; Raya and Romlah, 2012) and bioremediation agents (Ihsan *et al.*, 2015). Pb content in water can be

minimized by using seaweed *G. verrucosa* (Handhani *et al.*, 2017; Yulianto *et al.*, 2018). Previous studies showed that *G. verrucosa* can be used to improve water quality. Therefore, the present study aimed to find out the relationship between Pb pollution and pond's environmental parameter using regression analysis and PCA.

## Materials and Methods

The present study was conducted from April to May 2015 in eight *G. verrucosa* ponds in Muarareja, Tegal city, Indonesia (Figure 1).

*G. verrucosa* ponds were located in Kemiri river that disembogues to Java sea. Kemiri river is a river located in the Tegal city downstream, which receives wastes from the upstream and its surroundings due to industrial, agricultural, farming, and residential activities.

### Sample collection.

The sample of the study was water, sediment, and seaweed *G. verrucosa*. This exploratory study employed purposive sampling technique. In situ measurement was carried out to measure the water temperature, pH, and Salinity. Meanwhile, ex-situ measurement was conducted in the Faculty of Fisheries and Marine Science Laboratory of Pancasakti University, Tegal, to measure the nitrate. Pb concentration in water, sediment, and seaweed was measured

in Land Resource Laboratory of Faculty of Agriculture, Jenderal Sudirman University, Purwokerto, Indonesia. Pb was analyzed using Atomic Absorption Spectrophotometer (AAS). The water, sediment, and seaweed samples were prepared following Indonesian National Standard 6989.8: 2009. The Pb concentration in water, sediment, and seaweed was analyzed based on Hutagalung's (1997) procedure.

The water sample preparation was done by taking and shaking 100 ml water sample, and then put into the chemical glass, and was added by 5 ml of nitrate acid ( $\text{HNO}_3$ ). The water sample was heated in an electric heater. After that, 50 ml of distilled water was added. The sample was then put in a 100 ml volumetric flask through a filter paper. The sample was stored in a plastic bottle and was ready to be analyzed using AAS.

The sediment sample preparation was done by putting the sample into a Polyethylene bottle that had been washed/soaked in  $\text{HNO}_3$  (6 N) and rinsed with distilled water. After that, the sample was put into a container and dried up in an oven at the temperature of  $105^\circ\text{C}$  for 24 hours. After shaken with distilled water, the sample was dried up at a temperature of  $100^\circ\text{C}$  for 24 hours and then pounded. 5 gram of dry sediment sample was put into a container and was stored at room temperature for approximately 4 hours. The crushing was done at  $90^\circ\text{C}$  for 8 hours. Pb in sediment was determined using AAS.

Seaweed *G. verrucosa* sample preparation was done by separating samples from inorganic materials using the following steps: the seaweed was taken and washed using running water and washed again using aquadest. The sample was put in petri dish and put into an oven and dried up at  $105^\circ\text{C}$ . 10 grams of the sample was put into a porcelain glass, then 10 ml of  $\text{HNO}_3$ ,  $\text{H}_2\text{SO}_4$  were added. After that, the sample was cooled down and dissolved in distilled water and filtered using a 50 ml filter paper. The sample was then stored in glass bottles and ready to be analyzed using AAS.

### Statistical Analysis

In this study, SPSS version 21.0 was used to analyze the data. ANOVA test was employed to find out the average value of Pb concentration in water, sediment, and *G. verrucosa* in the research location. Duncan test was also carried out to find out the difference in the average accumulation of Pb in water, sediment, and *G. verrucosa*. Water quality parameter

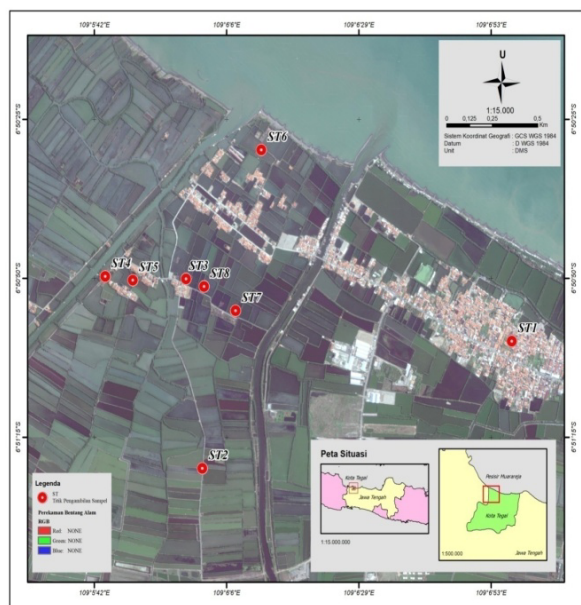


Fig. 1. Location map

was analyzed descriptively. The regression analysis was done to find out the relationship between water quality parameter and Pb in water, sediment, and seaweed. Principal Component Analysis (PCA) was used to find out recommended environmental management strategies for Tegal City Government and stakeholders.

The data on Pb concentration in water, sediment, and seaweed were analyzed descriptively by comparing the laboratory analysis result to the quality standard. In determining Pb in water, Pb in seaweed, and Pb in sediment, Ministry of Environment Regulation no. 51 of 2004, SNI 7387-2009, and quality standard from ANZECC / ARMCANZ (2000), CCME (2002), SEPA (2000), and NOAA (1999) were used, respectively. Data on the parameter of water quality were descriptively analyzed based on the quality standard issued by the Ministry of Environment no. 115 of 2003 and no. 51 of 2004.

**Results and Discussion**

**Pb concentration in seaweed ponds**

Table 1 displays the measurement result of Pb concentration in water, sediment, and seaweed in eight seaweed ponds.

**Pb Concentration in Water**

In this study, Pb concentration in water ranged from 0 to 0,025 mg l<sup>-1</sup> in sample 1 and 0,003 to 0,009 mg l<sup>-1</sup> in sample 2. The result of the study showed that Pb concentration in water in sample 1 was relatively lower than that of sample 2. Pb in water during this study was still below the quality standard determined by the Minister of Environment regulation no. 115 of 2003, i.e., 0.03 mg l<sup>-1</sup>. The graph of Pb in

water in the course of the study is shown in Fig. 2.

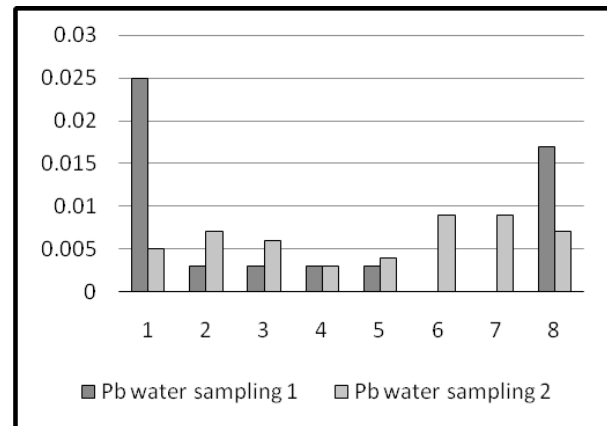


Fig. 2. Pb in water (mg L<sup>-1</sup>) in eight stations during the study.

**Pb concentration in the Sediment**

Pb concentration in the sediment when the study was conducted ranged from 12.838 to 23.699 mg l<sup>-1</sup> in sample 1 and from 6.377 to 9.858 mg l<sup>-1</sup> in sample 2. The result of the study showed that Pb concentration in sediment in sample 1 was relatively lower than that of sample 2. Pb in sediment was below the quality standard from ANZECC / ARMCANZ (50 mg l<sup>-1</sup>), CCME (30,2 mg l<sup>-1</sup>), SEPA (≤ 50 mg l<sup>-1</sup>), dan NOAA (46,7 mg l<sup>-1</sup>). The graph of Pb in Sediment in the present study is shown in Figure 3.

**Pb concentration in seaweed**

Pb in *G.verrucosa* in sample1 ranged from 0,028-0,326 mg l<sup>-1</sup> while that in sample 2 ranged from 0,036-3,240 mg l<sup>-1</sup>. The result of the study showed that Pb concentration in sample 1 was relatively

Table 1. Pb concentration (mg·L<sup>-1</sup>) measurement result of eight seaweed ponds.

Station	Pb in pond water		Pb in pond sediment		Pb in seaweed	
	1	2	1	2	1	2
1	0,025	0,005	16,688	7,680	0,028	0,036
2	0,003	0,007	19,204	8,020	0,313	0,037
3	0,003	0,006	1,375	8,352	0,214	0,079
4	0,003	0,003	13,957	8,165	0,326	0,038
5	0,003	0,004	23,699	9,858	0,209	0,038
6	-	0,009	17,257	6,377	0,305	0,039
7	-	0,009	13,974	7,678	0,219	0,042
8	0,017	0,007	12,838	6,469	0,212	3,240
Mean	0,009	0,006	16,421	7,825	0,228	0,444
Standard Deviation	0,010	0,002	3,655	1,105	0,095	1,130

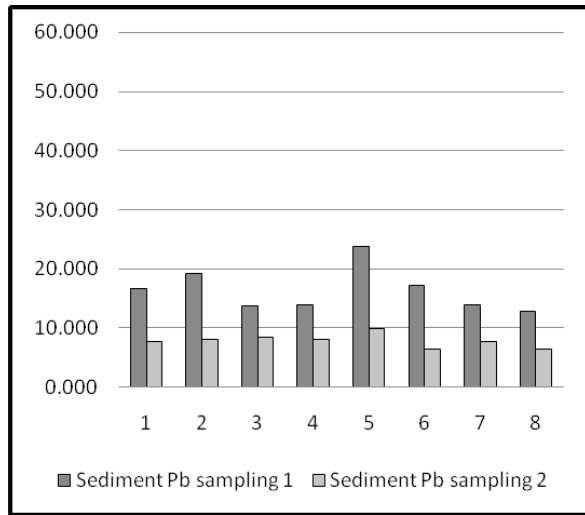


Fig. 3. Pb in Sediment (mg L<sup>-1</sup>) in eight stations in the present the study

lower than that of sample 2. Pb in seaweed when the study was conducted was below the quality standard issued of Indonesian National Standard no. 7387-2009 (i.e. 0.5 mg l<sup>-1</sup>.) Pb in seaweed is shown in Figure 4.

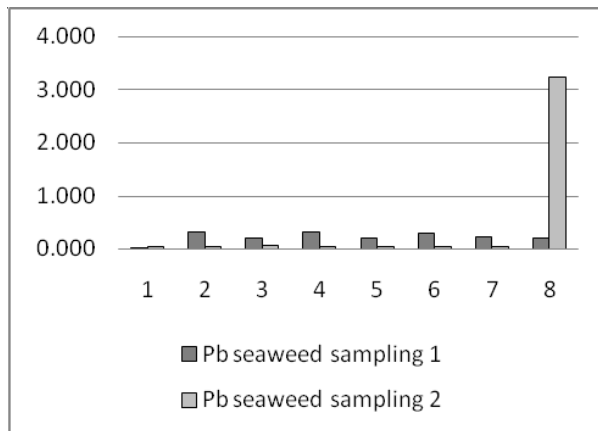


Fig. 4. Pb in seaweed *G.verrucosa* (mg l<sup>-1</sup>) in eight stations

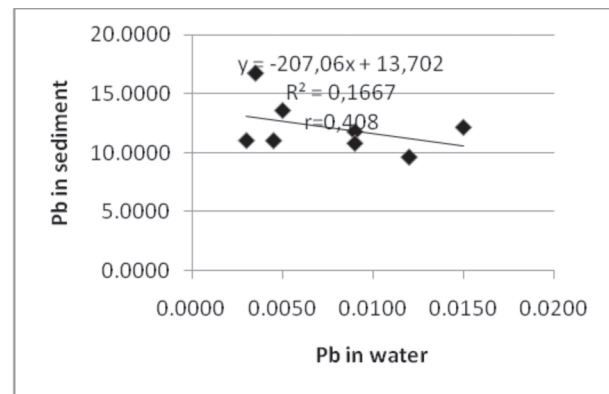
### Water Quality Parameters

Pb concentration is influenced by external and internal factors. The external factor includes the water quality parameters. Water quality affects the growth and life of cultivant (Sri Puryono *et al.*, 2019). Water temperature serves as controlling factor, dissolved oxygen and nitrate serves as limiting factor, salinity serves as the masking factor, and pH serves as the directive factor of biochemical reaction in water (Gerking, 1978). The measurement result of the wa-

ter quality parameter during the study is presented in Table 2.

### Correlation between Pb in Water and Pb in Sediment

Based on the regression analysis, the regression equation was  $Z = 13,702 - 207,057 X$  with  $R = 0.408$  and  $R^2$  of 0.167. Pb concentration in sediment was found to have a negative correlation with Pb concentration in water. In other words, the increase in Pb concentration in water will lead to lower Pb concentration in sediment. The correlation value of 0.408 indicated a moderate relationship between Pb concentration in water and Pb concentration in sediment, while the coefficient of determination of 0.165 indicated that Pb concentration in sediment was accounted for by Pb in pond water by 16.7%.



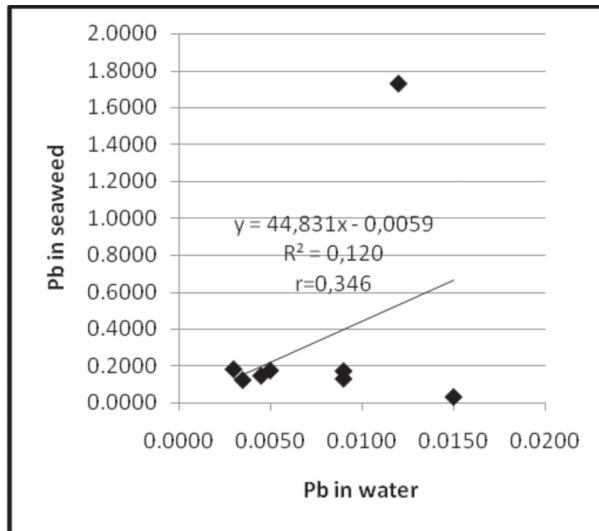
Graph 4. Correlation between Pb in Water and Pb in Sediment

### Correlation between Pb in Water and Pb in *G.verrucosa*

The regression equation was  $Y = -0,006 + 44,833X$  with  $R = 0.346$  and  $R^2 = 0,120$ . Pb concentration in seaweed was found to be positively associated with Pb concentration in water. In general, higher Pb concentration in water leads to higher Pb concentration in seaweed.

### Correlation between Pb in Sediment and Pb in *G.verrucosa*

The regression equation was  $Y = 1,759 - 0,117Z$  with  $R = 0.459$  and  $R^2 = 0,211$ . Pb concentration in sediment was found to have a negative correlation with Pb concentration in seaweed. In other words, higher Pb in sediment results in lower Pb concentration in seaweed. A correlation value of 0.459 indicates a



**Graph 5.** Correlation between Pb in water and Pb in seaweed

moderate relationship between Pb concentration in sediment and Pb concentration seaweed. The coefficient of determination of 0.211 indicates that Pb concentration in sediment accounts for Pb concentration in sediment by 21.1%.

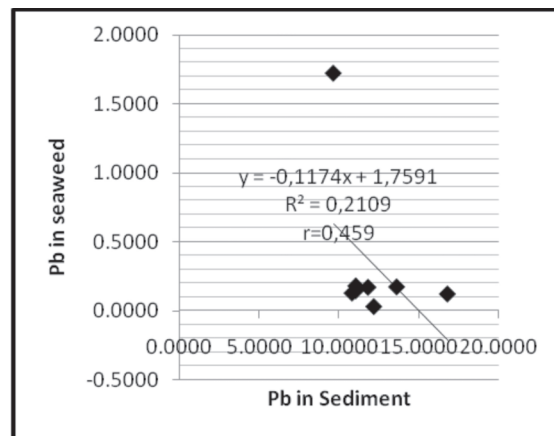
**Water Quality Parameters**

Table 2 displays the measured water quality parameter in this study.

The water temperature tolerance, according to Asni (2015) is between 24-35 °C (Asni, 2005). In the present study, the temperature ranged from 25 to 34

°C (Asni, 2015). It means that the temperature is still within the tolerance level of seaweed. When the study was conducted, the depth of the pond was between 55-130 cm. The optimum depth for seaweed growth is 0.3 to 0.8 m (Susilowati *et al.*, 2012).

The brightness level of the pond was between 35-80 cm. According to Sunarto (2009), The water brightness should be between 0.3-0.5 cm. Accordingly, the brightness of water in this study is still within the tolerance level of *G.verrucosa* growth. In situ measurement on pH found a value ranging from 7.2 to 8.2 pH value in *G.verrucosa* ponds measured in this study is still within the Threshold Value Level issued by the Ministry of Environment (2004). The soil pH value was 6.8-7, which is within the threshold limit value, i.e., 6-8.5 (Ministry of En-



**Graph 6.** Relationship between Pb in sediment and Pb in seaweed.

**Table 2.** Water Quality Parameter during the study

No.	Category	Range	Average	Standard deviation	Quality standard
1.	Temperature	25-34	30.375	2,3058	25-34
2.	Depth	55-130	86.875	18,8534	>50
3.	Brightness	35-80	56.8125	13,5017	30-40
4.	Water pH	7.2-8.2	7.6275	0,2896	7-8/5
5.	Soil pH	6.8-7.0	6.9125	0,0619	6.5-8.5
6.	Salinity	12-30	21.25-2297	5,3229	15-34
7.	Oxygen	4.68-13.90	8.21375	3,2297	>5
8.	Nitrate	0.001-1.85	0.38319	0,6591	10
9.	Nitrite	0.0001-0.28	0.02247	0,0698	0.06
10.	Ammonia	0.001-0.38	0.15181	0,1778	0.3
11.	Phosphate	0.001-2.24	0.77906	0,8562	0.2
12.	BOD	2.3-12.77	7.29	2,9387	20
13.	N Total	0.40-23.14	11.7713	10,6268	30
14.	TSS	0.031-0.117	0.06413	0,0270	20
15.	TOM	1.08-47.57	18.175	20,2126	20-30

vironment, 2003).

In this study, the salinity of ponds was 12-30 promil. *Gracillaria sp.*'s adaptation ability is optimum in 17-40 ppt (Komarawidjaya, 2005), while according to the Department of Marine and Fisheries (2011), the salinity for seaweed growth should range from 12 to 30 promil. Dissolved oxygen in *G.verrucosa* ponds in the present study ranged from 4.68-13.89 mg L<sup>-1</sup> and was within the TLV determined by the Ministry of Environment (2004), i.e., >5 mg/l.

Nitrate concentration in ponds water when the study was conducted ranged from 0.001 to 1.85 mg l<sup>-1</sup>. According to Soelistiyowati *et al.* (2011), seaweed grows optimally in nitrate content of 0.1 – 0.7 mg L<sup>-1</sup> (Soelistiyowati *et al.*, 2011). The maximum limit of nitrate is 10 mg/l (Ovez, 2006). Nitrite concentration in ponds water when the study was conducted ranged from 0.001 to 1.85 mg l<sup>-1</sup>, while according to Minister of Health Regulation 492/2010, the quality standard is 3 mg/l. The ammonia concentration in ponds was 0.001-0.38 mg L<sup>-1</sup>, while the quality standard is 0.3 mg/l (Ministry of Environment, 2003). Nitrate concentration in ponds water when the study was conducted ranged from 0,001 to 2.24 mg l<sup>-1</sup>. Good phosphate level for seaweed farming is 0.1–0.2 mg L<sup>-1</sup> (Soelistiyowati *et al.*, 2014).

The biological oxygen demand (BOD) concentration in ponds was 2.3–12.77 mg l<sup>-1</sup>, while the quality standard is 20 mg/l (Ministry of Environment, 2004). Total of N concentration in ponds was 0.40-23,14 mg l<sup>-1</sup>, which is within the quality standard of 30 mg l<sup>-1</sup> (Ministry of Environment, 1995).

The Total Suspended Solid concentration in ponds was 0.031-0.117 mg l<sup>-1</sup> and was within the quality standard of 20 mg/l (Ministry of Environment, 2004). The Total Organic Matter concentration in ponds was 0.001–12.77 mg l<sup>-1</sup> and was within TOM quality standard i.e. 20-30 mg/l (Rakhman, 1999).

### PCA Analysis

PCA analysis result showed that Pb concentration in seaweed ponds was affected by pH by 66.44%, salinity by 23.34%, and nitrite by 10.22%. This result can depict overall water quality. It was found that the water pH was a component with the highest variance (i.e., 66.439). Thus, the water quality characteristic was mostly affected by the water pH. The movement of metal in sediment to the groundwater in the coastal area is greatly affected and controlled

by water pH and salinity (Simpson *et al.*, 2016). Connectivity of heavy metal in sediment, seawater, and groundwater is caused by the changes in pH and salinity of sediment and water (Suryono, 2016).

### Pb concentration in water and Pb in the sediment

Pb concentration in pond water in sample 1 was lower than that of sample 2. This difference is accounted for by the season when the sample was taken, where the water temperature of sample 1 is higher than that of sample 2. Pb concentration in water during this study was still below the quality standard, i.e 0.03 mg l<sup>-1</sup> stipulated by the Ministry of Environment Regulation no. 115 of 2003.

Pb concentration in pond sediment in sample 1 was lower than that of sample 2. This difference is accounted for by the season when the sample was taken, where the water temperature of sample 1 is higher than that of sample 2. Pb concentration in sediment during this study was still below quality standard according to ANZECC/ARMCANZ (50 mg/l), CCME (30.2 mg/l), SEPA (≤ 50 mg/l), or NOA (46.7 mg/l).

The measurement result showed that Pb concentration in sediment was higher than Pb concentration in water. This was caused by the heavy metal binding property that binds organic materials and sediments in the river bed. Thus the heavy metal concentration in sediment is higher than that in water (Bhosale and Sahu, 1991; Connell and Miller, 2006).

### Pb concentration in Sediment and Pb concentration in *G. verrucosa*

Tegal is a densely-populated coastal area with various activities that produce Pb pollutant that harms water environment, including *G. verrucosa* ponds. Heavy metal may be produced by industrial waste, mining waste, domestic waste, and agricultural waste (Burchett, 2002; Amin *et al.*, 2011). Given that heavy metal accumulation depends on location, it is necessary to monitor heavy metal concentration in seaweed cultivated downstream (Kim *et al.*, 2019).

The measurement result showed that Pb concentration in sediment was higher than Pb concentration in seaweed *G.verrucosa*. The regression equation indicated a negative correlation between Pb in sediment and Pb seaweed. In other words, When Pb in pond Sediment decreases, the Pb concentration in seaweed tends to increase, and vice versa. A possible explanation for this phenomenon is that the

Pb in sediment has been absorbed into the thallus.

In the present study, Pb in *G.verrucosa* of sample 1 ranged from 0.028 – 0.326 mg l<sup>-1</sup>, and that in sample 2 ranged from 0.036 – 3.240 mg l<sup>-1</sup>. Pb concentration in *G.verrucosa* of sample 1 was lower than that of sample 2. This difference is accounted for by the season when the sample was taken, where the water temperature of sample 1 is higher than that of sample 2. The Pb concentration in seaweed when this study was conducted was below the quality standard determined by the Indonesian National Standard (SNI) no. 7378-2009, i.e., 0.5 mg/kg.

Pb in sediment was also higher than Pb in seaweed. The accumulation of Pb occurs because Pb, along with organic materials contained in seaweed thallus, forms a complex compound that makes Pb stays in the thallus and unexcretable (Lobban and Harrison, 1994). Some indications of excessive heavy metal are the decrease and hindrance in nutrition absorption of plant, hindering the metabolism process (Chino, 1981; Kang dan Sui, 2010; Ihsan *et al.*, 2015).

#### **Correlation between Pb in sediment and Pb in water**

The regression equation indicates a negative correlation between Pb in sediment and Pb in water. When Pb in pond water decreases, the Pb concentration in sediment tends to increase, and vice versa. Pb in sediment was found to be higher than Pb in pond water, this possibly occurs because Pb in pond water is adsorbed into the pond sediment. Pb is bioaccumulative, its concentration increases in water and greater when it is in sediment (Sitorus, 2004). Heavy metal can bind organic material and settles in sediment (Connell dan Miller, 2006). According to Purwiyanto (2015), sediment-water interaction is affected by internal and external factors of heavy metal. The internal factor is the heavy metal's adsorption system and the binding with other elements in water (e.g., suspended solid), while the external factor is related to the turbulence in water. Adsorption and binding process causes metal to interact with other elements, thus forming heavier molecule flocculants that allow heavy metal in water to sediment.

#### **Correlation between Pb in water and Pb in *G. verrucosa***

The regression equation indicates a positive correlation between Pb in water and Pb in seaweed. When

Pb concentration in pond water decreases, Pb concentration in seaweed also decreases. A possible explanation for this phenomenon is that the Pb in water has been absorbed into thallus. The difference was found in station 1 and station 8. In station 1, low Pb concentration in seaweed is followed by high Pb concentration in the pond water, this may occur possibly because Pb in water had not sedimented into the pond sediment. Meanwhile, in station 8, high Pb concentration was followed by high Pb concentration in the water.

#### **Correlation between Pb in seaweed and Water Quality Parameters**

Heavy metal concentration is influenced by external and internal factors. The external factor is the water quality parameter. Seaweed growth is affected by the physical and chemical factors of water, namely stream, salinity, nitrate, and sunlight (Atmadja *et al.*, 2012). Seaweed growth highly depends on its environment (Rohman *et al.*, 2018). Table 2 displays the measured water quality parameters in this study.

Tegal is a densely-populated coastal area with various activities that produce Pb pollutant that harms water environment, including *G. verrucosa* ponds. Heavy metal may be produced by industrial waste, mining waste, domestic waste, and agricultural waste (Burchett, 2002; Amin *et al.*, 2011). Domestic and industrial waste damage water quality (Siaka, 2016). Given that heavy metal accumulation depends on location, It is necessary to monitor heavy metal concentration in seaweed cultivated downstream (Kim *et al.*, 2019).

The accumulation of heavy metal within an organism depends on the concentration of heavy metal in water or environment, temperature, species condition, and physiological activities (Connell dan Miller, 1995). The water temperature measured in this study was within the quality standard. Water temperature is a physical parameter affecting the chemical reaction and distribution of organisms. Besides, it is a factor that directly affects metabolic rate, growth rate, and survival rate. Water temperature is influenced by substrate composition, turbidity, rainwater, the surface area exposed to sunlight, and water runoff (Perkins, 1974).

When the study was conducted, the depth of the pond was within the quality standard. According to Ma'ruf *et al.*, (2013), Seaweed *Gracilaria sp* exhibits better growth in shallow areas. The depth of pond water is also important since it deals with the sun-

light penetration required for the photosynthesis process.

Brightness functions to help the photosynthesis process of seaweed. *G.verrucosa's* growth is correlated with solar radiation (Whyte *et al.*, 1981). The brightness of the pond was still in the tolerance level for *G. verrucosa* growth.

Lack of solar exposure may obstruct the growth of aquatic biota (Hardjojo and Djoksetiyanto, 2005). The measurement result showed that Ph in pond water and groundwater were still within the quality standard. Optimum pH level for *Gracilaria sp* growth ranges from 6.0 to 9.0 (Widiastuti, 2011). Acidity holds important role in metal dissolubility in water (Waldichuk, 1974). An increase in temperature, a decrease in pH, and salinity of water may lead to higher heavy metal accumulation. Increase in pH level may lower heavy metal solubility in water because it changes the stability from carbonate form into hydroxide that creates binding with particles in the water body, thus accumulated in sediment (Palar, 2012).

Based on the measurement, the salinity of the ponds was in the quality standard. Changes in salinity may result in fluctuating biochemical and physiological responses of seaweed. While hyposalinity may cause seaweed not to grow normally, has pale color, and rot (Asni, 2015), Hypersalinity may hinder the seaweed reproduction (Atmadja *et al.*, 2012).

Dissolved Oxygen (DO) in *G.verrucosa* ponds in the present study was still within the Threshold limit value determined by the Indonesian Ministry of Environment. Seaweed can grow optimally in non-polluted water with DO of > 6.5 ppm (Aslan, 2006). Organism uses DO for respiration and are used for organic substance decomposition by a microorganism. Water oxygen is originated from the air through diffusion and photosynthesis processes of phytoplankton and seaweed. It serves as an indicator of water fertility. The level of DO continues to decrease when more organic wastes enter the water. This decrease occurs because oxygen is used by bacterias to decompose organic matters (Simanjuntak, 2012). DO content is negatively correlated with metal concentration in water (Hutagalung, 1991).

The present study found that nitrate concentration in pond water was within the quality standard. The maximum limit of nitrate is 10 mg/l (Ovez, 2006). Nitrate is a limiting factor required for the

formation of aquatic biota protoplasm. Nitrate is needed by living organisms and seaweed photosynthesis. High nitrate content comes from the result of metabolism of organism and decomposition process (Koesbiono, 1980). The abundance of organisms in water depends on the nutrient concentration, i.e., nitrate and phosphate (Nybakken, 1992). Seaweed in coastal areas can decrease eutrophication of 75.000 t N and 9,500 t P of nutrient every year, which is equal to 17.8 ha N and 126.7 ha P (Xixiao *et al.*, 2017).

Nitrite concentration in pond water when the study was conducted is still in nitrite quality standard according to Regulation of Minister of Health. Nitrite is one of the nitrogen compounds and the result of oxidation of ammonia. Nitrogen may affect water quality (Aswadi, 2006).

Ammonia concentration in pond water when the study was conducted was still within the quality standard according to Ministry of Environment (2003). The source of ammonia is liquid waste (e.g., domestic, agricultural, and industrial wastes) (Bonnin *et al.*, 2008).

Phosphate concentration in water found in this study was still within the quality standard for cultivation. Phosphate is sourced from sediment and other anthropogenic activities. The stirring process in the water bottom and circulation process in the surface also affect the phosphate content. In general, phosphate content increase along with the water depth. Lower phosphate level is found in the surface layer, while higher phosphate level is found in the deeper layer.

The biological oxygen demand concentration in water was within the quality standard determined by Ministry of Environment (2004). BOD refers to amount of required oxygen to dissolve or to degrade organic compounds with the help of microorganisms (Purwanto, 2005).

N concentration in pond water when the study was conducted was still within the quality standard according to Ministry of Environment (1995). It was found that the highest inorganic material was 14.93% in 15 meters deep. The value of inorganic material in the depth of 0-31 meters ranged from 1.02% to 14.93%. This indicates that two different environments lead to a change in the grain size.

The Total Suspended Solid (TSS) concentration in water was within the quality standard determined by Ministry of Environment (2004). TSS refers to solid materials consisting of organic and inorganic



materials suspended in water. High TSS value may lower the photosynthesis activity of sea plants, which is dangerous for aquatic biota (Jiyah *et al.*, 2017). TSS is affected by the particle-size distribution, density, and particle composition (Neukermans *et al.*, 2012).

Total Organic Matter (TOM) concentration in pond water when the study was conducted was in the quality standard. Organic material content is associated with sediment grain size (Wood, 1987). Fine sediment has a higher percentage of organic materials than coarse sediment does. The calm environment allows fine sedimentation and is followed by high organic material accumulation (Maslukah, 2013). Silt grain contains a higher percentage of organic matter than sand grain does. In samples, 1-30 meters, varied and fluctuating organic values of 20-40% were found. Grain size affects organic material content, as shown in the depth of 0-31 meters that have finer grain and higher organic values (Astriandhita *et al.*, 2017). The water condition depicts a change in organic carbon. High organic value originates from land, which is brought by the runoff and from the sea, i.e., sea organism production (Yun *et al.*, 2015).

### PCA Analysis

PCA analysis result showed that three components of water quality affect Pb concentration in seaweed ponds, namely pH, salinity, and nitrite. The most dominant water quality parameter to affect Pb concentration is pH.

The movement of metal in sediment to the groundwater in the coastal area is greatly affected and controlled by the water pH level and salinity (Simpson *et al.*, 2016). Connectivity of heavy metal in sediment, seawater, and groundwater is caused by the changes in pH and salinity of sediment and water (Suryono, 2016).

Reeves (1992) argues that a plant that can absorb heavy metal with a minimum concentration of 1000 g/g of biomass is called a hyperaccumulator. Hyperaccumulator plants can tolerate up to 10 to 20 times larger than the maximum tolerated value of normal plant and can produce higher biomass. Yulianto *et al.* (2018) state that almost all plant species experience significant biomass loss if the heavy metal concentrated inside their tissues.

Purnamawati *et al.*, (2015) argue that heavy metal ion that enters plants can bind the protein and polysaccharide. Before the metal ion arrives in cell

membrane and cell cytoplasm, it passes the cell wall. Cell wall is the most important part of cell defense mechanism because it serves as the first barrier against toxic heavy metal accumulation. Metal ion that enters the cell's organ will bind to Phytochelatin transported to vacuole to lower the toxic effect on the plant. The absorption and accumulation process of toxic substances within the cell will be broken down and excreted, stored, or metabolized by the organism, depending on the chemical concentration and potential (Heryanti *et al.*, 2009).

The form thallus of seaweed *G. verrucosa* is like cartilage, allowing it to have a better ability to absorb Pb more effectively. Pb gets into macroalgae through several stages, namely adsorption, absorption, metabolism, detoxification, interaction, and toxic effect (Soemirat, 2005).

According to Ariyanti and Intan (2012), Pb absorption in water by *G. verrucosa* occurs through physical adsorption mechanisms due to Van der Waals force. This force occurs between the heavy metal ion and *G. verrucosa* cell wall.

Given that heavy metal accumulation depends on location, It is necessary to monitor heavy metal concentration in seaweed cultivated downstream (Kim *et al.*, 2019). Daily seaweed consumption (4g day<sup>-1</sup>) contributes to the intake of Pb of 0.0003 mg day<sup>-1</sup> (Rubio *et al.*, 2017). Heavy metals in water can be originated from natural sources and human activities. Natural sources get into waters from rock erosion, metal particle in the air, and rain. With regard to human activities, waste disposal and transportation may produce heavy metals (Payong and Rusian, 2013).

The movement of metal in sediment to the groundwater in coastal areas is greatly affected and controlled by water pH and salinity (Simpson *et al.*, 2004). Connectivity of heavy metal in sediment, seawater, and groundwater is caused by the changes in pH and salinity of sediment and water (Suryono, 2016). Appelo and Postma (1996) argue that compared to water, sediment contains a higher amount of heavy metal because sediment absorption of metal particles is more dominant, given that metal tends to bind hydroxide and organic matter in sediment.

Pb content in water could be minimized using seaweed *G. verrucosa* as the remediator that can absorb toxic materials. Previous studies showed that seaweed can function as biosorbent Cd (Raya and Ramlah, 2012), Cu heavy metal biosorption by

*Gracilaria sp.* (Yulianto *et al.*, 2006; Ariyanti dan Intan, 2012; Yulianto *et al.*, 2018), Cr heavy metal absorber (VI) (Ata *et al.*, 2012), and Pb heavy metal absorber (Ihsan *et al.*, 2015; Handhani *et al.*, 2017). *Gracilaria* farming can give more ecological benefit for the environment (Kim *et al.*, 201). The result of the study showed that seaweed *G. verrucosa* has ability to absorb heavy metal pollutant. In other words, it potentially becomes an environmental-friendly fitoremediator of Pb in water.

Biological accumulation can occur through direct absorption on heavy metal in water and through food chain. Accumulation occurs due to the heavy metal tendency to form a complex substance with organic substance in organism body (Arsad and Said, 2013). Excessive lead consumption may damage brain and kidney, leading to death. It can also lead to miscarriage (Martin and Griswold, 2009).

## Conclusion

Anthropogenic waste makes Pb pollutes the seaweed *G. verrucosa* pond. The present study found that Pb in sediment is higher than Pb in seaweed Pb in water, which is still within the quality standard. pH, salinity, and nitrite are the water quality parameters that can be used to determine the water quality. They can also depict the water quality characteristic. Water pH is the most dominant water quality parameter that affects Pb concentration in ponds

## Acknowledgments

The authors would like to thank the head and staffs of Laboratory of Land resources of Faculty of Agriculture, Soedirman University, Purwokerto, and Integrated Laboratory of Fisheries and Marine of Pancasila University, Tegal, Central Java, Indonesia for analyzing the sample of the study. We also would like to thank Journal reviewer.

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