UNIVERSITI TEKNOLOGI MARA

HEAVY METAL CONTAMINATION (ZINC, COPPER, LEAD, CADMIUM) IN SHRIMP AND COCKLES AT SUNGAI HAJI DORANI, SABAK BERNAM, SELANGOR

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CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1 INTRODUCTION

Heavy metal pollution in rivers gives threat to public water supplies and also to the consumer of fishery sources. Heavy metals constitute a core group of aquatic pollutants via its bioaccumulative and non-biodegradable properties in food. Human may be contaminated by organic and inorganic pollutants associated with aquatic systems by consumption of contaminated fish and other aquatic foods from this environment. Heavy metals, such as cadmium (Cd), lead (Pb), and zinc (Zn), as well as metallic like copper (Cu) from natural and anthropogenic sources continuously enter the marine environment. Subsurface migration, fertilizer runoff from farms, storm water from streets, and other forms of diffuse pollution are now recognized as having serious environmental consequences. In more than 50 percent of estimated cases in which water quality goals are not achieved, diffuse pollution is cited as the main cause (International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis (IIASA)).

Based on national water quality from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, nearly half of our rivers and streams and more than one-third of our lakes are polluted and unfit for swimming, fishing, and drinking. Nutrient pollution, which includes nitrates and phosphates, is the leading type of contamination in these fresh water sources. While plants and animals need these nutrients to grow, they have become a major pollutant due to farm waste and fertilizer runoff. Municipal and industrial waste discharges contribute their fair share of toxins as well. Water quality deterioration may be comes from point sources of pollution such as discharge of wastewater and non-point sources of pollution examples from sewer leakages, overflow discharges, wildlife animal wastes and runoff from urban areas or agricultural fields that resulted from unprecedented population and economic growth, urbanization and

industrialization has been a great concern for several decades. When contamination originates from a single source, it is called point source pollution. Examples the point source pollution include wastewater (also called effluent) discharged legally or illegally by a manufacturer, oil refinery, or wastewater treatment facility, as well as contamination from leaking septic systems, chemical and oil spills, and illegal dumping. The EPA regulates point source pollution by establishing limits on what can be discharged from a facility directly into a body of water.