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Abstract

Knowledge of feeding ecology which have been studied on reared and wild dugong are described. So far, 15-20kg (wet wt)/day has been reported as feeding rate of a dugong in Toba aquarium. And, two estimations of feeding rate on wild dugong by author are introduced. Feeding rate of dugong on *Halophila ovalis* was estimated based on observation of dugong behavior and feeding trails in Khao Bae Na sesagrass bed, Trang, Thailand and on long term observation of dugong behavior in New Argao seagrass bed, Davao Gulf, Mindanao, Philippines. From these results, it was discussed the possibility that the knowledge of feeding rates have been published was overestimation. Because the estimation have been published was based upon short-term observation. The feeding rate considerably varied seasonally and monthly. Feeding rate per day obviously fluctuated with lunar cycle. Also the rate increased in dry season and decreased in wet season.