

The Importance of Nutrients Concentration Monitoring In Coastal Area

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Abstract

Land utilization changes of the natural resources conservation area of Pangandaran coastal area, that have been utilized as a marine tourism area, which affect many kinds of environmental degradation threats. Updating the condition of Pangandaran waters is essential due to its condition impacted by anthropogenic activities. Water condition monitoring was done by measuring nutrients as an indicator to assess the water fertility and pollution. Forty five observation points were selected and divided into three locations, representing the condition of river, estuary/mangrove area, and open sea. Nutrients were analyzed by employing Standard Methods for The Examination of Water and Wastewater 22nd Edition 2012 (SMEWW). Currents and tides were measured for 15 days, used as the basis input of hydrodynamic model. The results showed that the highest of average value of nitrate was found in the estuary/mangrove forest which reached 0.998 mg.L⁻¹. While, the highest phosphate content was observed in the river which reached 0.928 mg.L⁻¹. The highest ammonia concentration was observed in the sea which reached 0.027 mg.L⁻¹. N:P ratios in the study area are categorized <16, which showed that Pangandaran waters are in the condition of N-limitation. These conditions trigger blooming of phytoplankton due to the high concentration of nitrate. The higher nutrient concentration indicates that anthropogenic activities take place. Tidal current has an important role transporting nutrient in the estuary, triggering nutrient deposition and blooming tendency. Restrictions on residential areas and the utilization of coastal areas are an appropriate step to reduce the pollution level in Pangandaran waters.

Keywords: monitoring, water quality, pollution, nutrient

Introduction

Coastal area has an important role in maintaining the function of ocean ecosystem. This area is a strategic transition zone where terrestrial and oceanic dynamics factors are both determine the diversity of natural resources. It also enucleates a complex interaction affected by natural and anthropogenic pressure. The impact of those factors correlated with physical and biological process of the coastal area (Calvão *et al.*, 2013), while the river discharge is a physical factor determining dynamics occurrence in the coastal area (Romero *et al.*, 2013). Changes accumulation of climate, population, industrialization, and agriculture may change the river mouth and coastal prolificacy (Rabalais *et al.*, 2009).

The unbalance of the discharge such nitrogen (N) and phosphor (P) are related with the human activity along the watershed. These matters are non-siliceous source triggering the alga blooming in the river and coastal waters (Seitzinger *et al.*, 2010; Howarth *et al.*, 2011). Most of the nitrogen (N) came from the excessive use of organic or artificial peat in

agriculture (De Vries *et al.*, 2011) that according to Zhang *et al.* (2015) that the anthropogenic factors donate 3 times nitrogen onto coastal ecosystem comparing to industrial. Meanwhile, the organic waste still considered as a main source of phosphor (P) even the water purification had been applied (Passy *et al.*, 2013).

Human activity globally is more potential impacting nitrogen enhancement to coastal ecosystem than industrial activities (Zhang *et al.*, 2015) Pangandaran regency is located in the southeast part of West Java which has various potential in tourism aspect. Several tourism objects in this region has widely well known by domestic and international community, such as tourism object of Pangandaran beach (Sewiko, 2016). The land utilization of tourism and aquaculture impacts the landuse changes which evoke several environment threats. Tourism is one of the focal economic action corresponding to the landuse and landcover (Wang and Liu, 2013).

Environmental pollution occurred in the area of settlement, tourism, and industry near the coast is

caused by disposal household and industrial waste which contains chemical materials. It induces the changes of ecological condition (Rositasari *et al.*, 2011). The discharge of those disposal waste causes the water quality degradation which showed by the increasing of nutrients (Utami *et al.*, 2012). The increasing of nutrients in the water has a positive impact such as supporting the photosynthesis production by phytoplankton which directly will enhance the fisheries resources, however, in the specific level, it will be negatively impact as well such as declining the dissolved oxygen in the water due to algal blooming and trigger the growth of harmful algal (harmful algal blooms) (Gypens *et al.*, 2009).

Organic materials and nutrients from river which enters to the coastal waters largely has a significance role in biology processes stimulation in those waters (Chou *et al.*, 2013). The increasing of nutrients caused by upwelling, anthropogenic source and river discharge influences the growth of phytoplankton in the coastal area (Neale *et al.*, 2014). The major nutrients which need to be controlled are nitrate and phosphate. Those nutrients have a big role in phytoplankton growth which are used for chemical indicator to assess the level of water fertility (Garmendia *et al.*, 2013). In addition, according to Risamasu and Prayitno (2012) nitrate and phosphorus control the growth and metabolism of phytoplankton, which is macro nutrients and useful as a limiting nutrient for phytoplankton growth (Thakur *et al.*, 2013).

A lot of rivers disembogued in the Pangandaran coastal area is one of significant factors of disposal waste in the waters. Besides that, the hydro-oceanography factors as well as its location adjacent with Indian Ocean affect this area characterized by strong currents which directly influence the distribution of nutrients in the east coast of Pangandaran waters. That condition causes wastes sourced from land flows in the river, when it touched the estuary, it will be separated and distributed as well. Based on the issues above, it is severe necessary conducting a research regarding the issues occurred. Particularly, to know the recent condition of nitrate, ammonia, and phosphate contents in the waters of Pangandaran, so that can be an information and a reference in an effort to monitor the fertility of the waters.

Materials and Methods

Study area is located in Pangandaran Sub District, West Java. This study focuses on east coast of Pangandaran. Geographically, study area is positioned at 7°40'11.44"S - 108°37'49.25" and

7°43'48.75"S - 108°37'52.67"E. East coast of Pangandaran is a center of tourism, settlement, and fish auction. Observation area was separated by 3 zones of sampling including zone A (river), zone B (estuary and mangrove area), and zone C (coastal and sea). Those zones were chosen to observe the nutrient concentration on each zone by considering three significance zones of nutrient transport potential due to tidal current influence.

The primary data were the laboratory analysis result for nutrients from 3 different locations (Figure 1.), which is including phosphate, nitrate, and ammonia compound. Besides that, we also measured water quality, tides, and currents directly in field (in situ). Whilst, the secondary data were consisted of tide forecasting, rainfall intensity, and topography of study area.

The observation point was consisted of 45 points which was conducted for three days. Because of the broad of study area, we divided the area into 3 groups (group A, B, and C) of sampling point which is river, estuary, and sea. Water sampling was done in the condition of low towards high tidal condition (Figure 2.). The sampling time decision was based on the tide forecasting supported by NAOtide, and the correlation of nutrients distribution in the same tidal phase was obtained.

Samples were taken at 17 observation points for group A (river), 10 observation points for group B (estuarine and mangrove ecosystems) and group C (sea water). Sampling is done by using Nansen bottles on the surface at each observation point. The samples were then observed in the Environmental Engineering of Bandung Institute of Technology (ITB) which referred to Standard Methods for The Examination of Water and Wastewater 22nd Edition 2012 (SMEWW).

The determination of nitrate concentration analyzed by employing 4500-NO₃-B method. It was Ultraviolet Spectrophotometric Screening Method which only used filtering sample with less of nutrient compound. SMEWW 4500-NH₃-F (phenate) was used analyze ammonia which was going through without the distillation stage. Total phosphate compound was analyzed by using SMEWW-4500-P-B-D (Stannous Chloride Method) which was applying one of Colorimetric methods. It is more suitable applied for sample with 0.01-6 mg.L⁻¹ P/L concentration.

Water quality measured in the study area by using Water Quality Checker (TOA DKK Type WQC-24) and dissolved oxygen (DO), temperature, pH, and salinity data were obtained. Acoustic Doppler Current Profiler (ADCP) was deployed during 1th August 2016 6.30 AM-15th August 2016 1.30 PM

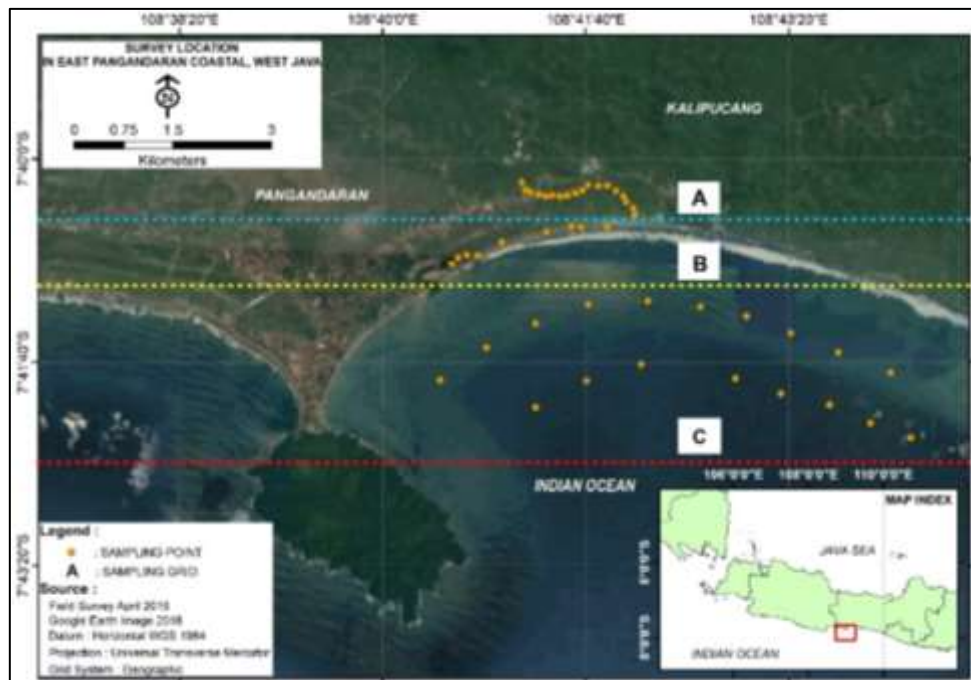


Figure 1. Research location map

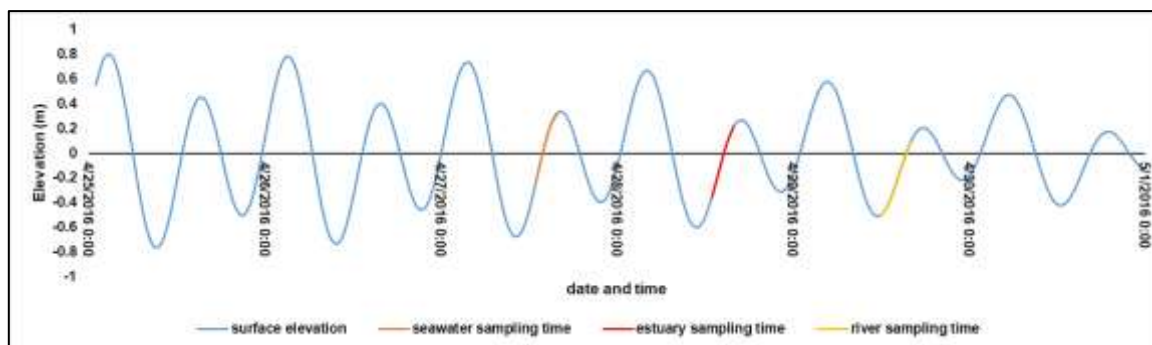


Figure 2. Tide forecasting and sampling time

Table 1. Flow model set-up

Parameter	Implemented in the simulation
Time of simulation	Number of time step = 1500 Time step interval = 900 sec Simulation start date = 1/08/2016 08.00 PM Simulation end date = 17/08/2016 01.00 AM
Mesh boundary	Bathymetry = Pushidrosal map digitation year 2016 and bathymetry survey result year 2016
Flood and dry	Drying depth = 0.005 m Flooding depth = 0.05 m Wetting depth = 0.1 m
Boundary condition	Type = Specified level Format = Varying in time, constant along boundary Time Series = Tide forecasting with coordinates below: 1. Longitude: 108.59168, Latitude: -7.7243 2. Longitude: 108.66633, Latitude: -7.7649 3. Longitude: 108.74041, Latitude: -7.7254

which covered 15 days of measurement. It was sufficient to represent the cycle of spring and neap tides. The ADCP records several physical data such as tide, temperature, and current. To evaluate the model result, it must be compared with field measurement tides data (Jin and Ji, 2004), applying Root Mean Square Error (RMSE).

Flow model was employed to determine the distribution pattern of nutrients and the other water quality parameters, which mainly are influenced by tidal current and water mass dynamics. Tidal currents simulated for 15 days simulation, but the result will be displayed only during low towards high tidal condition in the neap tidal phase (similar with the date and tidal condition of in situ).

Flow model numeric simulation was employed which shows the result in the form of two-dimensional data (Warren and Bach, 1992; Mehdiabadi *et al.*, 2015). The input model employed bathymetry data from Hydrography and Oceanography Center, Indonesian Navy (Pushidro-sal) combined with Bathymetry measurement result and digital coastline Google Eye imagery 2016. The surface elevation was obtained by employing ERGtide in the form of time series data. Set-up of hydrodynamic model is shown in Table 1.

Results and Discussion

Nitrate concentration varies. In the river reaches 0.613 mg.L⁻¹ (Figure 3.), in the estuary reaches 0.998 mg.L⁻¹ (Figure 4.) and in the sea reaches 0.369 mg.L⁻¹ (Figure 5.). Those values show that the highest nitrate concentration is identified in the estuary and mangrove area.

High rate of nitrate concentration in the mangrove forest area and estuary is caused by intake from land through rivers and open sea which settled in the estuary. It is then accumulated in the mangrove area which is the major area of nutrient source. The tidal mechanism also has a big role controlling the transport of nutrient in the estuary. This condition is supported by the high pH value which triggers the nitrification process. The average of pH in that area is 8.2 (Table 1.). According to Ganesan *et al.* (2013) the optimal pH condition to support nitrification process ranges 8-9 which results the high concentration of nitrate, whereas, in the condition of pH<6 the reaction will be stalled.

The average of pH value in the mangrove forest area which has reached 8.2. it triggers the nitrate concentration enhancement. Besides that, the salinity value in Pangandaran waters which has

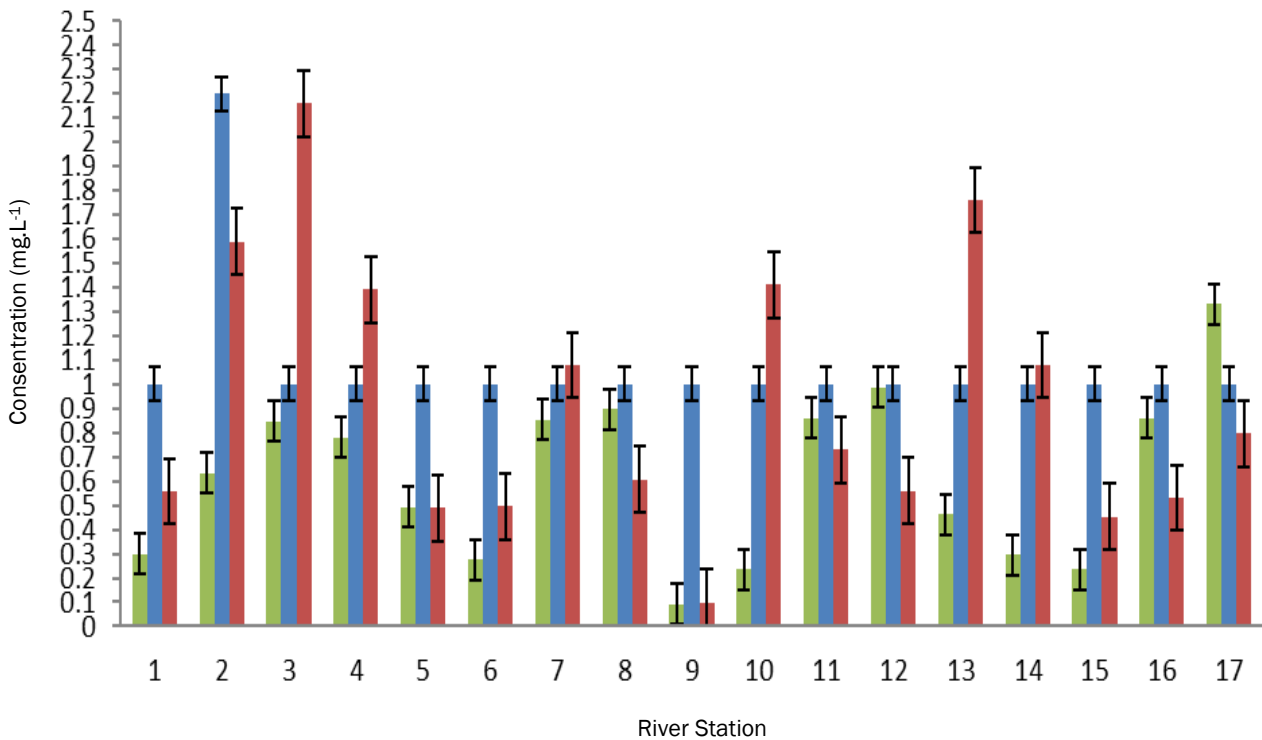


Figure 3. Nitrate, phosphate and ammonia concentrations (river station)
 Note. ■ = Nitrate (mg.L⁻¹); ■ = Ammonia (mg.L⁻¹)x 10⁻²; ■ = Phosphate (mg.L⁻¹)

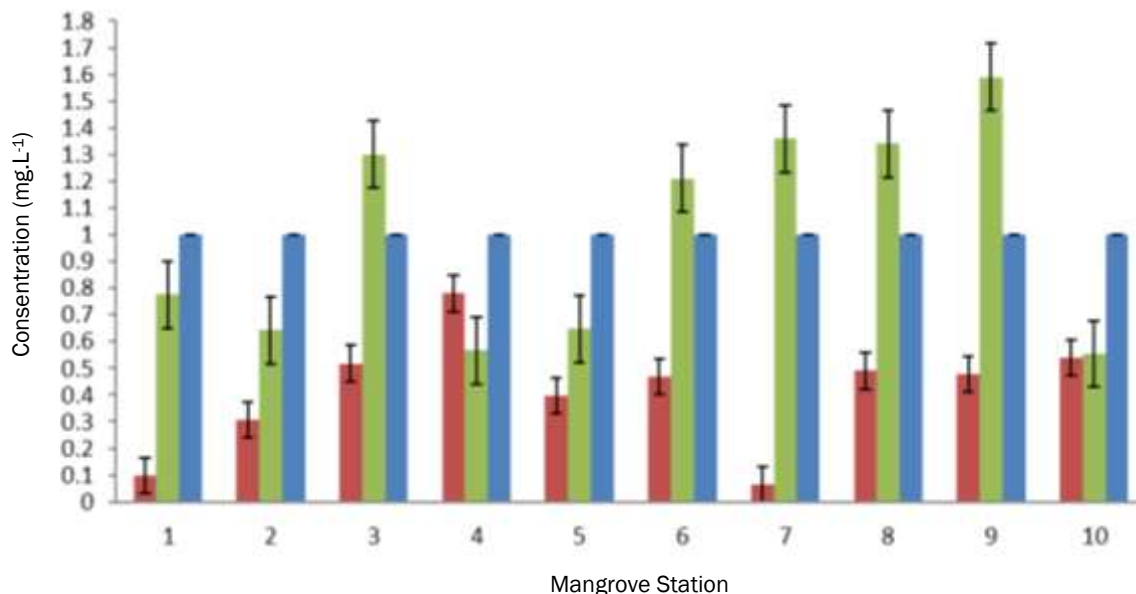


Figure 4. Grafik konsentrasi nitrate, phosphate dan ammonia (mangrove station)
 Note. ■ = Nitrate (mg.L⁻¹); ■ = Ammonia (mg.L⁻¹)x 10⁻²; ■ = Phosphate (mg.L⁻¹)

Table 2. The average value of water quality data

Parameter	River	Estuary/Mangrove	Sea
pH	7.92	8.21	8.49
Salinity (%)	0.7	16.54	32.38
DO (mg. L ⁻¹)	47.27	38.43	41.49
Temperature (°C)	28.69	32.26	31.38
TDS (g.L ⁻¹)	1.15	24.69	52.91

reached 32.38 (Table 2.) also has a big role in controlling nitrate concentration in the water. According to Parihar *et al.* (2015) nitrate concentration will deteriorate in accordance with salinity enhancement.

The average value of total P in the three measurement locations shows that total P in the river is the highest reaching 0.928 mg.L⁻¹. While, in the sea and estuary, total P reaches 0.489 mg.L⁻¹ and 0.413 mg.L⁻¹ respectively. In generally, open sea has a poor content of phosphate which naturally the nutrients are transported from the surface to bottom and the cycle was recurred in the form of biogeochemical cycle. The deeper of water, the more that compound found due to the high rate of nutrient settling in the water. The concentration will decline in accordance with the decreasing depth (surface) (Simanjuntak, 2012). Besides that, the low phosphate concentration in the surface is caused by the intensive phytoplankton activity to produce the energy (photosynthesis) (Kress *et al.*, 2014).

Phosphate concentration tend to be lower than the other nutrients due to few dump and waste

discharge from the rivers (Dewi *et al.*, 2017). Local people utilized upstream area as settlement and agriculture area which has become the major source of nutrient waste. One of that sources is nitrogen compound resulted from agricultural fertilizer waste which enters into the river through the drainage system and it is then transported and accumulated in the estuary (Kataki *et al.*, 2016). It is obvious why in the estuary is found a high level of phosphate compound.

The high value of phosphate is also influenced by mangrove vegetation which results the abundance of nutrients due to its leaves remnants which are decomposed by decomposer bacteria. it becomes the main source of detritus (Mustofa, 2015). Its degradation product is then becoming nutrients such as phosphate, nitrate, sulphur, and the other compounds (Lau, 2013). Nitrogen (N) and phosphorus (P) are the main nutrients controlling eutrophication and blooming tendency. N:P ratio becomes an index representing the limitation of nutrients which supports algal growth in the water (Chen *et al.*, 2013).

The comparison of nutrients composition average assimilating into algal usually is called as Redfield ratio (Fujimoto *et al.*, 1997). The result of N:P ratio calculation in the three observation areas shows a significant variation value (Figure 6). The average of N:P in the river reaches 0.87, in the estuary reaches 2.73, whilst, the highest N:P ratio average is in the sea reaching 3.2. According to Geider and La Roche (2002) phytoplankton in the condition of N-limited when the N:P ratio <16 and P-limited when the N:P ratio >16 based on Redfield ratio (Redfield, 1934).

N:P ratio in the study area is included into N:P<16, so can be concluded that in east coast of Pangandaran is in the condition of N-Limited. That condition indicates that the water has the low nitrate concentrations compared with phosphate concentration. A natural ratio of N:P in the water should be 16:1 to be used for phytoplankton growth (Effendi, 2003). Nitrate concentration reaches 0.32, 0,98, and 0,56 mg.L⁻¹ in the sea, estuary, and river, respectively.

When nitrate concentration is more than 0.2 mg.L⁻¹, it can potentially cause eutrophication which then rapidly triggers algal growth (blooming) (Tungka *et al.*, 2017). According to the results, nutrients in Pangandaran east coast potentially experiences blooming of phytoplankton due to the value of nitrate >0.2mg.L⁻¹. Eutrophication process can damage the ecosystem because the oxygen supply is

either reduced or anoxic. As a result, those condition can disrupt the marine life in the surrounding (van der Wulp *et al.*, 2016)

Based on standard quality of MENLH No. 51, 2004, stated that the standard quality of maximum several nutrient concentrations which is suitable for marine life is varied (Table 3). The result shows nitrate and phosphate content exceed the required concentration limits. While, the ammonia concentration is in the permissible range until it is still safe for marine life. The increasing nitrate in Pangandaran waters indicates that it experiences pressure in the form of nitrogen (nitrate) enrichment. It impacts the algal blooming tendency potential which influences the ecosystem health and biodiversity regionally (Risamasu and Prayitno 2012).

Nitrate concentration in the east coast of Pangandaran exceeds the standard quality established by MENLH No. 51, 2004. This condition might be caused by dumping waste from land-sources as well as the agricultural waste. Those two factors give a significant role triggering the high concentration of nitrate in Pangandaran waters.

Vertical profile of current velocity component in U direction (East) shows that the speed enhances from 14-7 meters depth, which becomes slower and stable in the surface. In V direction (North), current speed increases in the same layer as U velocity but it

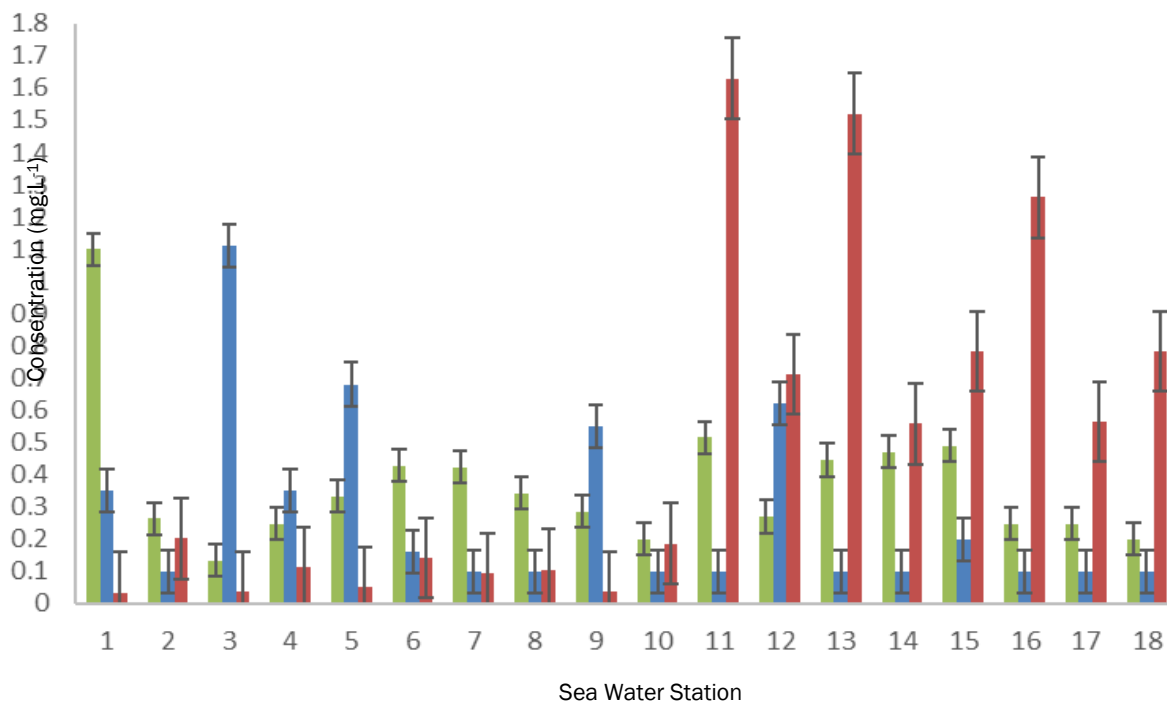


Figure 5. Nitrate, phosphate, and ammonia concentrations (sea water station)
 Note. ■ = Nitrate (mg.L⁻¹); ■ = Ammonia (mg.L⁻¹)x 10⁻²; ■ = Phosphate (mg.L⁻¹)

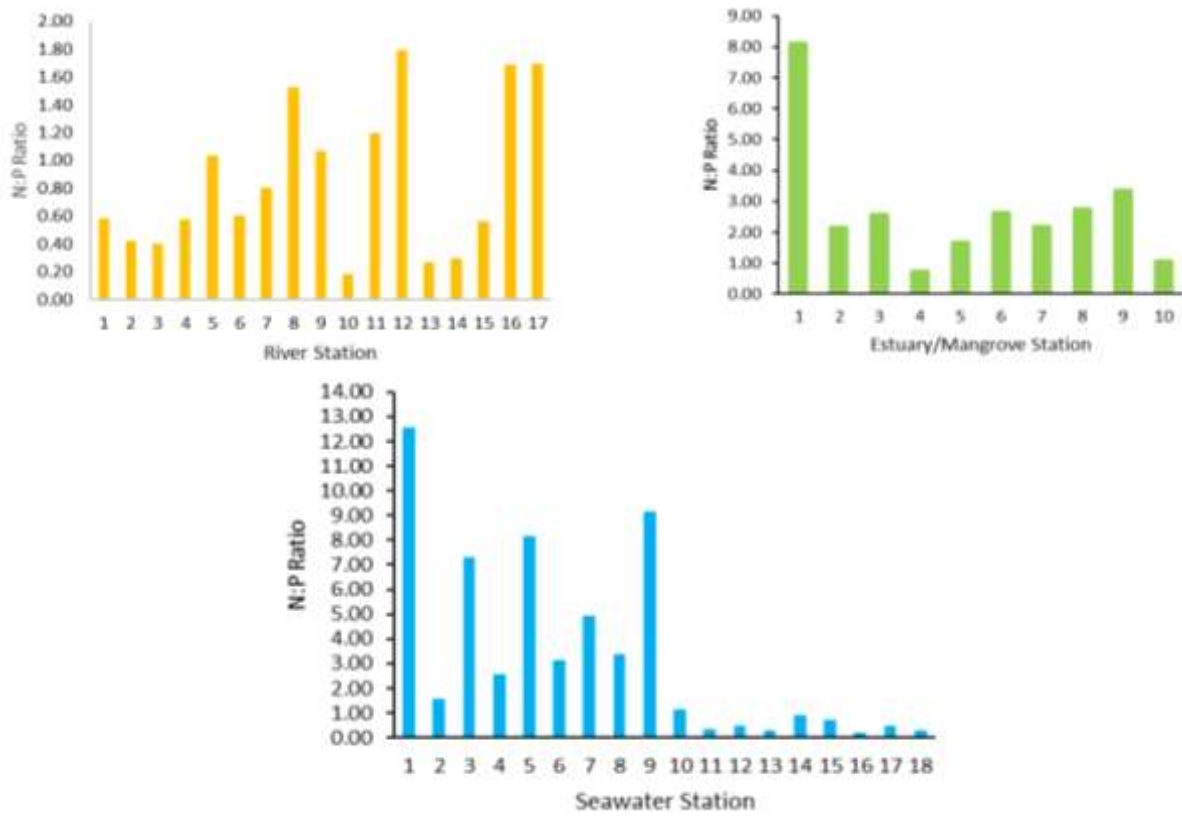


Figure 6. The graph of N:P ratio in the three observation areas

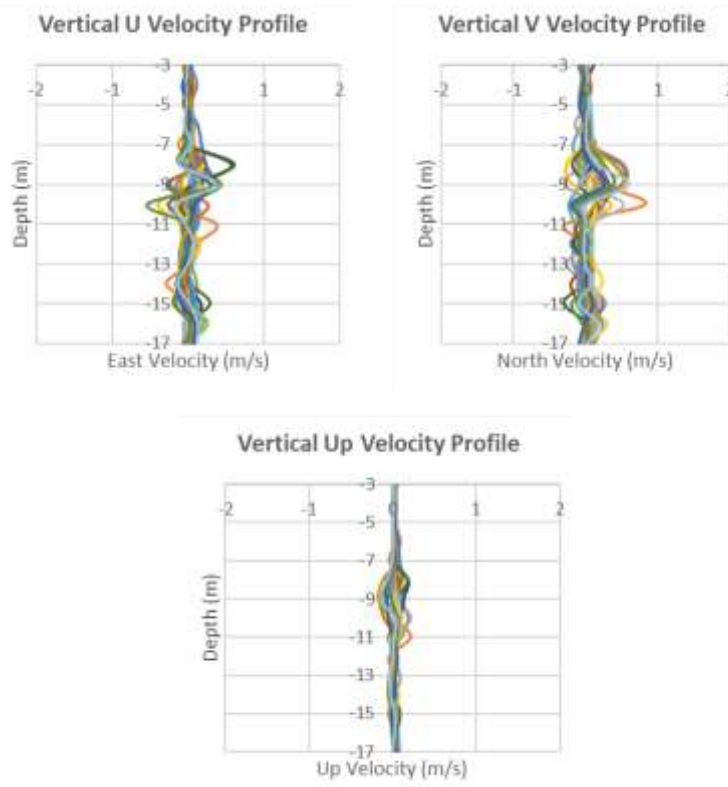


Figure 7. Current velocity component profiles based on ADCP measurement

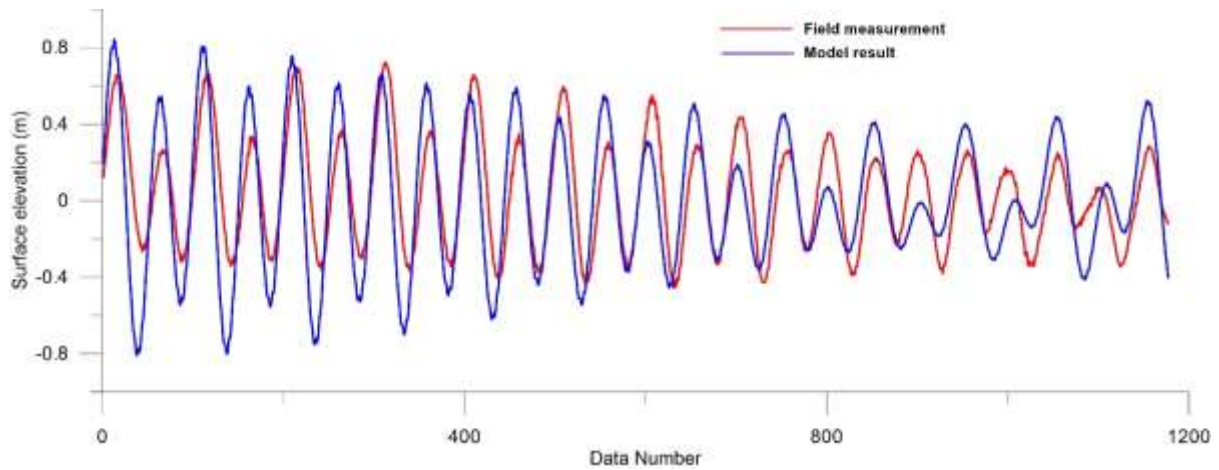


Figure 8. Model validation using surface elevation data

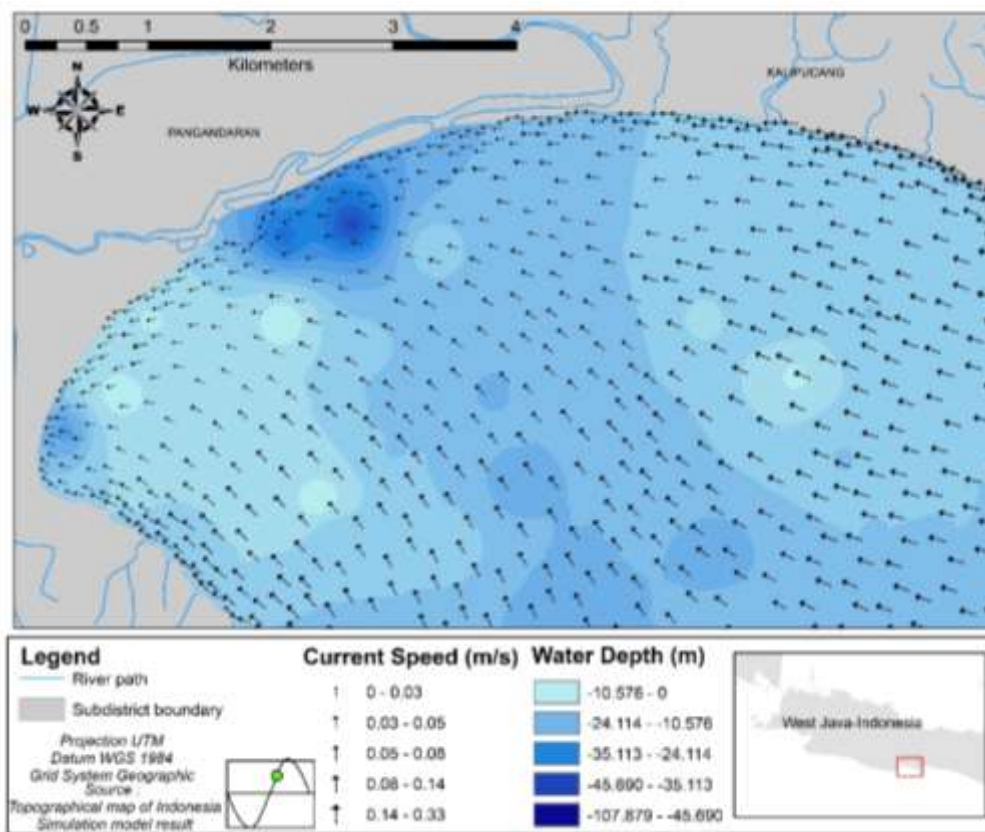


Figure 9. Tidal current pattern during high toward low tidal condition

Tabel 3. Nitrate, phosphate and ammonia compared with standard quality of KemenLH, 2004

Parameter	River	Estuary/Mangrove forest	Seawater	Sea water standard quality (KemenLH, 2004)	River standard quality (KemenLH, 2004)
Nitrate (mg.L ⁻¹)	0.09–1.33	0.55–1.59	0.13–1.10	0.008	1
Phosphate (mg.L ⁻¹)	0.10–2.16	0.06–7.55	0.03–1.63	0.015	-
Ammonia (mg.L ⁻¹)	0.01–0.02	0.01	0.01–0.51	0.3	2

is slightly fluctuated compared with U velocity. While, Up velocity shows that the vertical transport speed is not to significant and relatively stable (Figure 7). Vertical transport velocity is influenced by physical and climatic factors such as tides, waves, monsoon, and ocean oscillation, occurred in the Southern waters of Pangandaran (Susanto et al., 2001). It induces upwelling and downwelling events, triggering the transport of nutrient in the waters vertically.

The largest intake of nutrients derived from the river mouth. At high tidal condition, surface elevation is higher, resulting in the seawater domination in estuary. Whereas, at low tidal condition, surface elevation is lower than river water level, the river discharge will predominate in the estuary. This mechanism occurs in the estuarine areas and the nutrients are transported tidally and affect the degradation of estuary environment (Wisha and Heriati, 2016). Tidal current pattern still in the condition of displacement from ebb to flood, which has begun to enter the coast, from southeast to northwest and perpendicular to the estuaries of Pangandaran coast. It induces the turbulence on bottom particles due to the movement of longshore and rip currents, eventually suspended and floated in the water column (Ondara and Wisna, 2016). The particles are consisted of nutrient compounds and several organic-inorganic matters which are transported by the currents.

Hydrodynamic model simulated during the displacement of low toward high tidal condition at the same time of sampling. The RMSE obtained is 13.76 %. The comparison between model and field survey of surface elevation data is shown in Figure 8, representing the same tidal phase but have different elevation values. The longshore current velocity near the coast is weaker and become the drift transport in the coastal areas (Wisha et al., 2015). The current speed ranged 0-0.3 m.s⁻¹ (Figure 9). Tidal current movement is one of the dominant factors in the distribution of dissolved substances and compounds in the waters (Wisha and Heriati, 2016), Its fluctuation changed depended on tidal condition. It is obvious why the estuarine area has become the nutrients bank, because it is located in the intertidal area where the nutrients transported trapped and settled in that area. If ongoing, the nutrients will trigger blooming tendency and influence water quality degradation which eventually inhibits biota survival ability.

Conclusion

Nutrient condition in Pangandaran waters is alarming because it has exceeded the quality

standards of marine waters and rivers. The highest concentration is found in the estuary which is the bank of nutrient due to its location in the intertidal area. This condition is tremendously pernicious evoking blooming tendency and anoxic condition, which eventually inhibit biota survival ability. Based on N/P ratio, primary productivity of Pangandaran waters is commonly limited by N, where the highest N/P value is found in the estuary. Nitrate enhancement in Pangandaran waters indicates that it experiences pressure in the form of nitrogen (nitrate) enrichment. Tidal current has a big role evoking nutrient transport in estuary which is the major factor of organic and inorganic compounds in the water. During the displacement elevation of ebb to flood, nutrients from rivers (household and pollution waste) are disembogued in the estuary, on the other hand, nutrients come from open sea starts to enter the estuary. The results of this study show the importance of sustainable monitoring of water quality in coastal area.

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