

ENVIRONMENTAL STATUS OF SINGAPORE'S CORAL REEFS

Maylene G K Loo and L M Chou

Department of Zoology, National University of Singapore
Kent Ridge, Singapore 0511

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Singapore's coral reefs have been highly impacted by land reclamation, earth spoils dumping, non-regulated collection of fish and other reef organisms and the intensive coastal development. However, not all its coral reefs are lost. Reef research increased rapidly over the last decade with the inception of the ASEAN-Australia Marine Science Project: Living Coastal Resources. Other studies include community structure of the coral reefs, productivity and growth of corals and extraction of bioactive compounds from corals. These studies showed that coral species diversity remain comparable to that of the region. Management and conservation issues have been proposed resulting in some reefs being designated for conservation in the country's Green Plan.

INTRODUCTION

Singapore's limited sea space continues to be heavily utilised in order to sustain activities which have turned it into the world's busiest port. Since its establishment as an entreport in 1819, urbanisation has proceeded at a rapid rate resulting in massive physical change to land and sea. These included large-scale reclamation of coastal areas, offshore islands and patch reefs for expanding industries, residential and recreational needs.

Early surveys and reports dating back to the 1960s' were mainly qualitative in nature (Chuang, 1961 & 1973; Tham, 1973). Further research was restricted to studies of *Amphiprion* spp. (Ting, 1966; Kwok, 1968) and mushroom corals (Goh, 1965). Other detailed work included studies on the biology and taxonomy of certain groups of corals; fungiids, faviids, dendrophyllids, pocilloporids and acroporids (Tan, 1970; Tan, 1972; Moll, 1977; Williams, 1977; Yeo, 1977; Krishnaveni, 1986; Koh, 1988; Krishnaveni *et al*, 1989; Chung, 1991; Lane, 1991; Quek, 1991 and Leow, 1993).

The ASEAN-Australia Marine Science Project: Living Coastal Resources (LCR) was the only long-term, systematic quantitative monitoring programme of the reefs and their organisms. The contribution of the LCR project to marine science research in Singapore was discussed by Chou (1991a). Much of the research conducted in the late 1980s stemmed directly or indirectly from this project.

Another project involving three non-governmental organisations (Republic of Singapore Yacht Club, Singapore Institute of Biology and Singapore Underwater Federation) and conducted between 1987 and 1991 provided information on the condition of most of the coral reefs in the southern waters of Singapore. The aim of the Reef Survey and Conservation Project was to identify the better reefs in terms of biological richness, which were worthy of being conserved (Chou, 1990a; 1991b).

RESULTS OF REEF STUDIES

The coral reef community of Singapore has been reported by numerous researchers (Teo, 1982; Chou, 1985, Chou & Teo, 1985; Chou & Wong, 1985; Chou, 1986a; Chou & Koh, 1986; Chou & Wong, 1986; Chong, 1986; Chou & Lim, 1988; Chou, 1988a; Lim *et al.*, 1990; Chua & Chou, 1991; Chua & Chou, 1992).

Data collected over a 10-year period from the ASEAN-Australia Living Coastal Resources Project (LCR), showed that 197 hard coral species belonging to 55 genera occur in Singapore reefs (Appendix 1) (Chou, 1989; 1992b; 1993). Percentage live coral cover ranged from 0% at the 6m and/or 10m depths of the reef slope, to 76% at the 0m (reef crest) and/or 3m depths in the first survey. The upper limit of coral cover subsequently dropped to 72% in survey 2 and 69% in survey 3.

Under the Reef Survey and Conservation Project, 65 sites on 41 reefs were surveyed. The results obtained showed that live coral cover at the reef crest ranged from 3.6% to 75.3% (Fig. 1). Only five sites had live coral cover greater than 70%. Most of the sites had between 30 to 50% cover.

Foliose growth forms were found to be the dominant ecomorph at the reef crest, 3m and 6m depth below the crest (Goh *et al.*, in press). This was probably due to their efficient utilisation of available light and aggressive competition for space. The growth rates of the fast-growing *Acropora* were found to be lower than those documented elsewhere (Chung, 1991). Radial growth rates for massive faviids, however, corresponded to documented averages (Lane, 1991).

The biology of certain groups, like the crinoids (Lim, 1987), gorgonians (Goh, 1991; Goh & Chou, 1994), hard coral associates (Goh *et al.*, 1989), the tunicates (Lane, 1987) and sea urchins (Lee, 1968; Hori *et al.*, 1987) have also been studied. The community structure of other reef fauna and flora was studied by Goh & Chou (1991). Another study by Goh & Chou (in press) described the reefs of Singapore as having three distinct zones in non-scleractinian distribution. These were the macroalgae at the crest, a mix of soft corals, sponges and 'others' at the 3m and 6m depth from the crest, and a sponge zone at the 10m depth from the crest. There was also an increase in the cover (relative to live coral cover) of non-scleractinian component with depth, but their absolute cover (relative to the area surveyed) remained fairly constant.

New insights into the physiology of the reef organisms have resulted from recent research into extraction of bioactive compounds from corals (Ding *et al.*, 1994), inter- and intra-specific

interaction between coral colonies (Wong & Chou, 1993) and productivity of coral organisms (Tun *et al.*, in press [a]; [b]). Enhancing degraded reefs through the use of artificial substrata has also been investigated (Chong, 1985; Chou, 1986b; Chou & Hsu, 1988; Chou, 1988b; Chou, 1991b).

Diversity and abundance of reef fish were recorded using the visual census method, and were previously reported by Lim *et al.* (1990), Lim & Chou (1991a) and Low & Chou (1992). Results from the studies showed that the abundance and diversity of fishes decreased with depth but increased with distance from the mainland. More than 198 species of fish have been recorded from Singapore reefs (Appendix 2), which compared favourably with studies done in the Gulf of Thailand (Satumanatpan & Sudara, 1992) and in North Bais Bay in the Philippines (Luchavez & Alcalá, 1992). The population dynamics of the pomacentrid community at one reef were also investigated (Leng, 1990), and a pilot study on the recruitment of fish was conducted (Low & Chou, in press [a]). Twenty species from 12 families were observed, dominated by the pomacentrids, especially *Pomacentrus cuneatus*, and they recruited during two periods, one in April and another in October-November.

The threatened plants and animals of Singapore have recently been compiled in "The Singapore Red Data Book" (Ng & Wee, 1994). Twenty-eight species of corals and gorgonians are listed as endangered or very rare.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

Pollutants

Singapore's port is one of the busiest in the world. The presence of numerous ships and shipyards along the coastline are a potential threat to the marine ecosystem. Antifouling paints and agents selectively destroy and damage elements of zooplankton and the reef communities. High concentrations of pollutants affect physiological processes like reproduction where larval stages are aborted. Heavy metal concentrations in the waters around Singapore were observed to be correlated to proximity with shipping activities (Goh & Chou, in press). This places the coral reefs around the southern islands at risk, as these islands are surrounded by major shipping lanes. However, the effects of these pollutants have not been studied *in situ*. Oil spills are another major potential hazard, especially, during bunkering and transferring operations at the wharves (Chia *et al.*, 1988).

Riverine discharge

Impacts from riverine discharge is negligible, as most of Singapore's reefs are located at the southern islands, away from the mainland's major river systems. However, regular monitoring of water quality and benthic communities of the major rivers are conducted (see sections on Singapore's watersheds and coastal wetlands).

Sedimentation

The northeastern and southern coasts of Singapore have undergone extensive land reclamation since Singapore's founding in 1819 but reached its peak during the last 30 years (Fig.2). Reclamation is expected to continue until the year 2000 and will make the country 25% larger than its original size in 1967. As a result of these plans, natural coastlines, particularly that of the southern islands, will be lost and marine life affected as the coral reefs become buried. Reclamation also alters tidal flow regimes and will, in some places cause even higher sedimentation rates and reduced light penetration (Yong *et al.*, 1991). Visibility of the waters has been greatly reduced from 10m in the 1960s to 2m today.

Other activities, such as dredging and earth spoil dumping are also responsible for the high sediment levels observed. For example, earth spoils have been dumped in the waters near Pulau Semakau, one of the larger southern islands, since December 1988. Approximately one million cubic metres were deposited into this area by the end of 1991 (Quek, 1989). The dumped materials consisted mainly of soft and soggy marine clay. Future plans for the Pulau Semakau area included the construction of a rock wall/retaining bund surrounding the present dump site for use as a garbage landfill for the next 50 years. The present method of dumping uses excavators on barges to drop the earth spoils overboard. This causes many surrounding areas to be affected as the earth spoils are swept about by tidal currents before reaching the bottom.

These activities have resulted in a significant increase in sedimentation, from 3-6 mg cm⁻²d⁻¹ in 1979 (Chan, 1980), to 5-45 mg cm⁻²d⁻¹ (Lane, 1991; Low & Chou, in press [b]). The settlement and accumulation of sediment, and decreased light penetration at the lower slopes contribute to the decline of the reef community in terms of abundance and species richness. The effect of reef flat reclamation on live coral cover at the crest and slope was discussed by Chou (in press), who showed that live coral cover at the crest and slope was depressed on reefs with reclaimed flats compared to reefs with intact flats. In the case of P. Semakau, long-term monitoring of the reefs has shown a drastic decrease of live coral cover (Chou *et al.*, in press).

Fishing and collecting

The removal of fish and other reef-associated fauna has continued in the past without any form of management. Reef fish were collected mainly for the aquarium trade with the use of barrier nets and fish traps. Corals and shells have also been collected until recently when the coast guard began to take action against the removal of corals.

Commercial and recreational activities

Major projects such as the construction of tourist facilities, will continue on some of the southern islands. Hotels were built on Sentosa, the major island resort of Singapore, and man-made lagoons were also created on some of the islands. As such, more areas of the sea were reclaimed resulting in immediate physical impacts like alteration of water flow around the reefs. These areas can also become point sources of pollution with the increased visitor facilities.

Visitors to the reefs can additionally cause several types of damages. For example, without mooring points, anchor damage by boats can be significant. The anchors and their chains/ropes break up and damage live coral colonies and reduce already dead ones to rubble, leaving a loose and unstable reef slope. Even snorkelling and SCUBA diving activities can cause some damage

to corals and other reef organisms. At sites where these activities are popular, such disturbance can be significant with large coral stands being reduced to rubble and fragile species lost (Salm & Clark, 1984). If the intensity of such activities is regulated, there can be natural repair of the damages.

Coral bleaching

This phenomenon, attributed to the El Nino event, did not affect corals in Singapore. While no field studies were conducted on coral bleaching, researchers did not report any occurrences of widespread bleaching during such events when reefs in the neighbouring countries were reportedly affected.

Natural impacts

Singapore reefs are sheltered and no widespread storm-induced damage has been reported. The reefs are also free from *Acanthaster* infestation. Coral damage caused by *Drupella* and other corallovires is not serious although isolated coral colonies have been attacked, but such instances are rare and not known to spread.

MANAGEMENT AND CONSERVATION

A national concept plan "Living the Next Lap" was presented in 1991 (URA, 1991), aimed at developing Singapore into a tropical city of excellence. Commonly referred to as the Green Plan, there will be a network of open spaces and waterways to provide a city with nature. Five percent of total land area has been set aside for nature conservation so as to promote appreciation of nature and interest in the Republic's natural heritage.

The workgroup on nature conservation, established to implement the policy directions in the Plan, identified 18 nature areas for conservation. Four marine areas were also identified (Fig 3). The boundary line demarcating these areas were arbitrarily drawn, but represented the minimum area possible, keeping in view the intense use of the water by various competing sectors. The total extent of the four areas make up 5.9% of the territorial waters (37.25km²). Within these areas, coral reefs occupied 7km² while the islands took up 6.5km². These areas also contain a variety of other coastal habitats such as seagrass beds, mangroves and sand flats. The workgroup recommended that the Land Office (Ministry of Law) should continue its present policy of only granting permission to collect corals for scientific, conservation and research purposes.

After further consultation with various agencies and the public, an action programme of the Green Plan was published (MOE, 1993). In the section on nature conservation, the commitment to protect and conserve some of the most important areas of natural beauty and high biodiversity was accompanied by laying out policy directions on nature conservation.

The action programme called for the protection of coral reefs against commercial harvesting within the four identified areas. It called for tighter enforcement by the Coast Guard of the laws for the protection of corals. To further manage these reefs, water quality is to be monitored and

future land reclamation projects will be closely monitored to ensure that they do not cause pollution or excessive siltation of the seas. The action programme also called for widespread education and public awareness activities to promote nature appreciation.

Protection of terrestrial habitats is well taken care of by specialised authorities provided with the appropriate legislative framework but that of marine habitats has yet to be effectively addressed. There is no institutional mechanism for the coordinated protection of coral reefs and marine life. The government is presently reviewing existing laws and regulations to make protection of marine resources more effective and efficient.

Non-governmental organisations involved in marine conservation efforts have also joined forces recently to coordinate their efforts, pool resources and become stronger in making recommendations to the government. With all these initiatives by both non-governmental organisations and the government, the conservation of representative marine and coastal ecosystems in Singapore will be ensured.

REFERENCES

- Chan, L.T., 1980. A preliminary study of the effects of land reclamation on the marine fauna of Singapore, with particular reference to the hard corals (scleractinians). Unpublished Hons. thesis, Dept. of Zoology, National University of Singapore. 130pp.
- Chia, L.S., Habibullah Khan & L.M. Chou, 1988. The coastal environmental profile of Singapore. ICLARM Technical Report 21, International Center for Living Aquatic Resources Management, Manila, Philippines. 92pp.
- Chong, P.F., 1986. Ecology of the coral reef community of Pulau Hantu. Unpublished Hons. thesis, Dept. of Zoology, National University of Singapore. 110pp.
- Chou, L.M., 1985. The coral reef environment of Singapore. In: L.S. Chia, H.C. Lee, A.U. Rahman, P.L. Tong & W.K. Woo (eds.) The biophysical environment of Singapore and its neighbouring countries. Pp. 93-102.
- Chou, L.M., 1986a. Living coral reef resources of Singapore. In: D. Soedharma, J. Purwanto, S. Rahardjo, D.M. Sitompul (eds.) Proceedings of the Symposium on Coral Reef Management in Southeast Asia, BIOTROP Special Publication No. 29, Bogor, Indonesia. Pp. 11-26.
- Chou, L.M., 1986b. The potential of artificial substrates in enriching living reef resources in turbid waters. *Tropical Coastal Area Management* 1(2):5-6.
- Chou, L.M., 1988a. Community structure of sediment stressed reefs in Singapore. *Galaxea* 7:101-111.

Chou, L.M., 1988b. The commercial and recreational values of artificial reefs. *Jour. Sing. Nat'l. Acad. Sci.* 17:50-52.

Chou, L.M., 1989. ASEAN-Australia project on living resources in coastal areas, Singapore component, Phase I : July 1985 - June 1989. Unpublished final report. Department of Zoology, National University of Singapore.

Chou, L.M., 1990a. Coral reef conservation in Singapore: The Reef Survey and Conservation Project. Proceedings of the First ASEAMS Symposium on Southeast Asian Marine Science and Environmental Protection. UNEP Regional Seas Reports and Studies No. 116. United Nations Environment Program, Nairobi. Pp. 129-134.

Chou, L.M., 1990b. The early establishment of fish communities at artificial reef structures in Singapore waters. *Journal of the Singapore National Academy of Science*, 18 & 19:38-41.

Chou, L.M., 1991a. Contributions of the ASEAN-Australia Coastal Living Resources Project to coastal living resource assessments in Singapore. In: A.C. Alcala (ed.) Proceedings of the Regional Symposium on Living Resources in Coastal Areas. Marine Science Institute, University of the Philippines, Manila. Pp. 4569-572.

Chou, L.M., 1991b. A reef conservation project involving sport divers in Singapore. Coastal Zone '91, Proceedings of 7th Symposium on Coastal & Ocean Management, USA. Pp. 1990-1994.

Chou, L.M., 1991c. Artificial reefs in Singapore: Development potential and constraints. In: L.S. Chia and L.M. Chou (eds.) Urban coastal area management: the experience of Singapore. ICLARM Conference Proceedings 25, Philippines. Pp. 47-52.

Chou, L.M., 1992a. The status of living coastal resources of ASEAN countries: Singapore. *ASEAN Marine Science* 19:13-25.

Chou, L.M., 1992b. A study on the conservation of coral reefs in Singapore. Unpublished report submitted to National Parks Board, Singapore. December 1992. 62pp.

Chou, L.M., 1993. Singapore reefs - protection needs and status. Paper presented at the EWCA (East-West Center Alumni) Regional Conference, November 5-7, 1993, Okinawa, Japan.

Chou, L.M., in press. Response of Singapore reefs to land reclamation. *Galaxea*.

Chou, L.M. & L.S. Chia, 1991. The marine environment. In: Chia, L.S., A. Rahman & D.B.H. Tay (eds). *The biophysical environment of Singapore*. Singapore University Press. Pp. 155-184.

Chou, L.M., C.Y.Y. Chua & G.S.Y. Lim, 1991. ASEAN-US Cooperative Program on Marine Science Resources Management Project, Singapore. July 1986 - June 1991. Task 510-S: Role of Artificial Reefs in Living Coastal Resources Enrichment. Final Report. National University of Singapore.

Chou, L.M. & L.H.L. Hsu, 1988. Site investigations for the potential development of artificial reefs in Singapore. *Jour. Sing. Nat'l. Acad. Sci.* 16:4-8.

Chou, L.M. & G.L.E. Koh, 1986. Initial characterisation of upper reef slope communities in Singapore waters. *Jour. Sing. Nat'l. Acad. Sci.* 15:5-8.

Chou, L.M. & G.S.Y. Lim, 1988. The echinoderm fauna of sediment stressed reefs in Singapore. *Proceedings of the 6th Int'l Coral Reef Symp., Vol. 2, Australia.* Pp. 245-250.

Chou, L.M. & Y.H. Teo, 1985. An ecological study on the scleractinian corals of Pulau Salu reef, Singapore. *Asian Marine Biology* (1985) 2:11-20.

Chou, L.M. & F.J. Wong, 1985. Reef community structure of Pulau Salu. *Proc. Fifth Int'l Coral Reef Congress, Tahiti, Vol. 6.* Pp. 285-290.

Chou, L.M. & F.J. Wong, 1986. Ecological distribution of reef organisms at Pulau Salu. *Jour. Nat'l. Acad. Sci.* 15:12-17.

Chua, C.Y.Y. & L.M. Chou, 1991. The scleractinian community of southern islands' reefs, Singapore. In: A.C. Alcala (ed.) *Proceedings of the Regional Symposium on Living Resources in Coastal Areas.* Marine Science Institute, University of the Philippines, Manila. Pp. 41-46.

Chua, C.Y.Y. & L.M. Chou, 1992. Condition of Singapore reefs based on live coral cover. *Bull. SIBiol.* 16(2):1-3.

Chua, C.Y.Y. & L.M. Chou, 1994. The use of artificial reefs in enhancing fish communities in Singapore. *Hydrobiologia* 285:177-187.

Chuang, S.H., 1961. *On Malayan Shores.* Caslon Printer Ltd., Hong Kong. 337pp.

Chuang, S.H., 1973. The Life of the Seashore. In: S.H. Chuang (ed.) *Animal Life and Nature in Singapore.* Singapore University Press, 1973. Pp.150-174.

Chung, D.S.L., 1991. Growth rates of selected scleractinian corals in Singapore. Unpublished Hons. thesis, Dept. of Zoology, National University of Singapore. 67pp.

Ding, J.L., F.M.Y. Fung & L.M. Chou, 1994. Cytotoxic effects of mucus from coral *Galaxea fascicularis*. *Journal of Marine Biotechnology* 2:27-33.

Goh, B.P.L. & L.M. Chou, 1990. Corals in marine pollution monitoring. *Essays in Zoology, Papers commemorating the 40th Anniversary of the Dept. of Zoology, National University of Singapore.* Pp. 465-476.

Goh, B.P.L. & L.M. Chou, 1991. Coral reef-associated flora and fauna of Singapore. In: A.C. Alcala (ed.) *Proceedings of the Regional Symposium on Living Resources in Coastal Areas.* Marine Science Institute, University of the Philippines, Manila. Pp. 47-54.

Goh, B.P.L. & L.M. Chou, in press. Heavy metal levels in marine sediments of Singapore. Proceedings of the Symposium on Our Environment and 1st Asia-Pacific Workshop on Pesticides, Singapore, 5 to 8 June 1995.

Goh, B.P.L., L.M. Chou & P.K.L. Ng, 1989. Anomuran and brachyuran crab symbionts of Singapore hard corals of the family Acroporidae, Agariciidae and Pocilloporidae. Indo-Malayan Zoology 6 (1989):25-44.

Goh, G.E., 1965. Observations of the distribution, feeding and growth rates of some local Fungiidae. Unpublished Hons. thesis, Dept. of Zoology, National University of Singapore. 36pp.

Goh, N.K.C., 1991. Taxonomy, distribution and ecology of the Gorgonacea (subclass Octocoralia) of Singapore reefs. Unpublished Hons. thesis, Dept. of Zoology, National University of Singapore. 114pp.

Goh, N.K.C., C.Y.Y. Chua & L.M. Chou, in press. Depth-related morphology of scleractinian corals on Singapore reefs. Proceedings of the ASEAN-Australia Symposium on Living Coastal Resources, Bangkok, Thailand.

Goh, N.K.C. & L.M. Chou, 1994. Distribution and biodiversity of Singapore gorgonians (subclass Octocoralia): A preliminary study. Hydrobiologia 285:101-110.

Goh, N.K.C. & L.M. Chou, in press. The non-scleractinian component of Singapore reefs: A bathymetric analysis. Proceedings of the ASEAN-Australia Symposium on Living Coastal Resources, Bangkok, Thailand.

Hori, R., V.P.E. Phang & T.J. Lam, 1987. Preliminary study on the pattern of gonadal development of the sea urchin, *Diadema setosum* off the coast of Singapore. Zoological Science 4(4):665-673.

Koh, E.G.L., 1988. Systematics and ecology of mushroom corals (Scleractinia, Fungiidae) in Singapore reefs. Unpublished Hons. thesis, Dept. of Zoology, National University of Singapore. 113pp.

Krishnaveni, P., 1986. Skeletogenesis in the coral, *Galaxea fascicularis*. Unpublished Hons. thesis, Dept. of Zoology, National University of Singapore. 100pp.

Krishnaveni, P., L.M. Chou & Y.K. Ip, 1989. Deposition of calcium ($^{45}\text{Ca}^{2+}$) in the coral, *Galaxea fascicularis*. Comp. Biochem. Physiol., 94A(3):509-513.

Kwok, K.P., 1968. Studies on the taxonomy, ecology and behaviour of three of the local species of *Amphiprion*. Unpublished Hons. thesis, Dept. of Zoology, National University of Singapore. 55pp.

- Lane, D.J.W., 1987. Reef dwelling ascidians in the vicinity of Singapore: a preliminary investigation. Coral Reef Management of South East Asia, BIOTROP Special Publication No. 29. Pp. 5-9.
- Lane, D.J.W., 1991. Growth of scleractinian corals on sediment-stressed reefs at Singapore. In: A.C. Alcala (ed.) Proceedings of the Regional Symposium on Living Resources in Coastal Areas. Marine Science Institute, University of the Philippines, Manila. Pp. 97-106.
- Lee, Q.S., 1968. Ciliates from the gut of the sea urchin, *Diadema setosum* in Singapore. Unpublished Hons. thesis, Dept. of Zoology, National University of Singapore. 35pp.
- Leng, C.B., 1990. Population dynamics of the pomacentrid community on selected reef systems in Singapore. Unpublished Hons. thesis, Dept. of Zoology, National University of Singapore. 60pp.
- Leow, W.F.L., 1993. Taxonomy and distribution of *Acropora* (Scleractinia, Acroporidae) in Singapore. Unpublished Hons. thesis, Dept. of Zoology, National University of Singapore. 115pp.
- Lim, G.S.Y., 1987. Singapore reef echinoderms and their associates with emphasis on crinoids. Unpublished Hons. thesis, Dept. of Zoology, National University of Singapore. 75pp.
- Lim, G.S.Y. & L.M. Chou, 1991a. Studies of reef fish communities in Singapore. In: A.C. Alcala (ed.) Proceedings of the Regional Symposium on Living Resources in Coastal Areas. Marine Science Institute, University of the Philippines, Manila. Pp. 117-128.
- Lim, G.S.Y. & L.M. Chou, 1991b. The fish fauna around proposed reef sites in Singapore. In: L.M. Chou (ed.) Towards an integrated management of tropical coastal resources, ICLARM Conference Proceedings 22:333-336. National University of Singapore, Singapore; National Science and Technology Board, Singapore and International Center for Living Aquatic Resources Management, Philippines.
- Lim, G.S.Y., L.M. Chou & L.S. Chia, 1990. The biological communities of the coral reefs of Singapore with emphasis on reef fishes and hard corals. In: R. Hirano & I. Hanyu (eds.) The Second Asian Fisheries Forum, Manila, Philippines. Pp. 381-384.
- Low, J.K.Y. & L.M. Chou, 1992. Distribution of coral reef fish in Singapore. In: L.M. Chou & C.R. Wilkinson (eds.). Third ASEAN Science & Technology Week Conference Proceedings, Vol. 6, Marine Science: Living Coastal Resources. Dept. of Zoology, National University of Singapore and National Science and Technology Board, Singapore. Pp. 139-144.
- Low, J.K.Y. & L.M. Chou, in press [a]. Observations on coral reef fish recruitment in Singapore. Proceedings of the ASEAN-Australia Symposium on Living Coastal Resources, Bangkok, Thailand. In press.

Low, J.K.Y. & L.M. Chou, in press [b]. Sedimentation rates in Singapore waters. Proceedings of the ASEAN-Australia Symposium on Living Coastal Resources, Bangkok, Thailand.

Luchavez, T.F. & L.C. Alcala, 1992. Reef fish community in Capuyo Bais Negros Oriental, Philippines. In: L.M. Chou & C.R. Wilkinson (eds.) Third ASEAN Science & Technology Week Conference Proceedings, Vol. 6, Marine Science: Living Coastal Resources. Dept. of Zoology, National University of Singapore and National Science and Technology Board, Singapore. Pp. 1131-138.

MOE, 1993. The Singapore Green Plan - Action Programmes. Ministry of the Environment. Singapore. 80pp.

Moll, H., 1977. Studies on the development and ecology of *Tubastrea aurea* (Quoy & Gaimard) and *T. diaphana* (Dana). Unpublished Hons. thesis, Dept. of Zoology, National University of Singapore. 207pp.

Ng, P.K.L. & Y.C. Wee (eds), 1994. The Singapore Red Data Book. Threatened Plants and Animals of Singapore. The Nature Society (Singapore). 343 pp.

Quek, F., 1989. 500 truckloads of earth dumped daily at sea. The Sunday Times, Singapore. 26 February 1989.

Quek, S.T., 1991. An investigation into some aspects of planula release, settlement and postlarval development in the reef coral *Pocillopora damicornis*. Unpublished Hons. thesis, Dept. of Zoology, National University of Singapore. 64pp.

Satumanatpan, S. & S. Sudara, 1992. Comparison of reef fish communities from various reef conditions and structures in the Gulf of Thailand. In: L.M. Chou & C.R. Wilkinson (eds.) Third ASEAN Science & Technology Week Conference Proceedings, Vol. 6, Marine Science: Living Coastal Resources. Dept. of Zoology, National University of Singapore and National Science and Technology Board, Singapore. Pp. 125-130.

Salm, R.V. & J.R. Clark, 1984. Marine and coastal areas: a guide for planners and managers. International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (IUCN), Gland, Switzerland. 302pp.

Tan, I., 1970. Some studies on the biology of the Fungiidae of Singapore. Unpublished Hons. thesis, Dept. of Zoology, National University of Singapore. 85pp.

Tan, M.B.H., 1972. The biology and development of *Tubastrea* and the taxonomy of *Acropora*. Unpublished Hons. thesis, Dept. of Zoology, National University of Singapore. 155pp.

Tay, S.W. & H.W. Khoo, 1984. The distribution of coral reef fishes at Pulau Salu, Singapore. Proceedings of the BIOTROP Symposium on Recent Research Activities on Coral Reefs in Southeast Asia. Bogor, 6-9 May 1980. BIOTROP Special Publication 22:27-40.

- Teo, Y.H., 1982. A survey of the coral community at Pulau Salu. Unpublished Hons. thesis, Dept. of Zoology, National University of Singapore. 67pp.
- Tham, A.K., 1973. The Sea. In: S.H. Chuang (ed.) Animal Life and Nature in Singapore. Singapore University Press, 1973. Pp.140-149.
- Ting, M.C., 1966. Observations on the diet of local anemone-fishes (*Amphiprion* spp.) and their symbiotic association with sea anemones. Unpublished Hons. thesis, Dept. of Zoology, National University of Singapore. 37pp.
- Tun, K.P.P., A.C. Cheshire & L.M. Chou, in press [a]. Photosynthetic production of the macroalgae *Sargassum* and the seagrass *Enhalus*. Proceedings of the ASEAN-Australia Symposium on Living Coastal Resources, Bangkok, Thailand.
- Tun, K.P.P., A.C. Cheshire & L.M. Chou, in press [b]. Photosynthetic production of four scleractinian corals from Singapore. Proceedings of the ASEAN-Australia Symposium on Living Coastal Resources, Bangkok, Thailand.
- URA, 1991. Living the next lap: towards a tropical city of excellence. Urban Redevelopment Authority, Singapore. 40pp.
- Williams, H.M., 1977. Some aspects of the feeding mechanisms of corals of the family Faviidae (Order Scleractinia) with notes on their distribution and systematics. Unpublished Hons. thesis, Dept. of Zoology, National University of Singapore. 61pp.
- Wong, H.C. & L.M. Chou, 1993. Preliminary study of intra- and inter-specific interaction in scleractinian corals, *Galaxea fascicularis* and *Euphyllia ancora*. Proceedings of the First Undergraduate Science Research Congress (1993), Faculty of Science, National University of Singapore, Singapore. Pp. 198-205.
- Yeo, T.K., 1977. Observations on the feeding mechanisms of some local Fungiidae (Order Scleractinia). Unpublished Hons. thesis, Dept. of Zoology, National University of Singapore. 65pp.
- Yong, K.Y., S.L. Lee & G.P. Karunaratne, 1991. Coastal reclamation in Singapore: a review. In: Chia, L.S. & L.M. Chou (eds). Urban coastal area management: the experience of Singapore. ICLARM Conference Proceedings 25. International Center for Living Aquatic Resources Management. Philippines. Pp 59-67.

Appendix 1. Hard coral species recorded from Singapore reefs (Chou, 1989; Chou, 1992)

| Species | Species |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| <i>Acanthastrea echinata</i> | <i>Echinopora gemmacea</i> |
| <i>Acanthastrea hillae</i> | <i>Echinopora hirsutissima</i> |
| <i>Acropora acuminata</i> | <i>Echinopora horrida</i> |
| <i>Acropora anthocercis</i> | <i>Echinopora lamellosa</i> |
| <i>Acropora austera</i> | <i>Echinophyllia aspera</i> |
| <i>Acropora brueggemanni</i> | <i>Echinophyllia echinata</i> |
| <i>Acropora chesterfieldensis</i> | <i>Echinophyllia echinoporoides</i> |
| <i>Acropora danai</i> | <i>Euphyllia ancora</i> |
| <i>Acropora elseyi</i> | <i>Euphyllia divisa</i> |
| <i>Acropora formosa</i> | <i>Euphyllia glabrescens</i> |
| <i>Acropora grandis</i> | <i>Favia amicorum</i> |
| <i>Acropora horrida</i> | <i>Favia fавus</i> |
| <i>Acropora lutkeni</i> | <i>Favia laxa</i> |
| <i>Acropora microphthalma</i> | <i>Favia lizardensis</i> |
| <i>Acropora nana</i> | <i>Favia matthai</i> |
| <i>Acropora nasuta</i> | <i>Favia maritima</i> |
| <i>Acropora nobilis</i> | <i>Favia pallida</i> |
| <i>Acropora palmerae</i> | <i>Favia rotundata</i> |
| <i>Acropora selago</i> | <i>Favia speciosa</i> |
| <i>Acropora tenuis</i> | <i>Favia stelligera</i> |
| <i>Acropora valida</i> | <i>Favia veroni</i> |
| <i>Acropora verweyi</i> | <i>Fungia concinna</i> |
| <i>Alveopora allingi</i> | <i>Fungia corona</i> |
| <i>Alveopora marionensis</i> | <i>Fungia danai</i> |
| <i>Astreopora cucullata</i> | <i>Fungia echinata</i> |
| <i>Astreopora gracilis</i> | <i>Fungia fungites</i> |
| <i>Astreopora listeri</i> | <i>Fungia klunzingeri</i> |
| <i>Astreopora myriophthalma</i> | <i>Fungia moluccensis</i> |
| <i>Caulastrea echinulata</i> | <i>Fungia paumotensis</i> |
| <i>Coscinaraea columna</i> | <i>Fungia repanda</i> |
| <i>Coscinaraea exesa</i> | <i>Fungia scabra</i> |
| <i>Cycloseris marginata</i> | <i>Fungia scruposa</i> |
| <i>Cycloseris vaughani</i> | <i>Fungia scutaria</i> |
| <i>Cyphastrea chalcidicum</i> | <i>Fungia simplex</i> |
| <i>Cyphastrea microphthalma</i> | <i>Favites abdita</i> |
| <i>Cyphastrea serailia</i> | <i>Favites chinensis</i> |
| <i>Dendrophyllia gracilis</i> | <i>Favites complanata</i> |
| <i>Dendrophyllia micranthus</i> | <i>Favites flexuosa</i> |
| <i>Diploastrea heliopora</i> | <i>Favites halicora</i> |
| <i>Distichopora violacea</i> | <i>Favites pentagona</i> |
| <i>Echinopora aspera</i> | <i>Favites russelli</i> |

Appendix 1 (cont'd)

| Species | Species |
|------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| <i>Galaxea astreata</i> | <i>Montipora danae</i> |
| <i>Galaxea fascicularis</i> | <i>Montipora digitata</i> |
| <i>Gardineroseris</i> sp. | <i>Montipora efflorescens</i> |
| <i>Goniopora columna</i> | <i>Montipora foliosa</i> |
| <i>Goniopora djiboutiensis</i> | <i>Montipora grisea</i> |
| <i>Goniopora fruticosa</i> | <i>Montipora hispida</i> |
| <i>Goniopora lobata</i> | <i>Montipora informis</i> |
| <i>Goniopora pandorensis</i> | <i>Montipora monasteriata</i> |
| <i>Goniopora somaliensis</i> | <i>Montipora millepora</i> |
| <i>Goniopora stokesi</i> | <i>Montipora mollis</i> |
| <i>Goniopora stutchburyi</i> | <i>Montipora spongodes</i> |
| <i>Goniastrea aspera</i> | <i>Montipora spumosa</i> |
| <i>Goniastrea australiensis</i> | <i>Montipora stellata</i> |
| <i>Goniastrea edwardsi</i> | <i>Montipora tuberculosa</i> |
| <i>Goniastrea favulus</i> | <i>Montipora undata</i> |
| <i>Goniastrea pandoraensis</i> | <i>Montipora venosa</i> |
| <i>Goniastrea pectinata</i> | <i>Montipora verrucosa</i> |
| <i>Goniastrea retiformis</i> | <i>Montastrea annuligera</i> |
| <i>Goniastrea stutchburyi</i> | <i>Montastrea curta</i> |
| <i>Heliopora actiniformis</i> | <i>Montastrea magnistellata</i> |
| <i>Heliopora coerulea</i> | <i>Montastrea valenciennesi</i> |
| <i>Herpolitha limax</i> | <i>Mycedium elephantotus</i> |
| <i>Herpolitha weberi</i> | <i>Oulophyllia crispata</i> |
| <i>Hydnophora exesa</i> | <i>Oxypora crassispinosa</i> |
| <i>Hydnophora rigida</i> | <i>Oxypora glabra</i> |
| <i>Leptoria phrygia</i> | <i>Oxypora lacera</i> |
| <i>Leptastrea transversa</i> | <i>Pachyseris rugosa</i> |
| <i>Leptoseris explanata</i> | <i>Pachyseris speciosa</i> |
| <i>Leptoseris scabra</i> | <i>Pavona cactus</i> |
| <i>Lithophyllon edwardsi</i> | <i>Pavona clavus</i> |
| <i>Lithophyllon undulatum</i> | <i>Pavona decussata</i> |
| <i>Lobophyllia corymbosa</i> | <i>Pavona explanulata</i> |
| <i>Lobophyllia hataii</i> | <i>Pavona frondifera</i> |
| <i>Lobophyllia hemprichii</i> | <i>Pavona varians</i> |
| <i>Madracis kirbyi</i> | <i>Pectinia alcicornis</i> |
| <i>Merulina ampliata</i> | <i>Pectinia lactuca</i> |
| <i>Merulina scabricula</i> | <i>Pectinia paeonia</i> |
| <i>Millepora exesa</i> | <i>Physogyra lichtensteini</i> |
| <i>Montipora aequituberculata</i> | <i>Platygyra daedalea</i> |
| <i>Montipora angulata</i> | <i>Platygyra lamellina</i> |
| <i>Montipora capricornis</i> | <i>Platygyra pini</i> |
| <i>Montipora corbettensis</i> | <i>Platygyra sinensis</i> |
| <i>Montipora crassituberculata</i> | <i>Platygyra verweyi</i> |

Appendix 1 (cont'd)

| Species | Species |
|-------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| <i>Plerogyra sinuosa</i> | <i>Psammocora contigua</i> |
| <i>Pocillopora damicornis</i> | <i>Psammocora digitata</i> |
| <i>Podabacia crustacea</i> | <i>Psammocora explanulata</i> |
| <i>Polyphyllia talpina</i> | <i>Psammocora superficialis</i> |
| <i>Porites australiensis</i> | <i>Scapophyllia cylindrica</i> |
| <i>Porites cylindrica</i> | <i>Symphyllia radians</i> |
| <i>Porites lichen</i> | <i>Symphyllia recta</i> |
| <i>Porites lobata</i> | <i>Trachyphyllia geoffroyi</i> |
| <i>Porites lutea</i> | <i>Tubastraea aurea</i> x |
| <i>Porites murrayensis</i> | <i>Turbinaria frondens</i> |
| <i>Porites nigrescens</i> | <i>Turbinaria irregularis</i> |
| <i>Porites rus</i> | <i>Turbinaria peltata</i> |
| <i>Porites solida</i> | <i>Turbinaria radicalis</i> |
| <i>Porites stephensoni</i> | <i>Turbinaria reniformis</i> |
| <i>Porites vauhani</i> | |

Appendix 2. Coral reef fish species observed in Areas 1 to 4, Singapore (from Tay & Khoo, 1984; Chou, 1990; Chou *et al.*, 1991; Lim & Chou, 1991a; Lim & Chou, 1991b; Low & Chou, 1992; Chou, 1992; Chua & Chou, 1994).

| Family | Species |
|---------------|---|
| Acanthuridae | <i>Acanthurus</i> sp. |
| Apogonidae | <i>Apogon bandanensis</i> <i>Apogon chrysotaenia</i> <i>Apogon compressus</i> <i>Apogon cyanosoma</i> <i>Apogon sealei</i> (niger?) <i>Apogon trimaculatus</i> <i>Cheilodipterus macrodon</i> <i>Cheilodipterus quinquelineatus</i> <i>Sphaeramia nematoptera</i> |
| Atherinidae | <i>Atherina</i> sp. |
| Batrachoidae | <i>Halophryne diemensis</i> <i>Halophryne trispinosus</i> |
| Blennidae | <i>Entomacrodus stellifer lighti</i> <i>Meicanthus grammistes</i> <i>Osmobranchus</i> sp. <i>Petroscirtes temmincki</i> Blenny sp1 (brown) Blenny sp2 (grey and yellow) |
| Brotulidae | <i>Dinematichthys iluocoeteoides</i> * |
| Caesionidae | <i>Caesio caeruleaureus</i> <i>Caesio erythrogaster</i> <i>Caesio teres</i> |
| Carangidae | <i>Alectis</i> (ciliaris?) <i>Carangoides ferdau</i> <i>Selaroides leptolepis</i> Carangid sp. |
| Centrisidae | <i>Aeoliscus strigatus</i> |
| Centropomidae | <i>Psammoperca waigiensis</i> |

Appendix 2 (cont'd)

| Family | Species |
|----------------|--|
| Chaetodontidae | <i>Chaetodon octofasciatus</i> <i>Chelmon rostratus</i> <i>Parachaetodon ocellatus</i> <i>Coradion chrysozonus</i> |
| Congogadidae | <i>Congrogadus subducens</i> |
| Dasyatididae | <i>Taeniura lymna</i> |
| Ephippidae | <i>Platax orbicularis</i> <i>Platax pinnatus</i> <i>Platax tiera</i> |
| Gobiidae | Goby sp1 (big goby) <i>Acentrogobius</i> sp. <i>Amblygobius</i> sp. <i>Amblygobius sphynx</i> <i>Smilogobius singaporensis</i> |
| Grammistidae | <i>Diploprion bifasciatus</i> |
| Haemulidae | <i>Plectorhynchus pictus</i> <i>Plectorhynchus chaetodontoides</i> |
| Hemirhamphidae | <i>Hemirhamphus far</i> |
| Holocentridae | <i>Holocentrum rubrum</i> <i>Myriprisis murdjan</i> |
| Labridae | <i>Bodianus mesothorax</i> <i>Cheilinus diagrammus</i> <i>Cheilinus fasciatus</i> <i>Choerodon anchorago</i> <i>Choerodon schoenleinii</i> <i>Duymaeria flagellifera</i> <i>Halichoeres bicolor</i> <i>Halichoeres chloropterus</i> <i>Halichoeres dussumeri</i> <i>Halichoeres hoeveni</i> <i>Halichoeres hartzfeldii</i> <i>Halichoeres melanochir</i> <i>Halichoeres melanurus</i> <i>Halichoeres nigrescens</i> |

Appendix 2 (cont'd)

| Family | Species |
|----------------|---------------------------------|
| | <i>Halichoeres scapularis</i> |
| | <i>Halichoeres</i> sp. (green) |
| | <i>Hemigymnus melapterus</i> |
| | <i>Labroides dimidiatus</i> |
| | <i>Pterogogus flagellifera</i> |
| | <i>Pteragogus</i> sp. |
| | <i>Thalassoma lunare</i> |
| | <i>Stethojulis trilineata</i> |
| | <i>Stethojulis strigiventer</i> |
| | Unidentified brown labrid |
| Leiognathidae | <i>Leiognathus equulus</i> |
| | <i>Leiognathus splendens</i> |
| Lutjanidae | <i>Lutjanus carponotatus</i> |
| | <i>Lutjanus chrysotaenia</i> |
| | <i>Lutjanus decussatus</i> |
| | <i>Lutjanus johni</i> |
| | <i>Lutjanus lutjanus</i> |
| Lethrinidae | <i>Lethrinus nebulosus</i> |
| Monacanthidae | <i>Monacanthus chinensis</i> |
| | <i>Monacanthus macrurus</i> |
| | <i>Monacanthus tormentosus</i> |
| Monodactylidae | <i>Monodactylus argenteus</i> |
| Mugilidae | <i>Mugil</i> sp. |
| Mugiloididae | <i>Parapercis clathrata</i> |
| | <i>Parapercis xanthozona</i> |
| Mullidae | <i>Upeneus tragula</i> |
| Muraenidae | <i>Gymnothorax</i> sp. |
| | <i>Muraenichthys</i> sp. |
| Nemipteridae | <i>Pentapodus caninus</i> |
| | <i>Pentapodus setosus</i> |
| | <i>Pentapodus trivittatus</i> |
| | <i>Scolopsis affinis</i> |
| | <i>Scolopsis bilineatus</i> |

Appendix 2 (cont'd)

| Family | Species |
|-----------------|--------------------------------------|
| | <i>Scolopsis dubiosus</i> |
| | <i>Scolopsis leucotaenia</i> |
| | <i>Scolopsis margaritifer</i> |
| | <i>Scolopsis phaeops</i> |
| | <i>Scolopsis trilineatus</i> |
| | <i>Scolopsis vosmeri</i> |
| Ostraciidae | <i>Ostracion</i> sp. |
| Pempheridae | <i>Pempheris</i> sp. 1 |
| | <i>Pempheris</i> sp. 2 |
| Platycephalidae | <i>Platycephalus nematophthalmus</i> |
| Plotosidae | <i>Paraplotosus albilabris</i> |
| Pomacanthidae | <i>Chaetodonoplus mesoleucus</i> |
| | <i>Pomacanthus annularis</i> |
| | <i>Pomacanthus sexstriatus</i> |
| Pomacentridae | <i>Abudefduf bengalensis</i> |
| | <i>Abudefduf sexfasciatus</i> |
| | <i>Abudefduf notatus</i> |
| | <i>Abudefduf saxatilis</i> |
| | <i>Abudefduf septemfasciatus</i> |
| | <i>Abudefduf vaigensis</i> |
| | <i>Amblyglyphidodon curacao</i> |
| | <i>Amblyglyphidodon leucogaster</i> |
| | <i>Amphiprion clarkii</i> |
| | <i>Amphiprion frenatus</i> |
| | <i>Amphiprion melanopus</i> |
| | <i>Amphiprion ocellaris</i> |
| | <i>Chromis cinerascens</i> |
| | <i>Chromis atripectoralis</i> |
| | <i>Chrysiptera</i> sp. |
| | <i>Chrysiptera unimaculata</i> |
| | <i>Dascyllus trimaculatus</i> |
| | <i>Dischistodus chrysopoecilus</i> |
| | <i>Dischistodus fasciatus</i> |
| | <i>Dischistodus prosopotaenia</i> |
| | <i>Eupomacentrus apicalis</i> |
| | <i>Hemiglyphidodon plagiometapon</i> |
| | <i>Neopomacentrus cyanosomos</i> |

Appendix 2 (cont'd)

| Family | Species |
|----------------|------------------------------------|
| | <i>Neopomacentrus filamentosus</i> |
| | <i>Neopomacentrus nemurus</i> |
| | <i>Neopomacentrus taeniurus</i> |
| Pomacentridae | <i>Neoglyphidodon melas</i> |
| | <i>Neoglyphidodon nigroris</i> |
| | <i>Pomacentrus albimaculus</i> |
| | <i>Pomacentrus alexanderae</i> |
| | <i>Pomacentrus bankanensis</i> |
| | <i>Pomacentrus brachialis</i> |
| | <i>Pomacentrus grammorhynchus</i> |
| | <i>Pomacentrus littoralis</i> |
| | <i>Pomacentrus moluccensis</i> |
| | <i>Pomacentrus popei</i> |
| | <i>Pomacentrus rhondonatus</i> |
| | <i>Pomacentrus tripuntatus</i> |
| | <i>Pomachromis richardsoni</i> |
| Scaridae | <i>Scarus ghobban</i> |
| | <i>Scarus sp.</i> |
| Scorpaenidae | <i>Scorpaena picta</i> |
| | <i>Scorpaenopsis cirrhosa</i> |
| | <i>Synanceja horrida</i> |
| Serranidae | <i>Cephalopholis argus</i> |
| | <i>Cephalopholis boenack</i> |
| | <i>Cephalopholis miniatus</i> |
| | <i>Cephalopholis pachycentron</i> |
| | <i>Cromileptes altivelis</i> |
| | <i>Epinephalus tauvina</i> |
| | <i>Plectropomus maculatus</i> |
| Siganidae | <i>Siganus guttatus</i> |
| | <i>Siganus javus</i> |
| | <i>Siganus virgatus</i> |
| Sphyraenidae | <i>Sphyraena flavicauda</i> |
| | <i>Sphyraena sp.</i> |
| Tetraodontidae | <i>Arothron mappa</i> (?) |

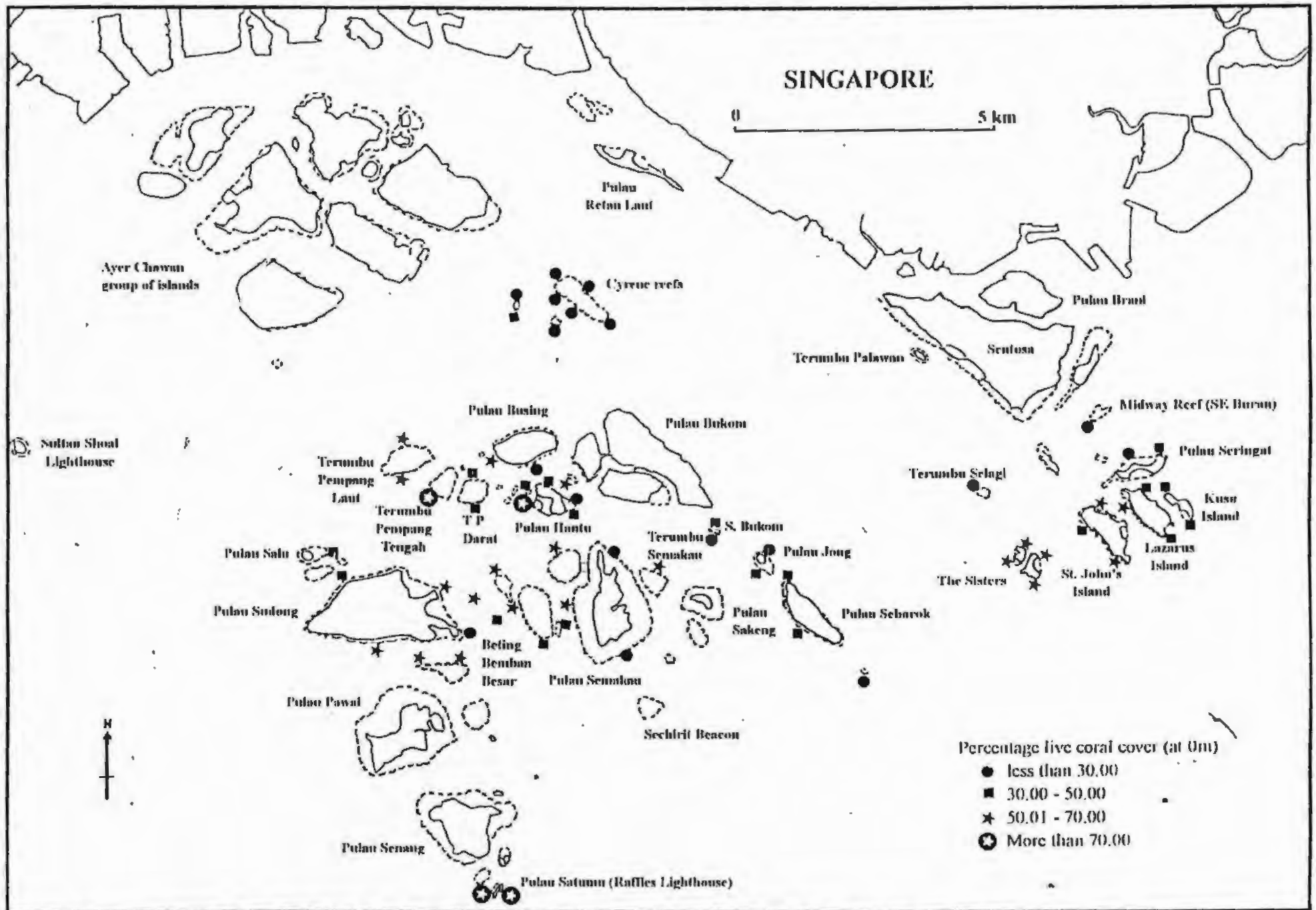


Fig. 1. Map of Singapore's southern islands showing condition of reefs surveyed (based on live coral cover).

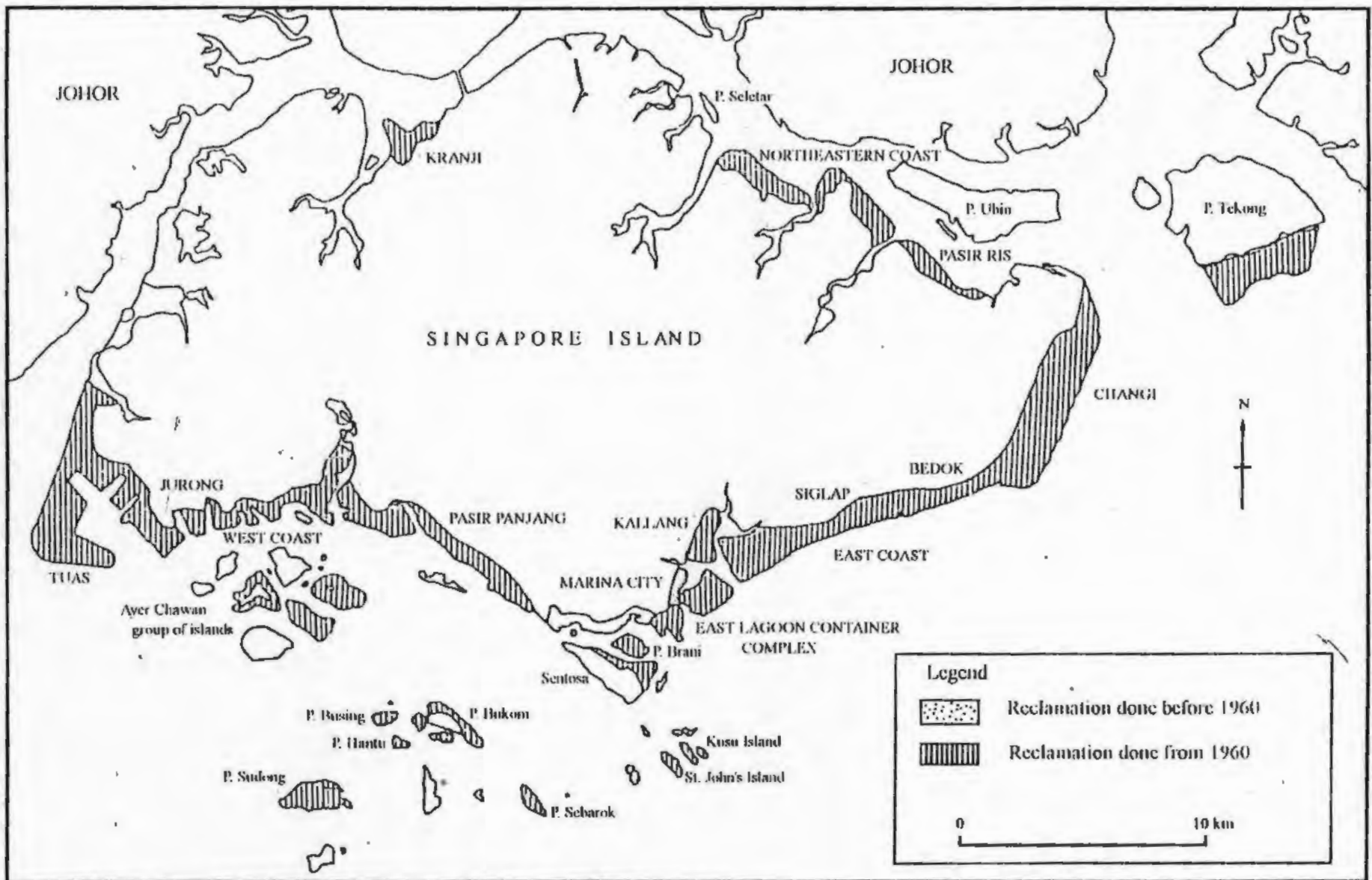


Fig. 2. Map of Singapore showing extent of land reclamation.

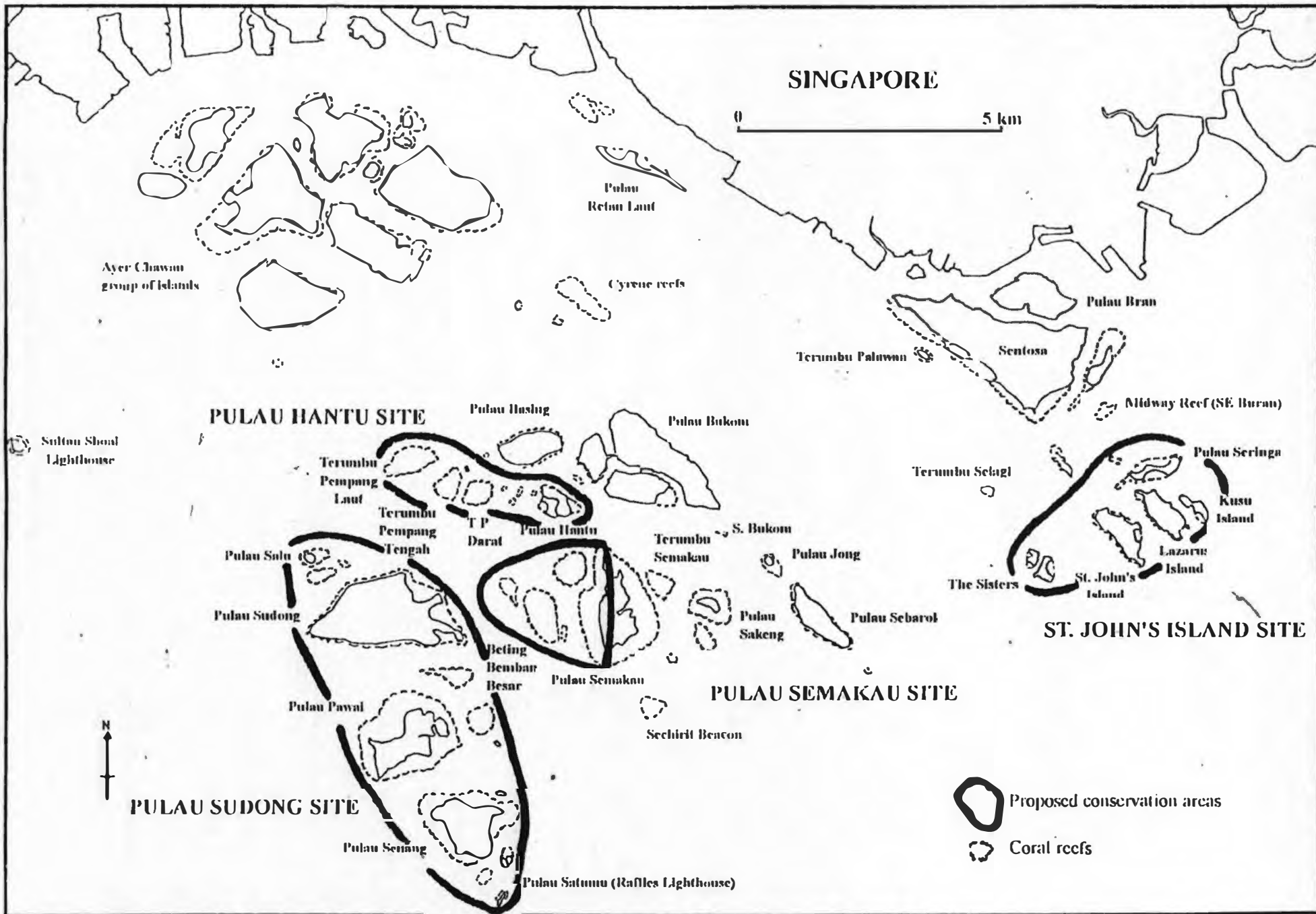


Fig. 3. Map of Singapore's southern islands showing the four marine areas identified for conservation.