



The Impact of Commercial Puerulus Harvest on Adjacent Lobster Fisheries in Indonesia

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Lobster has a cryptic lifecycle, especially during its long larval dispersal, where the connectivity between the source (hatching site) and the sink (post-larval stage settles) remains unknown in Indonesia, although commercial puerulus fishing is thriving. With such limited information, investigating the impact of puerulus harvesting on the recruits in the sink area is more plausible to do to help the sustainability of this fishery.



On a fine scale, an important questions is to ask is if a commercial puerulus collector effectively filtering the pueruli that are moving shoreward? The effectiveness of puerulus collectors in removing all the pueruli from the water preventing them from getting to the shore, is referred to as the **filtering** effect. Here is how we assessed the filtering effect:



Offshore

Α

The complexities are: 1. Larvae settling in collectors are likely to come from 100's or 1000s of kilometres away. 2. The source areas for Indonesian lobster species are unknown, so the assumption is that larval sources are spread around the coast and the location will vary from year to year.

> If there is no evidence of a filtering effect, next important question -> Is puerulus harvesting affecting lobster fishery?

> > Lobster fishing ground & fishing effort was identified using GPS trackers for 3-6 months, and data was analysed with HMMs model



From this study, there is no evidence to suggest that puerulus harvesting is decreasing the puerulus settlement on the shore (i.e. no filtering effect) and there is no evidence that lobster fishing is impacted by puerulus fishing in the research area.



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