

# The Analysis of Phytoplankton Abundance Using Weibull Distribution (A Case Study in the Coastal Area of East Yapen in the Regency of Yapen Islands, Papua)

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## Abstract

The coastal waters of East Yapen is one of the spawning sites and areas of care for marine biota in Papua. Because of its very open location, it is widely used by human activities such as fishing, residential, industrial and cruise lines. This indirectly affects the balance of coastal waters condition of East Yapen that impact on the existence of marine biota, especially phytoplankton. Phytoplanktons have a very important role because phytoplankton is the primary producer in the food chain as a link to higher tropical levels. Therefore, special studies are needed such as looking at the distribution of phytoplankton abundance at each site. The data analysis uses the American Public Health Association (APHA), Geo-statistical data, and Chi Square. Then, the distribution parameters are estimated using the Maximum Likelihood Estimation (MLE) method. The obtained parameters are used to describe the cumulative probability and survival of phytoplankton distribution. Samples are taken from fifteen sampling points. The form parameter of the phytoplankton abundance data is 3.9844 and the scale parameter is 79.929. So phytoplankton is the most widely spread in the 15<sup>th</sup> location, followed by the 6<sup>th</sup> location. While phytoplankton is at least in the 8<sup>th</sup> location. The results show that the highest phytoplankton abundance composition is Bacillariophyceae (50%) and the lowest is Phyrrophyceae (9%) and Cyanophceae. The research is expected to provide an overview of the fertility rate of East Yapen Coastal Waters in particular and Yapen Islands regency in general.

**Keywords:** Weibull Distribution, MLE, APHA, geostatistics, Chi Square, phytoplankton

## 1. Introduction

Indonesia is an archipelagic country with a number of islands reaching 13,000 km and coastline length of approximately 99,093 km. Geographically, the Yapen Islands Regency is located at 134°46' "BT - 137°54'" east longitude and 01°27' "LS - 02°58'" LS. Yapen Islands Regency is one of the areas located in Papua Province and is one of the easternmost provinces of Indonesia, with a land area of about 2,493 km<sup>2</sup> with coastline length ± 847 km<sup>2</sup> and sea waters covering an area of ± 4,130 km<sup>2</sup>. The waters of East Yapen have the characteristics of semi-open areas because they are located in the north of Papua Island that is directly related to the Pacific Ocean. Yapen Island is a coral reef ecosystem, seagrass and mangrove. Mangrove ecosystems, seagrasses and coral reefs are areas of "nutrient trap". Lately, population growth, residential areas, and industrial estates are on the rise. This has a negative impact on the surrounding aquatic ecosystems, as well as degrading the quality of these waters (Nontji, 2007; Hutabarat & Evans, 2012; Leea & Yooa, 2016; Romimohtarto & Juwana, 2004).

The coastal waters of East Yapen are also used as spawning sites and areas of care for marine biota. But the productivity has not been supported by information about the existence of natural feed (plankton) in coastal waters of East Yapen. Plankton consists of phytoplankton which is the main producer (primary producer) organic substances and zooplankton that can not produce organic substances so it uses phytoplankton as food. In ecology and fisheries, plankton are included as microorganisms that float in water but play an important role as a determinant of ecosystem balance. The presence of plankton in waters also greatly affect the survival of fish,

especially for plankton-eating fish or fish that are in early development stage. Given the importance of the role of plankton as a natural corpus and producer of aquatic ecosystems, plankton research is also important (Hutabarat & Evans, 2012; Abd El-Hady et al., 2016; Hartoko, 2009; Simanjuntak, 2009; Usman et al., 2013; Ayuningsih et al., 2014).

Some studies have been conducted in the northern waters of Papua, including in the deep sea of Papua, in the waters of Tana Merah Bay of Jayapura Regency, and in the sea waters of Jayapura City. However, there is no specific study on the composition of plankton abundance in coastal waters of East Yapen. Given the importance of phytoplankton as an indicator of water melting quality, the study of the phytoplankton abundance is very important to do. Study in this research is the base of coastal resources management of coastal Yapen East. Speaking of the abundance of phytoplankton, it is not too late from its distribution in a location. Distribution in the field of statistics is closely related to probabilities that refer to probability theory. The expected goal that can be achieved in this research is to know the parameters of phytoplankton abundance data in coastal waters of East Yapen, so that it can be illustrated as cumulative and survival of phytoplankton distribution graph. The results of this study are expected to provide an overview of the fertility rate of East Yapen Coastal Waters in particular and the Yapen Islands Regency in general (Hartoko, 2013; Sujarta et al., 2011; Suharno & Latang, 2011).

## 2. Theoretical Framework

### 2.1 Plankton Abundance Model

The analysis of phytoplankton abundance was determined based on the counting on the object glass (Sedwick-rafter). Undertaken in the unit of individual/liter (ind/l) which was then converted into individual/meter<sup>3</sup> (ind/m<sup>3</sup>). Plankton abundance is calculated using the following formula (Fachrul, 2007; Heneash et al., 2015; APHA, 1998):

$$N = \frac{T}{L} \times \frac{P}{p} \times \frac{V}{v} \times \frac{1}{w}$$

Some factors of the formula have already been known in the sedgwick-rafter, such as:  $T = 100 \text{ mm}^2$ ,  $v = 1 \text{ ml}$ , and  $L = 0.025 \mu\text{mm}^2$  (for example one circle is equal to the width of the field of view of a microscope with  $r = 0.5 \text{ mm}$ ), and thus the formula becomes:

$$N = \frac{100 \text{ mm}^2}{0.25 \pi} \times \frac{P}{10} \times \frac{V}{1 \text{ ml}} \times \frac{1}{w} \text{ or } N = \frac{1000 (P \times V)}{0.25 \pi \omega}$$

The analysis of geostatistical data was undertaken primarily on the transformation from points into spatial layers, followed by spatial modeling based on geostatistical gridding known as the "kriging-method" (Hartoko, 2000). Data transformation coordinates were performed from Geodesy data (Degree, Minute, Second/DMS) into single numerical coordinates based on the formula (Hartoko & Helmi, 2014).

### 2.2 Two-Parameter Weibull Distribution Function

A continuous random variable  $T$  has Weibull distribution with the shape parameter  $c > 0$  and the scale parameter  $b > 0$ , if it has a probability density function:

$$f(t|b, c) = \begin{cases} \frac{c}{b} \left(\frac{t}{b}\right)^{c-1} \exp\left\{-\left(\frac{t}{b}\right)^c\right\} \\ 0, \text{ for the other} \end{cases} \quad (1)$$

The cumulative function of Weibull distribution for the equation (1) is presented as follows:

$$F(t) = 1 - S(t) = 1 - \exp\left\{-\left(\frac{t}{b}\right)^c\right\}, \quad t > 0 \quad (2)$$

In the survival analysis, the survival function  $S(t)$  was derived from the cumulative distribution function in the equation (2), thus:

$$S(t) = \frac{f(t)}{h(t)} = \frac{\frac{c}{b} \left(\frac{t}{b}\right)^{c-1} \exp\left\{-\left(\frac{t}{b}\right)^c\right\}}{\frac{c}{b} \left(\frac{t}{b}\right)^{c-1}} = \exp\left\{-\left(\frac{t}{b}\right)^c\right\}, \quad t > 0 \quad (3)$$

### 2.3 Likelihood Function

For example  $T_1, T_2, \dots, T_n$  denote random variables which are mutually independent with the following probability density function  $f(t_i; \theta)$ , where  $\theta$  is  $c, b$  which constitute the parameters to be assessed. If  $L$  is a joint opportunity function of  $T_1, T_2, \dots, T_n$  regarded as a function of  $\theta$ , then the likelihood function is indicated by (Bain & Engelhardt, 1992):

$$L(\theta) = \prod_1^n f(t_i; \theta) \tag{4}$$

The value of  $\theta$  which maximizes  $L(\theta)$  will also maximize the log likelihood ( $\ln L(\theta) = l(\theta)$ ).  $\hat{\theta}$  is obtained using the following steps:

- 1) The value  $\hat{\theta}$  is obtained from the first derivative, namely:  $\frac{\partial l(\theta)}{\partial \theta} = 0$
- 2) The value of  $\hat{\theta}$  is said to maximize  $l(\theta)$  if  $\frac{\partial^2 l(\theta)}{\partial \theta^2} \Big|_{\theta=\hat{\theta}} < 0$  (negative definite)

## 3. Hypothesis Testing and Weibull Distribution Parameter Estimation

### 3.1 Hypothesis Testing Using Chi-Square

The research was undertaken in January-February 2016 in the coastal waters of East Yapan. After conducting testing using easyfit, data on phytoplankton abundance follow the two-parameter Weibull distribution, with the following results:

Table 1. Hypothesis testing results

| Chi-Square | Deg. Of freedom | Statistic | P-Value | Rank | a    | Critical Value |
|------------|-----------------|-----------|---------|------|------|----------------|
|            | 1               | 7.2481E-4 | 0.97852 | 1    | 0.05 | 3.8415         |

### 3.2 Weibull Distribution Parameter Estimation

The likelihood function of the two-parameter Weibull distribution is presented below:

$$L(\theta) = \prod_1^n f(t_i; \theta)$$

$$L(t_1, \dots, t_n; b, c) = \frac{c}{b} \left(\frac{t_1}{b}\right)^{c-1} \exp\left\{-\left(\frac{t_1}{b}\right)^c\right\} \dots \cdot \frac{c}{b} \left(\frac{t_n}{b}\right)^{c-1} \exp\left\{-\left(\frac{t_n}{b}\right)^c\right\}$$

$$L(t_1, t_2, \dots, t_n; b, c) = \left(\frac{c}{b^c}\right)^n \prod_{i=1}^n (t_i)^{c-1} \exp\left[-\sum_{i=1}^n \left(\frac{t_i}{b}\right)^c\right] \tag{5}$$

Subsequently, from the equation (5), the log-likelihood function is:

$$l = n[\ln c - c \ln b] + (c - 1) \sum_{i=1}^n \ln(t_i) - \sum_{i=1}^n \left(\frac{t_i}{b}\right)^c \tag{6}$$

The equation (6) is derived from the derivative  $l$  against  $b$ , namely:

$$\frac{\partial l}{\partial b} = -\frac{nc}{b} + \frac{c}{b} \sum_{i=1}^n \left(\frac{t_i}{b}\right)^c = 0 \tag{7}$$

The equation (6) is derived from the derivative  $l$  against  $c$ , namely:

$$\frac{\partial l}{\partial c} = \frac{n}{c} - n \ln b + \sum_{i=1}^n \ln(t_i) - \sum_{i=1}^n \left(\frac{t_i}{b}\right)^c \ln \sum_{i=1}^n \left(\frac{t_i}{b}\right)^c = 0 \tag{8}$$

The equation (7) is derived against  $b$ , thus the following equation is obtained:

$$\frac{\partial^2 l}{\partial b^2} = \frac{c}{b^2} \left[ n - (c - 1) \sum_{i=1}^n \left(\frac{t_i}{b}\right)^c \right] \tag{9}$$

The equation (8) is derived against  $c$ , thus the following equation is obtained:

$$\frac{\partial^2 l}{\partial c^2} = \frac{n}{c^2} - \sum_{i=1}^n \left(\frac{t_i}{b}\right) \left[\ln\left(\frac{t_i}{b}\right)\right]^2 \tag{10}$$

The equation (8) is derived against  $c$ , thus the following equation is obtained:

$$\frac{\partial^2 l}{\partial b \partial c} = \frac{\partial^2 l}{\partial c \partial b} = -\frac{1}{b} \left[ n - \sum_{i=1}^n \left(\frac{t_i}{b}\right)^c - c \sum_{i=1}^n \left(\frac{t_i}{b}\right)^c \ln\left(\frac{t_i}{b}\right) \right] \tag{11}$$

Thus, values of matrix entries are obtained as the general form of the estimation parameters using the Newton-Rhaphson method, namely:

$$\begin{bmatrix} \hat{b}_{(k+1)} \\ \hat{c}_{(k+1)} \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} \hat{b}_{(k)} \\ \hat{c}_{(k)} \end{bmatrix} - \begin{bmatrix} \frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial b^2} & \frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial b \partial c} \\ \frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial c \partial b} & \frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial c^2} \end{bmatrix}_k^{-1} \begin{bmatrix} \frac{\partial l}{\partial b} \\ \frac{\partial l}{\partial c} \end{bmatrix}_k \tag{12}$$

#### 4. Findings and Discussion

##### 4.1 Data on Phytoplankton Abundance in January-February 2016 in Coastal Waters of East Yapen

Table 2. Data on Phytoplankton Abundance in January-February 2016

| Sampling (Location) | Point | Phytoplankton (ind/L) February | PDF    | CDF    | Survival |
|---------------------|-------|--------------------------------|--------|--------|----------|
| 6                   |       | 107.643                        | 0.0060 | 0.9468 | 0.0532   |
| 8                   |       | 44.586                         | 0.0067 | 0.0750 | 0.9250   |
| 15                  |       | 112.739                        | 0.0037 | 0.9712 | 0.0288   |

##### 4.2 Graphs Illustrating the Probability Density Function (PDF), the Cumulative Distribution Function (CDF), and the Survival of Phytoplankton Abundance

The abundance of phytoplankton in January - February 2016 in the coastal waters of East Yapen is shown in the graph of the probability density, cumulative distribution, and survival functions. However, the phytoplankton abundance data in the present research was interpreted using the Cumulative Distribution Function (CDF) graph.

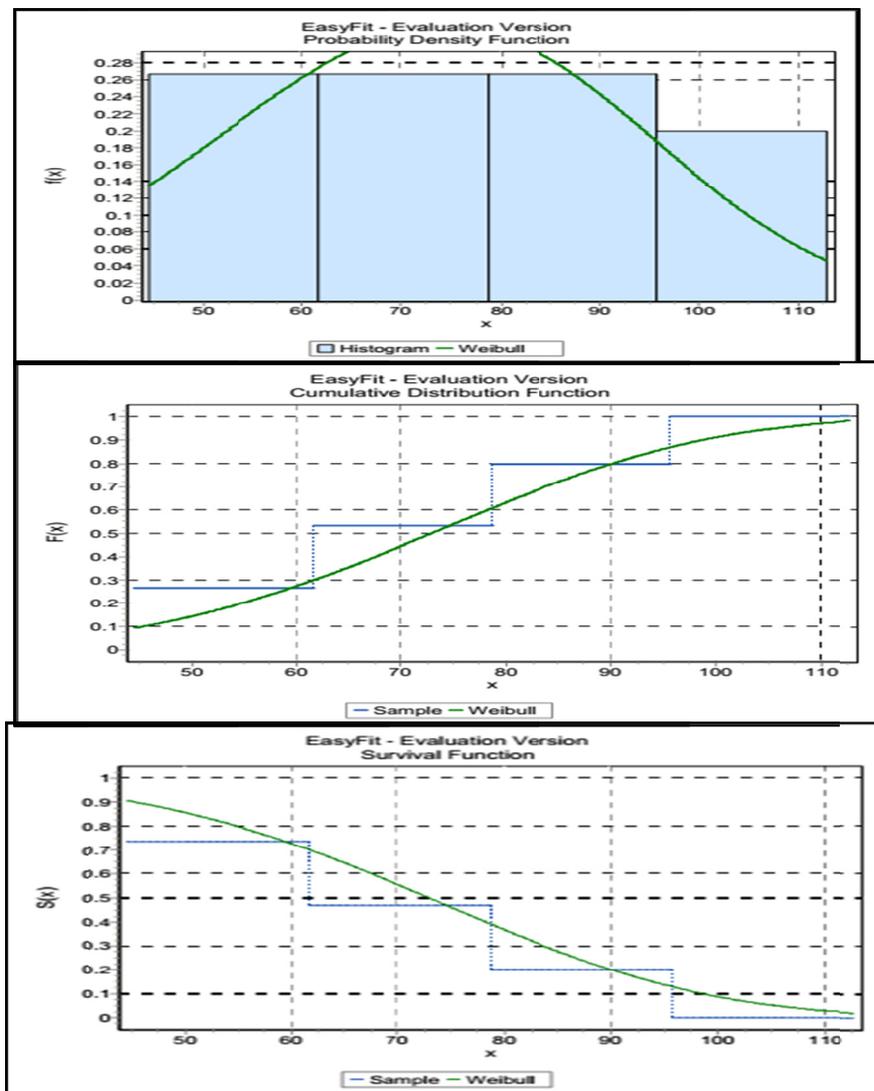


Figure 1. Graphs illustrating PDF, CDF, and survival of phytoplankton abundance

Based on the graph of cumulative distribution, it is revealed that in the 15th location, it can be interpreted that the probability of phytoplankton abundance is less than 112.739 or equal to 0.9712. Moreover, in the 6th location, it can be interpreted that the probability of phytoplankton abundance is less than 107.643 or equal to 0.9468. As for the 8th location, it can be interpreted that the probability of phytoplankton abundance is less than 44.586 or equal to 0.0750. Therefore, the highest number of phytoplankton is found in the 15th location, followed by the 6th location, with the lowest number of phytoplankton found in the 8th location.

#### 4.3 Composition of Phytoplankton Types

It is revealed that the phytoplankton found are comprised of 5 classes namely; *Bacillariophyceae* (Diatom), *Desmidiaceae*, *Chlorophyceae*, *Phyrrrophyceae* (*Dinoflagelata*), and *Cyanophyceae*, with *Bacillariophyceae* as the highest composition (50%), and *Phyrrrophyceae* (9%) and *Cyanophyceae* the lowest composition. Hartoko & Helmi (2014) state that diatoms are one of the phytoplankton types found abundantly in the waters of Papua. Sujarta (2012) states that the class *Bacillariophyceae* (Diatomae) is the class of phytoplankton found especially in Karoba waters, Aguni Kaimana Gulf, Papua. Generally, in the marine waters of Indonesia, the number of Diatoms found is higher than that of *Dinoflagelata*. According to Thoha & Rachman (2013); Balzano et al. (2015); Brzezinski (1985) the class *Bacillariophyceae* is more capable of adapting to the existing environmental conditions and this class is cosmopolitan and has high tolerance and adaptability. Nontji (2008), Effendi et al (2016), Kruk et al. (2016) states that the class *Dinoflagellata* (*Dinophyceae*) is a group of phytoplankton

commonly found in the sea after diatoms. Results of the analysis of phytoplankton composition is presented in Fig. 2.

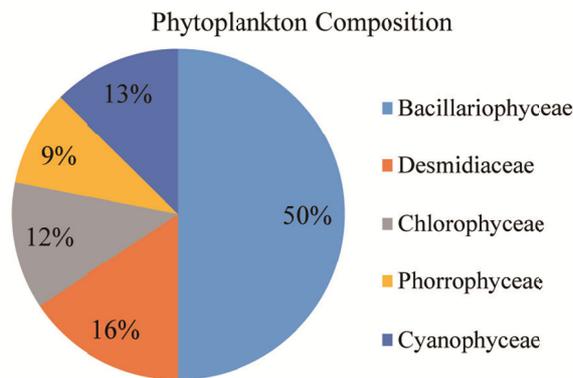


Figure 2. Phytoplankton composition in coastal waters of East Yapen

#### 4.4 Phytoplankton Abundance Composition

The abundance of phytoplankton in coastal waters of East Yapen in a number of research sampling points (locations) is shown in the figure below.

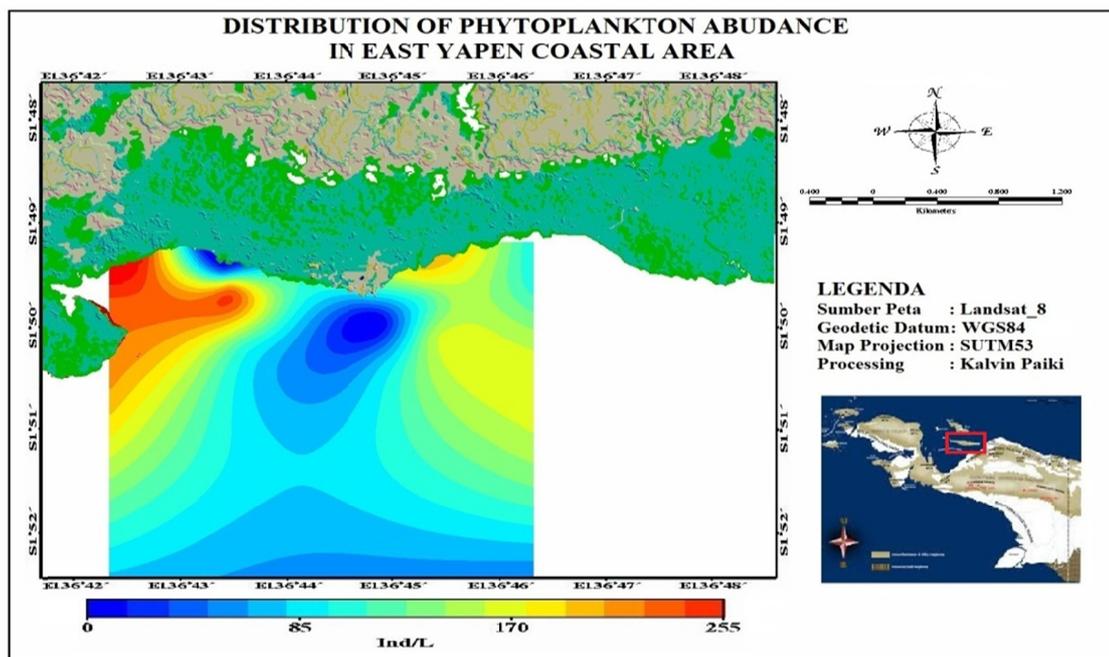


Figure 3. Phytoplankton abundance distribution in coastal waters of East Yapen

Analysis results for the spatial distribution of phytoplankton abundance in the fifteen observed points are presented in Figure 3. The highest and lowest abundance of phytoplankton in coastal waters of East Yapen is found in the east and west, respectively (Figure 2). It is allegedly influenced by the high nutrients produced by Kerenui river that crosses the land of Kerenui Village and empties into the east of the observed locations. Krukut et al. (2016); Graff et al. (2015) state that around the estuary, there are many nutrients (nitrate, phosphate, and silicate) derived from the land which are used by phytoplankton in order to grow. The low abundance of phytoplankton in the west is allegedly due to predators. This is evident from the high abundance of zooplankton in the west. Rashidy et al. (2013) state that phytoplankton and zooplankton have a close ecological relationship,

namely grazing. The main cause which results in changes in the population of phytoplankton is the intensive grazing activity by zooplankton (Nybakken, 1992; Estepp & Reavie, 2015).

## 5. Conclusions and Suggestions

### 5.1 Conclusions

The Maximum Likelihood Estimation (MLE) method did not generate an explicit solution and thus it was followed by the iteration process using the Newton Raphson method with the assistance of the program Matlab 2008b. Research findings suggest that the shape parameter of the phytoplankton abundance data was 39.844 and the scale parameter was 79.929. Where the highest and lowest abundance of phytoplankton in coastal waters of East Yapen is found in the east and west, respectively (Figure 1) and the highest phytoplankton composition is *Bacillariophyceae* (50%) while the lowest ones are *Phyrrrophyceae* (9%) and *Cyanophyceae*.

### 5.2 Suggestions

In the present research, the estimation of the scale and shape parameters of Weibull distribution was undertaken using the Maximum Likelihood Estimation (MLE) method. It is expected that future research can be undertaken using different distribution and methods. Moreover, for related parties, they are expected to pay special attention to the western area of the coastal waters of East Yapen because lack of phytoplankton will greatly affect the other marine creatures.

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