

Development of Crab Ball Floating Raft as an Effort to Increase LIFE and Growth Rate of Mangrove Crab (*Scylla* spp) at Baros Beach Crab Cultivation Center

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ABSTRACT

This study aims to develop an appropriate tool to be able to increase the survival and growth rate of mud crabs which are trade commodities by Baros beach fishermen. So far, Baros beach fishermen only work as capture fishermen, and the results are still very minimal when compared to market needs and demands. This mud crab rearing tool was developed through a research and development methodology to produce an effective and efficient tool according to the needs of Baros beach fishermen. The research began with an FGD process carried out together with the community and mangrove fishermen. This FGD process is intended to discuss the results of previous studies in the previous year which were not satisfactory. All the mangrove crab seedlings drowned due to the erosion of mud carried from the river during heavy rains. The FGD was carried out by presenting resource persons to be able to produce a design of a crab rearing raft that was adaptive to fluctuations in water and mud levels. The new design was made by adding a float to allow the mud crab farm to float about 25% of the rearing ball above the water. The design was then tested by maintaining a number of mud crab seeds. The results are still unsatisfactory because most of the crabs still die drowning in the mud. Based on this, the raft design was updated by adding moorings on all four sides so that the maintenance raft could be moored in the deepest river body, so that the chance of being hit by mud floods was getting smaller. As a result, of the 75 crabs that were spawned, only as many as the crabs died. The rate of weight gain of live crabs, and also progresses well and significant. The crabs will be ready to be harvested at week 8 when they are about 65-75 days old.

Kata Kunci: *Crab farming, Crab Ball Floating Raft, Baros Beach*