



## Identifying blue swimming crab (*Portunus pelagicus*) stocks with truss network analysis approach in Indonesian Fisheries Management Area 712

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**Abstract.** *The exploitation rate of the blue swimming crab (BSC) in Indonesian Fisheries Management Area (FMA) 712 is over-optimum level in 2016. Stocks concern in sustainable management is needed as an effort to maintain its availability. The objective of this study is to identify the stock unit of BSC based on Truss Network Analysis (TNA) of morphometric characters in FMA 712. The BSC was collect in five different locations, i.e. East Lampung, Lancang Island, Cirebon, Rembang, and Southern Madura. Measurements on TNA were carried out at 14 landmark points with 29 characters in carapace to analyze its morphometric characters. The cluster analysis showed that TNA method revealed two stocks units of BSC in FMA 712. The first stock was the BSC population of Southern Madura, and the other stock was the other four populations. The longest Euclidean distance was found at Southern Madura indicating similarity level with other populations was low. The discriminant analysis demonstrated different results. There were three group populations, in which every population in one group were able to represent the other population, namely Lancang Island-Cirebon, East Lampung-Rembang, and Southern Madura. Regarding this study, it is recommended to manage BSC in Southern Madura separately.*

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## INTRODUCTION

In general, order Decapoda has become a lot of research objects in Indonesia, including blue swimming crab (Hamid *et al.*, 2015; Hamid and Wardiatno, 2015; Zairion *et al.*, 2015a, 2015b; Hamid *et al.*, 2016a; Kembaren *et al.*, 2018; Zairion *et al.*, 2020) because of its high economic value (Prabawa *et al.*, 2014; Jayawiguna *et al.*, 2017). Distribution areas of these species are along northern Java and east Lampung. The region is incorporated in the 712 State Fisheries Management Areas (FMA) of the Republic of Indonesia and is an area that intensively provides the highest foreign exchange earnings for crab export fisheries. Based on Statistics Indonesia (2018), Indonesian crab exports reached 29038 tons in 2015 and the total volume of Indonesian crab exports was 15867 tons in 2017 (MMAF, 2018). It's similar with other countries which

demand for crab in international trade has increased (Wiyono and Ihsan, 2015). Along with efforts to increase the yield of crab fisheries, it is necessary to have sustainable crab management in order to decline increased fishing activity that has the potential to cause a decrease crab population (Wiyono and Ihsan, 2018).

Attempt to manage fisheries resources cannot be generalized in each region. According to FAO (1995), one important thing that must be considered in management is the stock of its resources in order to maintain a balance of utilization and conservation. Each population stocks usually characterized by the specific biological attributes (Secor, 2014). The differences can be seen through phenotype, genetic (Aini *et al.*, 2020), or both simultaneously (Hollander and Butlin, 2010). A particular geographical area can be said to have different stock units or have been declared geographically separated from each other if the character of growth, mortality, meristic and morphometric characteristics, and genetic are different in a relatively long time (Hart and Reynolds, 2002). The concept explains that important tool for identifying stocks and evaluating the population structure can be done with morphometric characterization techniques (Rawat *et al.*, 2017; Sajina *et al.*, 2011; Sen *et al.*, 2011), in more detail, namely the truss network approach (Bhosale *et al.*, 2018). The truss network approach has emerged as a new tool for understanding population structure in many fish species with more effective strategies for descriptions of shape, better data collection and diversified analytical tools (Pazhayamadam *et al.*, 2015). This characterization technique is more effective than manual distance measurement for the management of fishery resources throughout the world because truss networks are able to show increased ability to identify differences in the morphological shapes of the bodies of each species (Mojekwu and Anumudu, 2015). Using truss network approach in determining the stock structure of aquatic species has been started from the 20<sup>th</sup> century. This method is applied in several crustacea studies, including shrimp (Paramasivam *et al.*, 2017; Marini *et al.*, 2017; Rebello *et al.*, 2013), and in BSC (Bhosale *et al.*, 2018).

Data and information about the crab stock structure in morphometric FMA 712 have not been much studied. However, the exploitation rate of BSC in northern Java waters has exceeded the level of sustainability or is in the overexploited stage due to the Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fishery Decree No. 70/2016. Therefore, it is expected that the results of a morphometric analysis can be an input for the management of crab fisheries stocks as an effective, optimal, and sustainable crab resource management concept. The main objective of this study was to identify BSC stocks based on morphometric characters with truss network analysis in FMA 712.

## METHOD

### Location and Specimen Collection

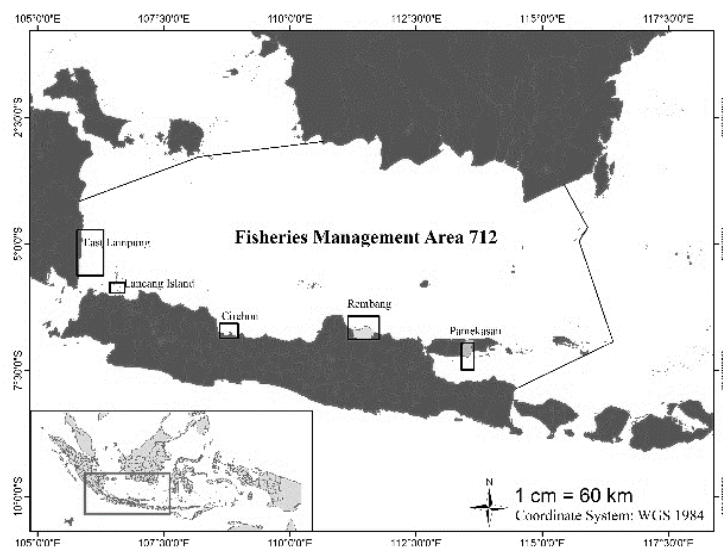


Figure 1 Sampling location of the blue swimming crab (*Portunus pelagicus*) in Fisheries Management Area 712 as indicated by the open-black rectangles

*Portunus pelagicus* samples were collected from five locations, namely East Lampung, Lancang Island, Cirebon, Rembang, and Southern Madura to represent FMA 712 (Figure 1). Sampling of various sizes was done randomly from the local fishermen. A total of 476 crab individuals were taken from all location and analysed at the laboratory.

### Digitizing Sample

Each individual carapace of a BSC sample was separated from the rest of the body and then cleaned and dried using a tissue to analyze its morphometric characters using truss network analysis. Carapace samples were placed on a flat platform with scaled vertical and horizontal grids for easy calibration of digital image coordinates. The distance between vertical and horizontal grids covers an area of 1 cm<sup>2</sup>. The tagging was then carried out on each individual according to a predetermined landmark. The digitization phase was conducted in order to become an archive for repeated measurements. Measurements on TNA were carried out at 14 landmark points with 29 characters in carapace (Bhosale *et al.*, 2018). These landmark points were presented in Figure 2. Labeling was done on each grid paper as a marker of the sample order. The crab was then photographed with a camera with the help of a modified tripod (Marini *et al.*, 2017). Furthermore, all images of digitized could be identified based on the tagging attached.

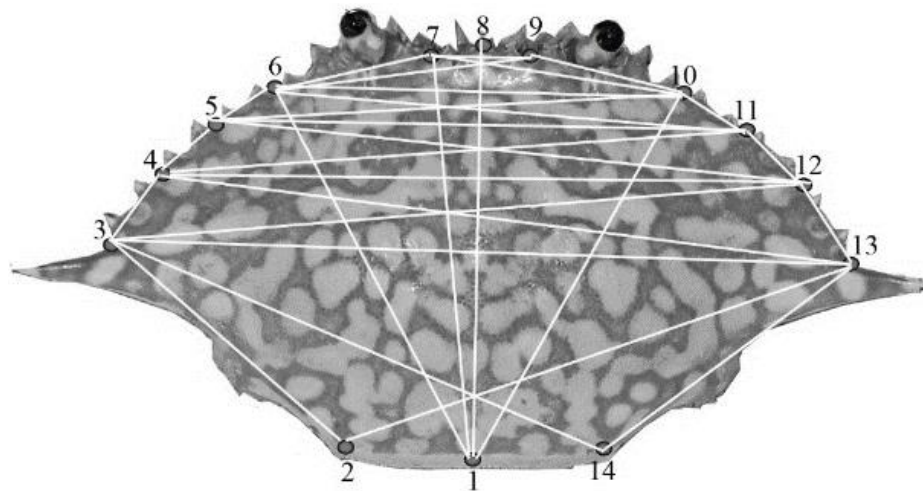


Figure 2 Landmark truss network analysis for the blue swimming crab (*Portunus pelagicus*)

### Morphometric Truss Measurements

Morphometric character measurements with truss network analysis were performed using a combination of two software, TPSUtil V1.38 and TPSDig2 V2.1 software series (Rohlf, 2006) and Paleontological Statistics (PAST) which were used to extract morphometric data from each image (Hammer *et al.*, 2001). All images were first converted from JPEG (\*. jpeg) to TPS format (\*. tps) using TPSUtil. The TPSDig2 was used for digitizing landmarks and provided an outline of the distance of landmarks on the image object for geometric morphometric analysis of objects. The encrypted tps format image file description data was utilized as an input source in PAST, which was useful for multivariate analysis and paleontological modeling (Bhosale *et al.* 2018). Then the crab morphometric points were measured with morphometric truss, which theoretically could improve accuracy in differentiating morphometrics among samples. The variables extracted from sample digital images by interconnecting 14 landmarks to form 29 distance variables, as presented in Table 1.

Table 1 Landmarks, codes, and description used in the morphometric truss of the carapace for the present blue swimming crab (*Portunus pelagicus*) study

Landmark	Code	Descriptions
1-8	UP1	The midpoint of the abdomen to middle teeth on the forehead
3-13	UP2	Between first anterolateral teeth
4-12	UP3	Between third anterolateral teeth
5-11	UP4	Between fifth anterolateral teeth
6-10	UP5	Between seventh anterolateral teeth
7-9	UP6	Between antennule
1-7	UP7	The midpoint of the abdomen to left antennule
2-13	D1	The left abdomen to first teeth of the right anterolateral
3-14	D2	The first teeth of the left anterolateral to the right abdomen
4-13	D3	The third teeth of the left anterolateral to the first teeth of the right anterolateral
3-12	D4	The first teeth of the left anterolateral to the third teeth of the right anterolateral
5-12	D5	The fifth teeth of the left anterolateral to the third teeth of the right anterolateral
4-11	D6	The third teeth of the left anterolateral to the fifth teeth of the right anterolateral
6-11	D7	The seventh teeth of left anterolateral to the fifth teeth of the right anterolateral
5-10	D8	The fifth teeth of the left anterolateral to the seventh teeth of the right anterolateral
7-10	D9	The left antennule to the seventh teeth of the right anterolateral
6-9	D10	The seventh teeth of the left anterolateral to the right antennule
2-3	L1	The left abdomen to the first teeth of the left anterolateral
13-14	L2	The first teeth of the right anterolateral to the right abdomen
3-4	L3	The first teeth of the left anterolateral to the third teeth of the left anterolateral
12-13	L4	The first teeth of the right anterolateral to the third teeth of the right anterolateral
4-5	L5	The third teeth of the left anterolateral to the fifth teeth of the left anterolateral
11-12	L6	The third teeth of the right anterolateral to the fifth teeth of the right anterolateral
5-6	L7	The fifth teeth of the left anterolateral to the seventh teeth of the left anterolateral
10-11	L8	The fifth teeth of the right anterolateral to the seventh teeth of the right anterolateral
6-7	L9	The seventh teeth of the left anterolateral to the left antennule
9-10	L10	The right antennule to the seventh teeth of the right anterolateral
1-6	L11	The midpoint of the abdomen to the seventh teeth of the left anterolateral
1-10	L12	The midpoint of the abdomen to the seventh teeth of the right anterolateral

**Data Analysis**

Morphometric truss measurement results were all transformed based on data normality characteristics. Data were transformed by eliminating all things affecting size by using the allometric approach from the modified formula of Hurlbut and Clay (1998) and Ihsen *et al.* (1981), namely:

$$M_{trans} = \log M - \beta (\log SL - \log SL_{mean})$$

Where:

$M_{trans}$  : truss measurement transformation

$\beta$  : the within-group slope regressions of the log M vs log SL

M : truss measurement

SL : length of crab carapace

SLmean: average crab carapace length in each population

Morphometric data with both methods were analyzed using SPSS software version 15. The transformed truss measurements were subjected to Kruskal Wallis analysis, cluster analysis, and classification by cross-validation of discriminant analysis. The Kruskal Wallis test was used to find out the distinguishing characteristics of morphometric characters which differed significantly in the crab group in five locations (Ostertagova *et al.*, 2014). The grouping of similar members in one population in BSC could use cluster analysis assuming that certain amounts of data had a level of morphometric similarity between populations. This numerical analysis was used to classify organism based on its systematics (Smith *et al.*, 2011). Cluster analysis was performed using the average morphometric data of the BSC measured from each location. The results obtained were dendrogram trees based on euclidean distances. This distance explained the level of kinship between populations. The greater the value of the euclidean distance, the lower the kinship between populations. Conversely, the smaller the value of the euclidean distance, the higher the kinship between populations. Variations in BSC morphometrics in this study were analyzed using Discriminant Analysis (DA). The discriminant analysis was performed to determine groupings and test the equality of group (Hidayani *et al.*, 2015). This analysis examines and describe simultaneously the differences between two or more mutually exclusive groups. The results obtained were in the form of a sketch population distribution plot of the five study sites.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

A total dorsal carapace of 235 males and 240 females were used and combined as one in the analysis. Detailed information on the collected BSC is summarized in Table 2.

Table 2 Sex ratio of blue swimming crab collected from five sampling points of FMA 712

Sampling Site	Number of Samples	Sex		Sex Ratio (Male/Female)
		Male	Female	
East Lampung	99	59	40	1:0.680
Lancang Island	106	49	57	1:1.163
Cirebon	92	21	71	1:3.381
Rembang	73	24	49	1:2.042
Southern Madura	105	82	23	1:0.281
Total	475	235	240	

### Normality Test

The normality test was an important step for deciding the measures of central tendency and statistical methods for data analysis (Mishra *et al.*, 2019). Data normality was tested using the Kolmogorov-Smirnov (2-tailed) test (Ghasemi and Zahediasl, 2012). These test results were the significance value of the SPSS output results. The significance value ( $\alpha > 0.05$ ) indicated data that are normally distributed. The test was carried out on all morphometric data of male and female swimming crab at five locations. All male and female swimming crab characters were found to be normally distributed with an Asympt-sig (2-tailed) value  $> 0.05$ . Overall data that were normally distributed could be considered to be representative of the population, and further tests were carried out in the parametric test.

### Comparison of Morphometric Characters

Comparison of crab morphometrics was estimated by using Kruskal Wallis test analysis (Table 3). The results of the analysis of BSC morphometrics at five locations showed a significant difference ( $p < 0.05$ ) in twenty-nine characters. This explains that the crab in East Lampung, Lancang Island, Cirebon, Rembang, and Southern Madura can be distinguished from the overall character. Differences in environmental conditions are thought to have a significant effect on differences in BSC morphometrics in FMA 712. The environmental

condition influences the differences in morphometric characters and could affect the growth rate of a particular body part (Zairion *et al.*, 2020). Changes in morphological characters become a form of adjustment for each organism to its environment (Pramithasari *et al.*, 2017). Li *et al.* (2018) explains that differences in environmental conditions affect the adaptation patterns of a species. The differences in the morphology of a species are often occur due to environmental and geographical location differences (Hidayani *et al.*, 2018). One of the most common forms of adaptation seen is the changes in the morphology and morphometry of the body. This statement is strengthened by Lai *et al.* (2010) saying that the adaptation form of an organism to external factors (habitat and food) is by changing its morphological character. The female crab in pre-molt phase that living in an environment with limit food availability had a lower growth than the crab with enough food (Josileen, 2011).

Table 3 Comparison of crab morphometric characters in Fisheries Management Area 712, Indonesia using t-test at p=0.05

Code	Landmark	p-value
UP1	1-8	$6 \times 10^{-23}$
UP2	3-13	$1 \times 10^{-23}$
UP3	4-12	$4 \times 10^{-17}$
UP4	5-11	$3 \times 10^{-13}$
UP5	6-10	$3 \times 10^{-12}$
UP6	7-9	$4 \times 10^{-27}$
UP7	1-7	$1 \times 10^{-22}$
D1	2-13	$1 \times 10^{-28}$
D2	3-14	$8 \times 10^{-20}$
D3	4-13	$9 \times 10^{-23}$
D4	3-12	$5 \times 10^{-19}$
D5	5-12	$2 \times 10^{-16}$
D6	4-11	$2 \times 10^{-15}$
D7	6-11	$2 \times 10^{-14}$
D8	5-10	$2 \times 10^{-12}$
D9	7-10	$8 \times 10^{-18}$
D10	6-9	$2 \times 10^{-12}$
L1	2-3	$5 \times 10^{-15}$
L2	13-14	$2 \times 10^{-5}$
L3	3-4	$4 \times 10^{-8}$
L4	12-13	$1 \times 10^{-42}$
L5	4-5	$8 \times 10^{-8}$
L6	11-12	$6 \times 10^{-9}$
L7	5-6	$9 \times 10^{-5}$
L8	10-11	$4 \times 10^{-6}$
L9	6-7	$3 \times 10^{-10}$
L10	9-10	$3 \times 10^{-22}$
L11	1-6	$1 \times 10^{-18}$
L12	1-10	$1 \times 10^{-19}$

**Portunus pelagicus Population Grouping**

The grouping of crab populations can be seen from the level of similarity among populations based on morphometric characters that are thought to use cluster analysis. The results of the crab cluster analysis are presented in the form of the dendrogram (Figure 3). The dendrogram formed will show the similarity of BSC from five locations in FMA 712. The BSC relationship among populations is explained in the results of cluster analysis. The results of cluster analysis of five crab populations formed two groups, namely the crab population group of Lancang Island-Cirebon-East Lampung-Rembang crab population group, and the Southern Madura crab group. BSC located in Southern Madura formed their own group into the second group with low similarity with BSC populations in four other locations. However, BSC located in the area of East Lampung, Rembang, Lancang Island, and Cirebon have the same similarity and form one group. This similarity in closely geographical location was related to similar environments. However, East Lampung-Rembang crabs, which are geographically separated populations, have morphological similarity. This result might be due to local migration between connected locations (Hossain *et al.*, 2010) or the similar ecological impacts (Mir *et al.*, 2013).

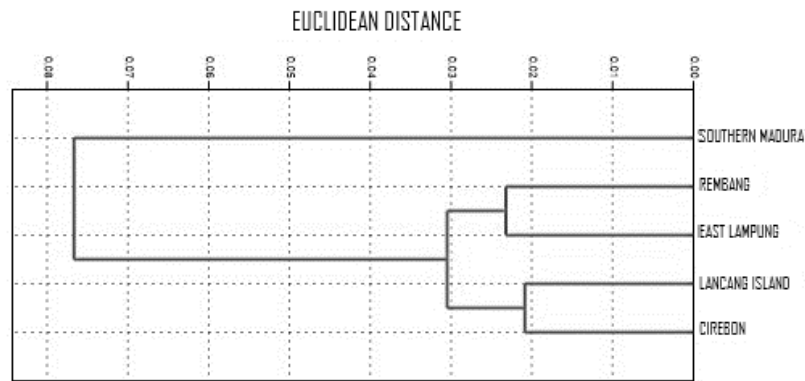


Figure 3 Cluster analysis of inter-population of blue swimming crab (*Portunus pelagicus*) in Fisheries Management Area 712, Indonesia

Based on the Euclidean distance, the higher the level of population similarity of organisms within the group will be higher. Things that cause grouping among populations include proximity of geographical locations (Abinawanto *et al.*, 2018) and similar environmental conditions among locations (Solomon *et al.*, 2015; Abinawanto *et al.*, 2018; Zairion *et al.*, 2020). The environmental conditions that might play important role for blue swimming crab are temperature, light intensity, and photoperiod vary seasonally among locations where the crab lives (Hamid *et al.*, 2016b). Green *et al.* (2014) explain that crabs are shaped by environmental variation through the distribution ecology, productivity or even their market traits such as colour and size. The Euclidean distance among small populations is presented in Table 4.

Table 4 The Euclidean distance among population of blue swimming crab (*Portunus pelagicus*) in Fisheries Management Area 712, Indonesia

Euclidean Distance	East Lampung	Lancang Island	Cirebon	Rembang	Southern Madura
East Lampung	0	0.0365	0.0267	0.0232	0.073
Lancang Island	0.0365	0	0.0209	0.0311	0.0839
Cirebon	0.0267	0.0209	0	0.0276	0.0680
Rembang	0.0232	0.0311	0.0276	0	0.0817
Southern Madura	0.073	0.0839	0.0680	0.0817	0

### Morphometric Character Classification

Morphometric character classification at each location was assumed to use discriminant analysis. Discriminant analysis showed that the grouping of characters formed was marked by differences in the location of centroids. The crab morphometric character classification (Figure 4) shows that there are three centroid centers in five locations of FMA 712. The crab morphometric character distribution at each location shows the level of closeness to other locations. The crab character from Lancang Island has an adjacent centroid point, and the characters are not completely separated from the crab character from Cirebon, which means it has the same size between characters. The BSC in these two locations are significantly separated from the BSC in East Lampung and Rembang, while the BSC in southern madura is not completely separated. The BSC population in East Lampung is not completely separated from the BSC population in Rembang. Yet it is significantly separated from the other three locations. This indicates the level of morphological similarity in the BSC population at that location (Marini *et al.*, 2017).

Figure 4 showed that Function 1 successfully discriminated the individuals into three separate groups. Muchlisin (2013) saying that the presence of contact among populations indicate the closeness of population groups. The point of intersecting population indicates that the population has a close kinship. Abinawanto *et al.* (2018) state that the overlap among morphometric characters of the two populations shows the high morphological similarity. The BSC in East Lampung, and Rembang were significantly separated and significantly different from the BSC in 3 other locations. This shows that there are different habitat preferences in an organism that can affect population structure. Zimmerman *et al.* (2011) and Hepp *et al.* (2012) explain that adaptations frequently encompass changes in morphology, such as in the size and shape of the carapace or cheliped or in individual condition. Zairion *et al.* (2020) explain that BSC was able to adapt in habitats with variation environmental parameters. It's indicated that BSC was able to live in a high variation of environment, such as in dry season even in low proportion (Supadminingsih *et al.*, 2019).

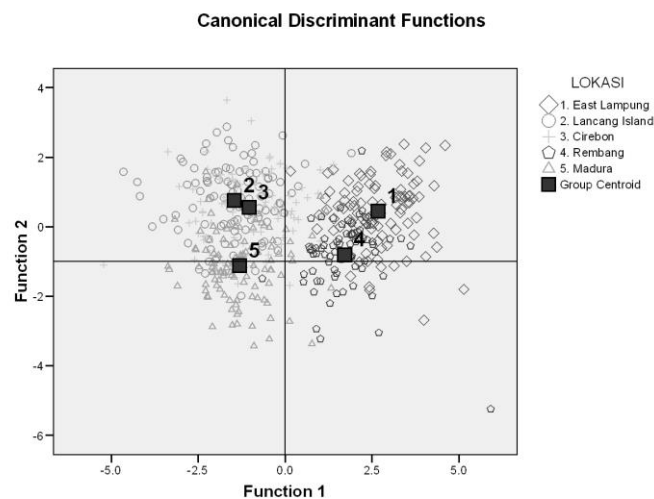


Figure 4 Canonical distribution analysis using morphometric characters of blue swimming crab (*Portunus pelagicus*) collected from five sites in Fisheries Management Area 712, Indonesia

Percentage of BSC population from East Lampung waters, Lancang Island, Cirebon, Rembang, and Southern Madura has been classified as 84.8%, 62.3%, 62%, 87.7%, and 75.2%, respectively (Table 5). More than half of the population from East Lampung can describe the location of Rembang marked by a group point of one location that is in another location group. According to Marini *et al.* (2017), a percentage value of >80% indicates that the population of the BSC group at one location truly characterizes the blue swimming crab group from another population group.



Table 5 Results of blue swimming crab population grouping in Fisheries Management Area 712, Indonesia from five locations due to discriminant analysis

	Prediction Group				
	East Lampung	Lancang Island	Cirebon	Rembang	Southern Madura
East Lampung	84.85	1.01	0	14.14	0
Lancang Island	0.94	62.26	22.64	0	14.15
Cirebon	2.17	20.65	61.96	5.43	9.78
Rembang	10.96	0	0	87.67	1.37
Southern Madura	0.95	11.43	7.62	4.76	75.24

## CONCLUSION

Based on morphometric characters, population of blue swimming crab (BSC) *Portunus pelagicus* from the southern Madura had a low level of similarity with the other four BSC populations. It is recommended to consider the Southern Madura crab as a separate sub division in the management of crab fisheries in FMA 712. It is also recommended to create the sub management area in FMA 712 that manages the BSC in Southern Madura separately. The sub management area of FMA 712 could help stakeholders to establish best strategies for sustainable use of the BSC.

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