

Figure 1. Pulau Layang Layang from Kota Kinabalu, Sabah

Survey Methodology

In this study, five sampling sites were selected and designated around the Layang Layang atoll to get the distribution and abundance of sea cucumbers. Two of the sites were located at the reef flat area. The others were at the Wrasse Strip, Navigators Lane, Gorgonian Forest and D'Wall (Fig. 2).

The Timed Roving Diver Technique (TRDT) method was used in this study to collect the data. During the TRDT surveys, divers swam freely throughout a dive site at the maximum depth of 13 m and recorded every species that could be positively identified. The goal was to find as many species as possible. In collecting data for sea cucumber distribution, special attention was given to the sea floor, buried sand and rocky areas where the sea cucumbers hid. Each dive would take about 30 minutes and each surveyor recorded the species data along with survey time, depth, temperature and other environmental information.

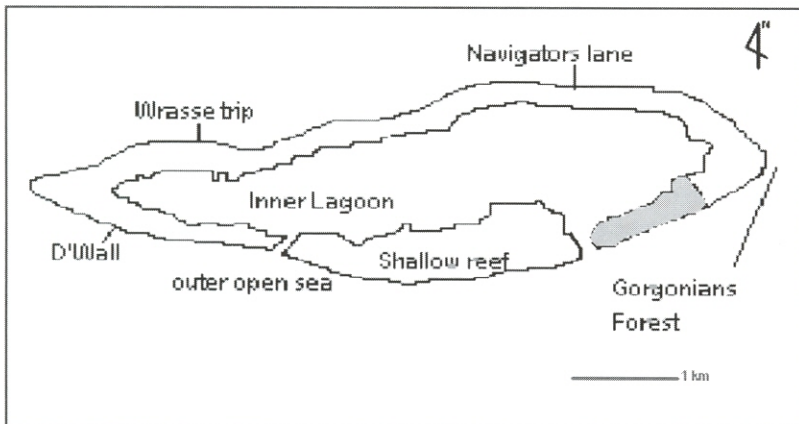


Figure 2. Site locations around Pulau Layang Layang