



# *Proceedings*

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# Water Related Risk Management

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## Table of Contents

	Page
<b>Flood, Drought, Rainfall and Environment</b>	
1. Water Trap Series as an Integrated Approach in Flood and Drought Control (Case Study Mbay City, Aesesa District, Nagekeo Regency, NTT Province, Indonesia) (Susilowati)	1
2. Hydraulic Modeling of Jatiluhur Morning Glory Spillway (Indratmo Soekarno, Agung Wiyono and Febya Nurnadiati)	9
3. The Impact of Mount Bawakaraeng's Caldera Colapse on Bili-Bili Reservoir (Suwarno HP, Haeruddin C. Maddi and Willem M)	17
4. Five Required Steps for Upper Citarum Flood Mitigation (Isdiyana, Yanto Wibawa, Winskayati and Suhedi)	27
5. A Theoretical Study of Flow Characteristic Due to Wave Run Up - Run Down (Oki Setyandito, Nur Yuwono, Nizam and Radianta Triatmadja)	35
6. Outline of Musashi Canal Rehabilitation Project (Yuki Hachijo and Kazuhiko Nakajima)	43
7. Seismic Analysis of Barrages Against Large-Scale Earthquakes (Jun Utsunomiya, Tomoo Kato and Yuriko Tsuchida)	50
8. The Effectiveness of Source Control Measures to Solve Flood Problems (Case Study Upper - Citarum Watershed) (Dwita Sutjiningsih, Evi Anggraheni, Wisang Adhitya and Tito Latif Indra)	59
9. Modelling Spatial Flood Risk Due to Rainfall Variabilities in Upstream Citarum River Basin (Anik Sarminingsih, Iwan K. Hadihardaja, Indratmo Soekarno and M. Syahril B.K.)	67
10. Problem and Solution of Water Resources Conservation in Java Indonesia (Achmadi Partowijoto)	75
11. Raingauge Network Evaluation Using Geostatistic in Tembagapura Papua (Imroatul Chalimah Juliana, Harry Suryantoro and Budhi Setiawan)	83
12. Distribution Scenario of Rainfall to Control Excessive Discharge in Ciliwung River (Sulad Sriharto, Suseno Darsono and Putu Eddy)	90
13. Development of Semi Distributed Rainfall-Runoff Model for Optimizing Flood Control at Wonogiri Reservoir (R. Jayadi and L. Arlensietami)	98
14. Validation of Rainfall Disaggregation Model Using Bayesian (Par(1) <sup>2d</sup> ) Model Coupled with Adjusting and Filtering Procedure (Entin Hidayah, Nadjadji Anwar, and Edijatno)	106
15. A General Procedure for Development of ITB-1 and ITB-2 Synthetic Unit Hydrograph Based on Mass Conservation Principle (D.K. Natakusumah, Dhemi Harlan and Waluyo Hatmoko)	114
16. Reliability of Nakayasu Synthetic Unit Hydrograf in Various Watershed Area (Ariani Budi Safarina)	123

	Page
17. The Impact of Rainfall Variability and Hydrological Regimes on Flood Frequency (Dyah Indriana Kusumastuti)	131
18. Analysis of Rainfall Station Spatial Distribution Based on The Distribution of Physiomorphhydro Zone in West Java Province (Iwan Setiawan and Dede Rohmat)	137
19. Preliminary Assessment of Environmental Flow in Way Sekampung River an Effort to Reduce Environmental Risk (Endro P. Wahono)	145
20. Longterm Simulation of Phythoplankton Dynamics by Object Oriented Model to Control Eutrophication in The Jatiluhur Reservoir (Eko Winar Irianto, R. W. Triweko and D. Yudianto)	153
21. Pollution in Jatiluhur Reservoir A Time Bomb for Jakarta and West Java (Rapiali Zainuddin)	161
 <b>Coastal Engineering and Sediment Transport</b>	
1. Computer Simulation Using DufLOW for Designing Water Management Improvement at Reclaimed Tidal Lowland Area of Primer 8 Telang I, South Sumatera (Momon Sodik Imanudin, Sukoco and A. Muis)	167
2. Integrated Coastal Vulnerability Assesment Model for Bali Island (D.M. Sulaiman, R Wahyudi Triweko and Doddi Yudianto)	175
3. Low Crested Breakwaters Using Geotube as an Alternative Measures for Beach Erosion Control (Case Study of Pasir Putih Beach, Anyer, Banten Province) (D.M. Sulaiman, M.E. Sudjana and B.S. Prasetyo)	183
4. Theoretical Approach of Geotextile Tube Stability as a Submerged Coastal Structure (Chairul Paotonan, Nur Yuwono, R. Triatmadja and Bambang Triatmodjo)	191
5. Two Dimensional Physical Modeling of Sediment Loss Through a Submerged Coastal Structure (Chairul Paotonan, Nur Yuwono, R. Triatmadja and Bambang Triatmodjo)	199
6. Mangrove Forestry and Fish Skeleton Type of Long Storage Structure as an Integrated Approach in Coastal Protection Against Sea Level Rise (Case Study in Mbay Lowland Rice Field, Nagekeo Regency, NTT Province, Indonesia) (Susilawati and Baki Henong)	207
7. The Effect of Permeable Groin on Longshore Current (Hasdinar Umar, Rifky Surya Pratama, Adi Surya Pranata, Nur Yuwono, Radianta Triatmadja and Nizam)	215
8. Tsunami Force on Elevated Buildings (Radianta Triatmadja and Any Nurhasanah)	223
9. Performance of Groin Type-I and Type-L in Maintaining Shoreline Stability (Oki Setyandito, Nizam, Nur Yuwono, Radianta Triatmadja and Khusnul Setia Wardani)	230
10. Analysis of Overflow Structure Dimension for Water Management in a Tidal Lowland Area (Rosmina Zuchri, Budi Indra Setiawan, Dwi Setyawan and Soewarso)	238



	Page
11. Study of Cyclone and Storm Surge Characteristics in Bay of Bengal (Masaaki Sakuraba and Kazuhisa Iwami)	247
12. Water Level Control in Tidal Lowland Reclamation to Reduce Flood and Drought Risk (A Case Study in West Kalimantan) (Nurhayati, Indratmo Soekarno, M. Cahyono and Iwan Kridasantausa)	254
13. Modeling of Water System Condition Due to Reclamation in Upland of Jakarta (Ahmad Mukhlis Firdaus, Hernawan Mahfudz, Dhemi Harlan and Ahmad Syafii Maarif)	261
14. The Impact of Built Islands on Maximum Water Level at River Mouths in West Part of Jakarta Coast (A.P. Rahardjo, D. Legono and A.P. Palenga)	269
15. Effectiveness of Filter Backwashing Against Accumulated Cohesive Sediment (Budi Kamulyan, Fatchan Nurrochmad, R. Triatmadja and Sunjoto)	276
16. Dynamics of Debris Flow Features at Gendol River Before and After 2010 Mount Merapi Eruption (Wasis Wardoyo, D. Legono, R. Jayadi and T.F. Fathani)	284
17. Development of Collaborative-Based of Lahar Flow Early Warning System for Code River in Yogyakarta (D. Legono, I.E. Prabowo, T.F. Fathani, D. Karnawati, and A.P. Rahardjo)	292
18. The Influence of Scour and Impact Forces of Lahar Flow on Stability of River Structures (D. Legono, B. Wignyosukarto and A. Saputra)	299
19. The Influence of Sediment Concentration on Settling Velocity (Wati Asriningsih Pranoto)	305
20. A Numerical Study of Lateral Dynamics an Associated Transport of Fine Sediment in The Mahakam Estuary (Idris Mandang and Tetsuo Yanagi)	311
21. An Invisible Countermeasure for Flood Mitigation - "Dredging" in Jakarta Emergency Dredging Initiative (JEDI) Project (Chih-Hsiung, Huang and Chien-Pang, Liu)	319

### Urban Drainage and Water Supply

1. "Polder" Development in Indonesia Challenges for Urban Drainage Solutions (Joyce Martha Widjaya)	327
2. The Study of Polder System on Marina Hai Lai Gates Using HEC - RAS (Irpan Harahap, Dhemi Harlan and Hernawan M)	335
3. Hydraulic Evaluation of Pluit Polder System in DKI Jakarta Province (Dhemi Harlan, Hernawan Mahfudz and Ika Agustin Ningrum)	343
4. Potency of Small Lake to Reduce Sunter Flood (Trihono Kadri)	351
5. Water Supply Related Risk Management Lesson Learned from Municipal Water Supply Company (Perusahaan Daerah Air Minum) (Ahmad Lanti)	355

	Page
6. Study on Clean Water Provision for Inhabitants in Bunaken Island (Tiny Mananoma, Lambertus Tanudjaja, Happy Mulya and Widandi Sutopo)	363
7. Study of Surface Runoff Sensitivity Due to Land Use Change in Small Urban Area (Nursetiawan and Dita Wulandari)	370
8. Reinforcement Operation Against Large Earthquake on Large Scale Water Supply Facilities (Koichiro Otagaki)	377
9. Estimation of Irrigation Crop Production Risk (Widandi Sutopo and Dwi Priyantoro)	385
10. The Effect of Micro Water Management on Water Availability to Increase Rice Plantation Index (P Simanungkalit, L. Budi Triadi and Maruddin Fernandus)	390
11. The Study of Farmers Role in The Study of Operations and Maintenance on Irrigation District Area Bogor Sasak (Suardi Natasaputra, Dhemi Harlan and Gemilang)	399
12. Development of Water Stress Index to Assess Water Stress in Jakarta (Firdaus Ali)	408
 <b>Social Economic and Management</b>	
1. Integrated Flood Management Model Engaging Stakeholders to Overcome Institutional Problems in Jakarta (Emma Akmalah and Neil S. Grigg)	417
2. The Necessity of a Dynamic Risk Index Map of Relatively Safe Area During Chaotic Situation of Mount Merapi Eruption (Darmanto, D. Legono, T.F. Fathani, R. Jayadi and A. Sudihatmono)	425
3. The Effect of Land Use Changes on Low Flow Characteristic in Ciliwung River (Waluyo Hatmoko)	432
4. Traditional Wisdom of Local People Surrounding Bade Reservoir in Water Resources Conservation Management (A Case Study From Klego District, Boyolali Regency, Central Java Province) (Rahardjanto)	440
5. Impact of Urbanization in Jabodetabek and It's Countermeasures Jakarta Comprehensive Flood Management (JCfM) (Takaya Tanaka, Makoto Yonekura and Tadafumi Sato)	447
6. Flood and Water Related Issues in The Upper Citarum River Basin and It's Future Perspectives (Kenichiro Kato, Mudjiadi, Kazunori Inoue, Hitoki Takada, Takashi Yuasa, Susumu Ishikawa, Mamoru Nakamura and Yasuhiko Morita)	455
7. Assessment of Urbanization Effect on Flood in Scarcely Gauged River Catchment (Mohammad Farid, Akira Mano and Keiko Udo)	463
8. Gotong Royong in The Digital Age (J.B. Wagemaker, Melanie Miltenburg, Meidityawati, Bevita D and M. Hartman)	471

	Page
9. Enhancement of Public Awareness and Participation on Integrated Water Resources Management <b>(Achmadi Partowijoto)</b>	478
10. Role of Public Participation in Flood Risk Management <b>(Hisaya Sawano)</b>	486
11. Project Risk Management in Hydropower Plant Project (A Case Study from The State-owned Electricity Company of Indonesia) <b>(Sarwono HM and W Bernadi Sudirman)</b>	493
12. Risk Assessment for Krueng Teunom Flood Management <b>(A. Masimin and Zouhrawaty A. Ariff)</b>	501
13. Evaluation of Erosion Based on GIS and Remote Sensing to Support Integrated Water Resources Conservation Management (Case Study Majunto Watershed, Bengkulu Province-Indonesia) <b>(Gusta Gunawan, Dwita Sutjiningsih and Herr Soeryantono)</b>	509
14. Water Related Risk Management in Walanae Cenranae River Basin After Tempe Barrage Construction <b>(Subandi, Thomas Raya Tandisau, Malik Dalih and Nizam Lebah)</b>	515
15. Integrated Disaster Mitigation for Flash Flood (Banjir Bandang) in Indonesia <b>(Toshiyasu Ueno and Keiji Yoshida)</b>	523
16. Design Flood Information System Development Using Spatial Model for Disaster Mitigation <b>(Yadi Suryadi, Dian Indrawati, Iwan K. Hadihardaja and Joko Nugroho)</b>	531
17. Managing Stalemate in Dam Projects <b>(Machiko Higa)</b>	539



# The Influence of Sediment Concentration on Settling Velocity

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**Abstract:** *Aggradation occurred in many rivers in Indonesia, causes flood due to the decreasing capacity of rivers is decreased, especially on the downstream or estuary. Citanduy River is among those rivers and needs special attention. Aggradation occurred because of the continuous sedimentation process. As the transport sediment increases, the probability of sedimentation to occur is also increases normally. The sediment that is easily carried to the downstream and subsectionally sedimented in estuary is called cohesive sediment. One of the characteristics of sediment that influenced the sedimentation is settling velocity. The settling velocity of cohesive sediment in Citanduy River was observed with 7 – 8 concentration levels. The research is conducted in laboratory. The obtained result shows that the optimum settling velocity is reached on certain concentration level.*

**Keywords:** *Settling velocity, Sediment concentration.*

## 1. INTRODUCTION

Indonesia has many rivers with various geographical and geological conditions affecting the watershed. In average, many rivers in Indonesia are subjected to aggradation. It is due to the upstream watershed of the rivers are not preserved well. The establishment of agricultural or plantation areas is not supported with the planting of trees that could be used to resist erosion. Erosion can also occur when the mountain slope is planted with the wrong plant. In Dieng plateau, Central Java, potatoes are harvested by revoking it from its root. This harvest method will cause erosion on mountain slope when raining and swept by current runoff to the river. Generally, great quantities of cohesive sediments are found in estuary because it is easier to get carried in river flow as the suspended sediment.

Citanduy River, located in West Java, is considered as the river that carried cohesive sediments and experiencing aggradation. This river has Segara Anakan estuary and its estuary mouth is located in Nusa Kambangan island. The estuary is protected from the big wave of Indonesia Ocean. But unfortunately, its flora and fauna is on the verge of extinction due to the aggradation. Most of mangrove forests in that area are lost, the breeding locations of fishes, shrimps, crabs, and scallops are decreasing, and the sailing lane become narrow and shallow.

In order to prevent a severe aggradation in the estuary of Citanduy River, sediment characteristics study is needed. One of the sediment characteristics observed in this research is the settling velocity of cohesive sediment. This study is expected to bring an accurate modeling that matches its actual condition because every sediment, including cohesive sediment in Citanduy River, has different characteristics from other sediments.

### 1.1 Research Objective

This research is aimed to study the settling velocity of cohesive sediment in Citanduy River which is affected by sediment concentration and salinity.

### 1.2 Research Methodology and Approach

The research is conducted with experiments in laboratory using samples of sediment and water from Citanduy River. The measurement of settling velocity of cohesive sediment is also done in laboratory. Bottom withdrawal tube is used to determine the settling velocity of cohesive sediment (Berlamont et al, 1993). The working principle of bottom withdrawal tube is based on the sedimentation of particles in uniform suspension.

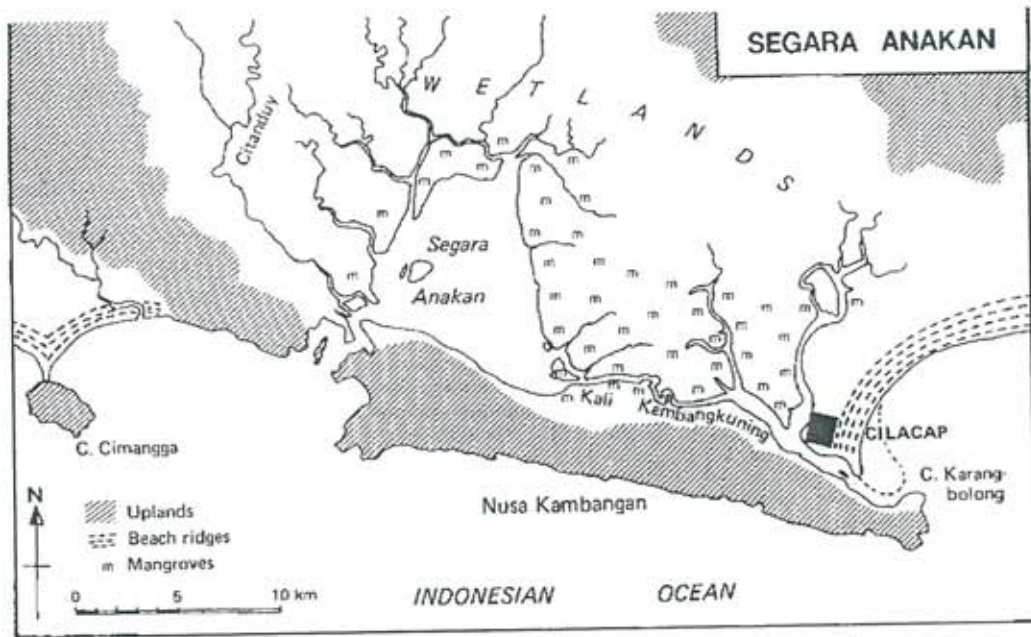


Figure 1 Location of Citanduy River (<http://sidhat.blogspot.com/2011/05/budidaya-sidhat-7.html>)

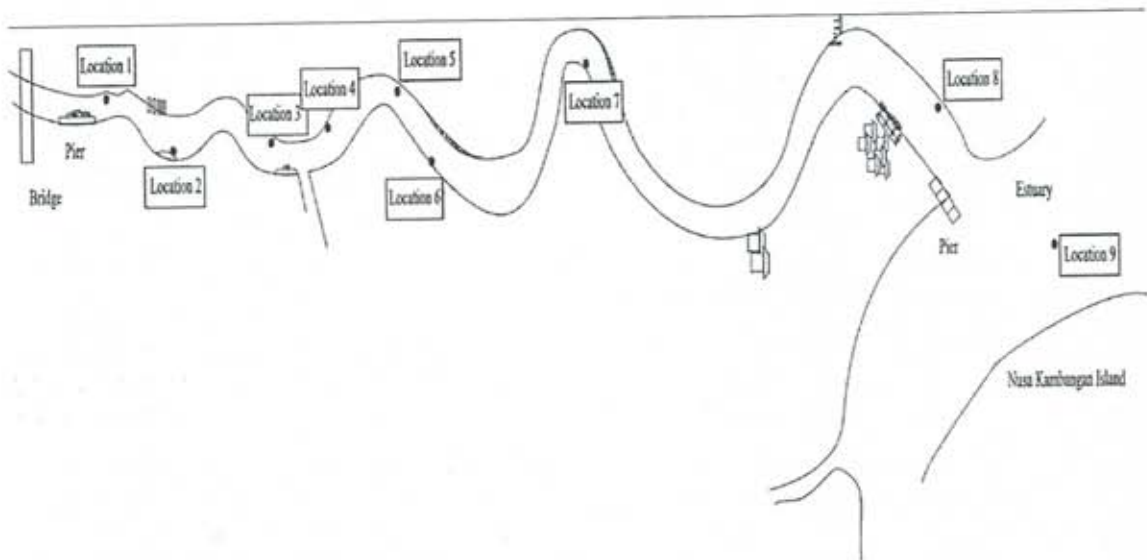


Figure 2 Location of sample extraction

## 2. SETTLING VELOCITY

Sediments with clay particles ( $d < 4 \mu\text{m}$ ) more than 10% have cohesive trait due to its electro-statical forces are equal or larger than the gravity force. Therefore, particle sediments do not behave as individual particle, but tend to stick together to form aggregate known as flocs. Flocs have larger size and settling velocity compared to individual particle.

### 2.1 Deposition Process

Deposition process is the process in which suspended load in water filled the bed channel and becomes cohesive bed sediment. Deposition process of cohesive sediment depends on the combination of various factors, including size of particles, settling velocity, and forces from particle units. These units may consist of single particle, flocculation that might settled together in one unit.



Critical bed-shear stress for deposition is the bed-shear stress that occurs when the bed sediment is deposited (Winterwerp, 1989).

### 2.1.1 Settling Velocity

Settling velocity is the velocity of particles or flocculation on its way to bed due to mass forces. Flocculation influences the settling velocity of sediment. Flocculation also forms larger particles and will has larger mass to make it easier to settle. Flocculation is influenced by sediment concentration. Larger concentration can forms flocculation with larger particles, which is also enlarging the settling velocity. However, for very large concentrations, particles of settling velocity become slower due to hindered settling effect.

Hindered settling is the effect that the settling velocity of the flocs is reduced due to an upward flow of fluid displaced by the flocs. At very large concentrations, the vertical fluid flow can be so strong that the upward fluid drag forces on the flocs become equal to the downward gravity forces resulting in a temporary state of dynamic equilibrium with no net vertical movement of the flocs. This state, which occurs close to bed, generally is called fluid mud (Van Rijn, 1993). In saline suspensions with sediment concentration up to 1,000 mg/l, an increase of the settling velocity with concentration has been observed as a result of the flocculation effect, both in laboratory and in field conditions. When the sediment concentrations are larger than approximately 10,000 mg/l, the settling velocity decreases with increasing concentrations due to the hindered settling effect. Settling velocity in the two ranges was expressed as follows (Van Rijn, 1993):

$$w_{s,m} = k c^m \quad \text{for flocculation suspension (10 - 10000 mg/l)} \quad (1)$$

$$w_{s,m} = w_s (1 - \alpha c)^\beta \quad \text{for suspension with hindered settling (> 10000 mg/l)} \quad (2)$$

Where  $w_{s,m}$  is the settling velocity of sediment particles (mm/s),  $k$  is the coefficient,  $c$  is the volume concentration (mg/l),  $m$  is the coefficient (1 - 2),  $w_s$  is the settling velocity of individual particle (mm/s),  $\alpha$  is the coefficient, and  $\beta$  is the coefficient (3 - 5).

Settling velocity is also influenced by salinity and temperature. The effect of salinity is clearly seen towards the settling for salinities up to 10‰ when the sediment concentration is smaller than 1,000 mg/l (Krone, 1962). If the sediment concentration is larger than 1,000 mg/l, settling velocity increases with almost linear pattern towards the observed salinity (Owen, 1970; Allersma, 1967).

## 2.2. Laboratory Research Methodology

Laboratory research was conducted in Fluid Mechanic and Hydrodynamic Laboratory, the inter-university research center located in Bandung Institute of Technology. The experiment was done by using bottom withdrawal tube to examine the settling velocity of cohesive sediment, including the measurement of time, salinities, and settled sediment concentrated.

## 3. ANALYSIS

Laboratory experiment for settling velocity used three salinities and 7-8 concentrations for each salinity. Research results can be seen on the tables and figures below. Table 1 shows the research result of settling velocity through calculations.

### 3.1. Sediment Settling Velocity on 10‰ Salinity

Figure 1 shows the data of sediment settling velocity and concentrations on 10‰ salinity. Settling velocity rises sharply from the concentration of 468.5 mg/l to 4,962 mg/l with its maximum velocity on 1.05 mm/s, then its velocity decreases constantly until it reaches the settling velocity of 0.45 mm/s on 16,704 mg/l concentration.



Table 1 Sediment settling velocity on 10‰ salinity

Concentration	Sediment Settling Velocity
262.65 mg/l	0.045 mm/s
468.50 mg/l	0.040 mm/s
861.00 mg/l	0.185 mm/s
3,130.75 mg/l	0.580 mm/s
4,962.00 mg/l	1.050 mm/s
9,380.75 mg/l	0.690 mm/s
14,349.125 mg/l	0.605 mm/s
16,704.00 mg/l	0.450 mm/s

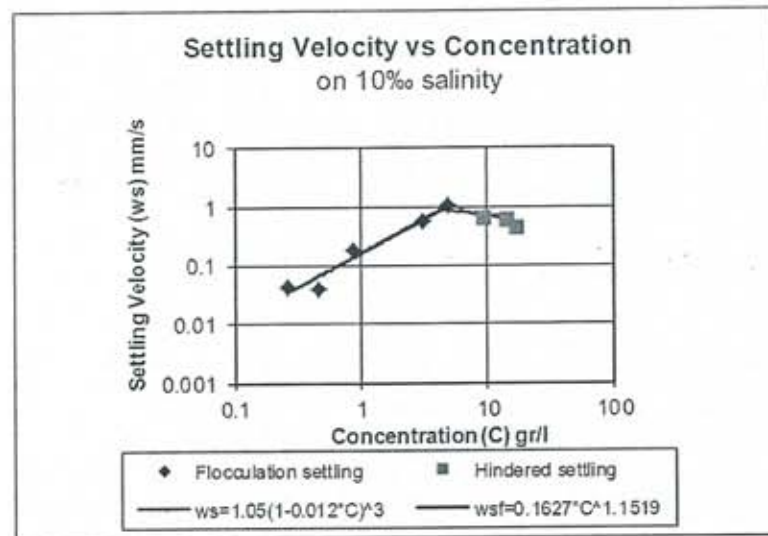


Figure 2 Relation between settling velocity and concentration on 10‰ salinity

### 3.2. Sediment Settling Velocity on 15‰ Salinity

Experiment result on 15‰ salinity shows the highest maximum settling velocity when compared to other salinities. Settling velocity rises sharply to the maximum settling velocity of 2.1 mm/s at 4,033.88 mg/l concentration. The next increment of concentrations reduced the settling velocity decreases and reaches 0.59 mm/s at 17,943.1 mg/l concentration, as shown in Figure 2.

Table 2 Sediment settling velocity on 15‰ salinity

Concentration	Sediment Settling Velocity
644.50 mg/l	0.180 mm/s
118.00 mg/l	1.700 mm/s
4,033.88 mg/l	2.100 mm/s
6,105.38 mg/l	1.600 mm/s
8,524.13 mg/l	1.330 mm/s
10,509.30 mg/l	1.060 mm/s
14,814.50 mg/l	0.610 mm/s
17,943.10 mg/l	0.590 mm/s

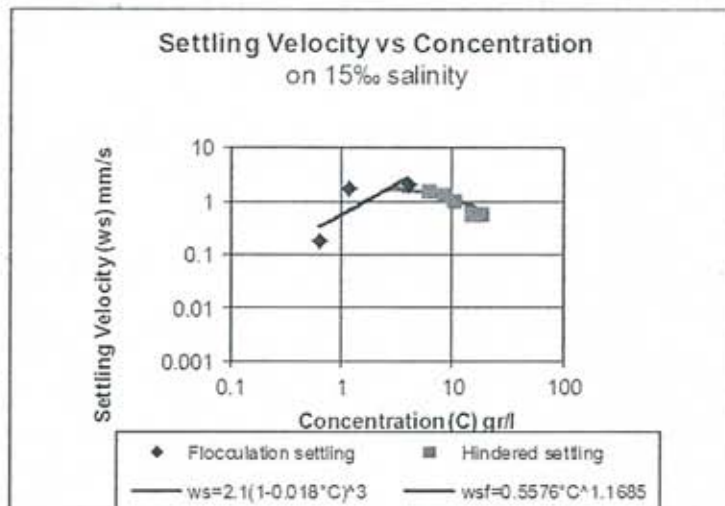


Figure 3 Relation between settling velocity and concentration on 15‰ salinity

### 3.3. Sediment Settling Velocity on 20‰ Salinity

On 20‰ salinity (Figure 3), settling velocity rises quickly from the starting point in 359 mg/l concentration to 4,211.38 mg/l concentration where the maximum settling velocity of 0.61 mm/s is obtained. Afterward, the settling velocity decreases to 0.39 mm/s in 17,364.5 mg/l concentration. The maximum settling velocity in this salinity is lesser than the maximum settling velocity on 15‰ salinity.

Table 3 Sediment settling velocity on 20‰ salinity

Concentration	Sediment Settling Velocity
359.00 mg/l	0.022 mm/s
541.88 mg/l	0.290 mm/s
1,192.88 mg/l	0.425 mm/s
4,211.38 mg/l	0.610 mm/s
9,789.44 mg/l	0.580 mm/s
13,455.80 mg/l	0.450 mm/s
17,364.50 mg/l	0.390 mm/s

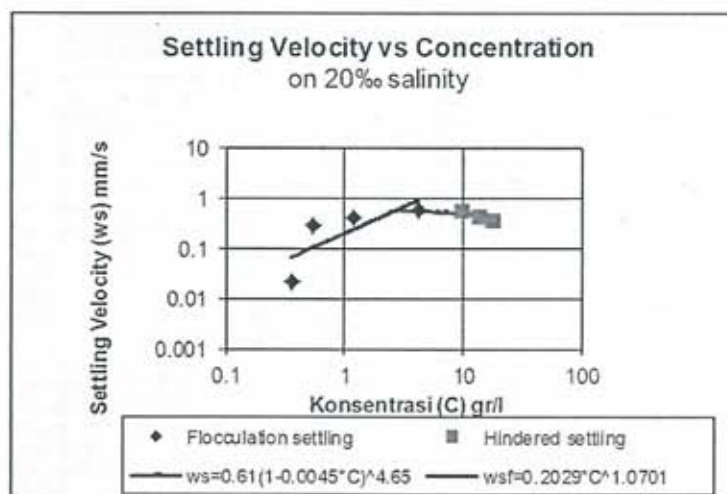


Figure 4 Relation between settling velocity with concentration on 20‰ salinity

#### 4. CONCLUSIONS

From this research, some conclusions can be drawn as follow:

1. Increasing sediment concentrations of certain amount may increase the settling velocity of cohesive sediment. The optimum settling velocity obtained in this research is achieved in 2.1 mm/s on 4,033.88 mg/l concentration.
2. Based on the three salinities observed, optimum settling velocity is obtained at concentrations ranged from 4,000 to 5,000 mg/l.
3. The increase in salinity at certain level can also increase the settling velocity of cohesive sediment. The optimum settling velocity is reached on 15‰ salinity.

#### 5. ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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