

Analytical Investigation of Pollutants in Lagos Coastal Waters, Nigeria

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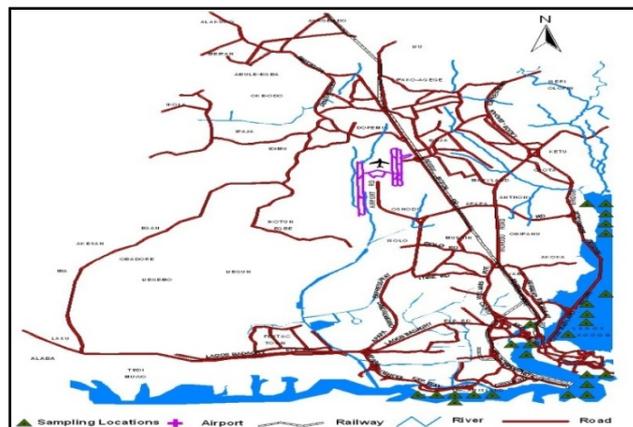
Abstract This paper deals with pollution aspect of environmental management and monitoring of the continental shores of the Lagos Lagoon for its sustainable development. The water quality assessment of coastal waters, at the principal locations of the lagoon susceptible to high level of pollution in the Ebute-Metta and Eti-Osa axis of the Lagos Lagoon was performed. Assessment was undertaken according to different physical and chemical parameters including biological oxygen demand (BOD), Dissolved oxygen (DO), electric conductivity (EC), total suspended solids (TSS), Alkalinity, Acidity, Total hardness (TH), grease content, major cations and anions, and some heavy metals. Results showed that the Shores of the Lagos lagoon at the Iddo and C.M.S axis becomes progressively polluted by the waste materials discharged along its course. Thus, Lagoon at these locations currently faces a number of serious environmental and ecological challenges. Urbanization and high commercial activities at this axis of the Lagoon contributed to the water quality deterioration with regional consequences on the aquatic ecosystem and on the health of the down stream's user groups. This synergetic effect is of concern for the sustainable use of the resources.

Keywords Lagos Lagoon, Water Pollution, Ions, Heavy Metals, Water Quality

1. Introduction

Oceans are ecosystems, quite susceptible to pollution. The ocean is made up of continental shelf and deep oceans[3]. However, the continental shelf are the most productive in terms of food supply and also most vulnerable to highest pollution load from sediment transported from tributaries. Consequently many estuaries have become so badly polluted that they have been closed to commercial fishing. For instance, Lagos Lagoon along the Ebute-Metta and Eti-Osa axis currently faces a number of serious environmental and ecological challenges. Uncontrolled discharge of untreated wastewater, sewage, sediment carrying runoff as well as solid wastes into the lagoon has degraded the quality of surface water beyond the acceptable limits.[1] and Osibanjo[2] conducted a research on the effect of effluents on Ikopoba River in Benin, Nigeria, where a rise in pH, a decrease in dissolved oxygen and increase in BOD, COD and total suspended solids, were noticed to have their own bearing on the aquatic life of the river. The impacts of water quality deterioration have regional consequences on the aquatic eco-system and on the health and cultural, religious and aesthetic values of the downstream user groups. The

overall damage caused by the continuous discharge of unregulated and uncontrolled solid and liquid wastes into the Lagos Lagoon along the Ebute-Metta and Eti-Osa axis has provided impetus to community, environmentalists, policy makers and all other stakeholders to brainstorm on the environmental perspectives for the overall sustainability of the environment. The present study was performed to investigate the pollution extent of the Lagos Lagoon along the Ebute-Metta and Eti-Osa axis. The Lagos Lagoon is located in the Lagos Island area of Lagos State of Nigeria. The Lagos Lagoon along the Ebute-Metta and Eti-Osa axis is a coastal terrain and is surrounded by urban development as shown in figure.



Map Showing the Lagos Lagoon along Ebute-Metta and Eti-Osa axis

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The study area has a typical tropical climate, which is marked by two prominent seasons. The rainy season extends generally from March to November with intermittent dry spells. This is the period when the south-westerly wind prevails. The dry season usually occurs from December and March when the area is under the influence of the north-easterly wind. The Ebute metta and Eti-osa and its environs are typical of the country's Southern zone with relatively moderate temperature and fairly excessive humidity particularly during the rainy season. The average annual rainfall in Study Area is about 1500 mm. The average slope of natural drainage lines in the present undeveloped regions of the study area is about 1:10,000. Unfortunately, some of these natural drainage lines have been blocked by development in the eastern coastal areas, resulting in the creation of large swamps and a rise in the groundwater table in the neighbouring undeveloped areas. The study area consists of outcrops of two main geological formations. The coastal plain sands which form the low, gently sloping dissected uplands, reaching in places a height of 6 to about 30 meters, and the recent coastal deposits which form the extensive and swampy alluvial plains of the major rivers and creeks along the coast overlying the coastal plain sands.

2. Materials and Methods

Five sampling points were established for the study, they are the Iddo axis, C.M.S Lagos Island axis, third Mainland Bridge axis, Apapa Jetty axis and University of Lagos axis.

The choice of five sampling points was based on their accessibility, nearness to urban settlement and their suitability for the future survey. All the stations were accessible through navigation by boats.

Water samples at different locations collected for laboratory analyses were taken at the mid-streams of the Lagoon at 5m depth during the humid period with the aid of improvised hallow sampling gauge and labelled immediately on the field. The samples were transported in ice chests to the different laboratories where they were either analysed immediately or stored at 40°C or less to monitor the present status of source pollution indicative parameters. Water samples for physical and chemical analyses were collected vertically in replicates on boats, midstream at different sampling points along the Lagos Lagoon. This was needed in order to establish an initial baseline of information for the future studies. It is also necessary so as to assess the Lagoon according to its self-purification capacity and to determine the pollution extent. Standard laboratory methods were employed for the analysis.

3. Results

From water quality analysis results obtained from the field measurements at the five sampling locations presented in table 1, it is found that the physical and chemical parameters such pH (8.0), and alkalinity (566mg/l) upper limit were all within the specified limit by[4] for good fresh water quality.

Table 1. Water quality analysis of Lagos Lagoon along Ebute-Metta and Eti-Osa axis

Parameters	Sampling locations					WHO Limit
	Iddo	C.M.S	Mainland Bridge	Apapa Jetty	UniLag	
Appearance insitu	Clear with particle					
Temperature °C	29.5	29	30	30	29	20-33
Turbidity (FTU)	20	20	28	25	20	
pH	7.9	8.0	7.7	7.6	7.8	6-8
Conductivity (µOhm)	25,000	23,500	25,000	15,000	24,500	NS
TSS (mg/l)	20.0	8.0	10.0	16.0	10.0	200.0
Alkalinity (mg/l)	345.6	446.0	286.6	366.6	566.0	NS
Acidity (mg/l)	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NS
Total Hardness (mg/l)	4260.0	10,500.0	4100.0	6,900.0	3800.0	NS
DO (mg/l)	5.0	12.0	4.0	7.0	4.0	<2.0
BOD (mg/l)	44.0	80.0	40.0	65.0	40.0	15
COD (mg/l)	96.0	135.0	89.0	102.0	84.0	80
Oil grease (mg/l)	20.8	7.4	13.2	7.2	13.2	10
Chloride (mg/l)	12.0	12.5	15	13.5	12.5	600
Sulphate (mg/l)	632.0	560.0	400.0	650.0	650.0	500
Nitrate (mg/l)	1.5	3.0	2.8	1.8	2.7	20
Phosphate (mg/l)	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	50
Manganese (mg/l)	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	50
Iron (mg/l)	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	20
Nickel (mg/l)	0.04	0.03	0.03	0.04	0.03	<1
Cadmium (mg/l)	0.06	0.06	0.05	0.05	0.05	<1
Copper (mg/l)	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	<1
Lead (mg/l)	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	<1
Free CO ₂ (mg/l)	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NS

However, the conductivity (25,000 μ Ohm) and total harness (mg/l) were high for all the sampling points. Furthermore, such parameter as acidity, phosphate, iron, manganese, copper, lead and free carbon dioxide were absent in the Lagoon water at all the sampling points. It was also observed that heavy metals and major ions conform to specified limit for fresh water quality. The cations such as chloride, sulphate and nitrate had mean values of 13mg/l and 2.5.7mg/l, respectively [4] whereas the sulphate (550mg/l) was higher than the 500mg/l specified limit. However, the organic pollutants such as Dissolved oxygen (DO), Biological oxygen demand (BOD) and Chemical oxygen demand (COD) were high in water. They have mean values of 9mg/l, 60mg/l and 100mg/l, respectively as against 2, 15 and 80mg/l specified by WHO. The results obtained were similar throughout the ocean strip.

The figure 1 shows the variations in hydrogen ion and conductivity concentrations along the Lagos Lagoon at the selected sampling points. It is noted that water from the ocean is slightly basic and with high conductivity level all through the axis of the Lagoon. The highest values of pH and conductivity were observed at the commercial and highly populated area of Iddo and C.M.S.

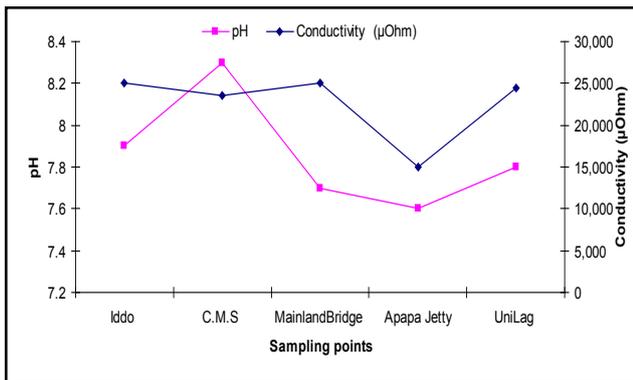


Figure 1. Map showing the pH and conductivity distribution of Lagos Lagoon at the Ebute-Metta and Eti-osa axis

The figure 2 shows the variations in temperature and turbidity concentrations along the Lagos Lagoon at the selected sampling points. It is observed that water from the ocean has the highest temperature and turbidity at the third Mainland Bridge and Apapa jetty axis. This is as a result of sailing activities around the area that increases the turbulence of water thus allowing for proper stratification of the water and turbid action experienced.

Figure 3 also shows the variations in the water quality especially in terms of measured field parameters such as TSS, acidity, alkalinity and total hardness. It is observed that the ocean has the highest values of total hardness at the C.M.S axis of the Ocean. However, the field parameters such as TSS, acidity, and alkalinity were low and similar all through the sampling points.

Figure 4 shows the variations in the water quality distribution especially in terms of measured organic pollutants DO, BOD and COD. it is observed that the Lagos Lagoon at the sampling points has similar distribution pattern of DO,

BOD and COD all through the ocean reach. However, these organic pollutants were highest at the C.M.S axis of the Lagoon.

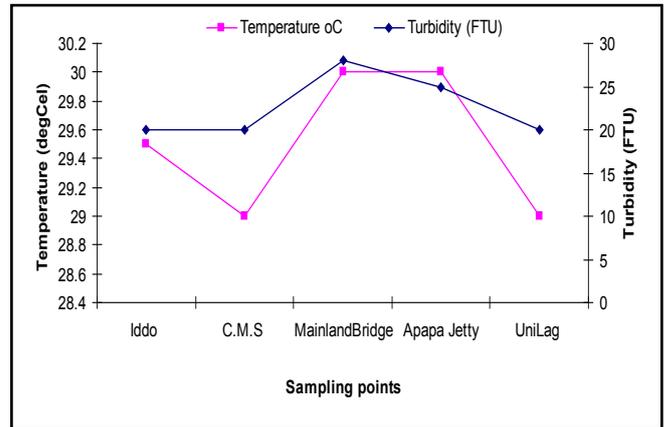


Figure 2. Map showing the temperature and turbidity distribution of Lagos Lagoon at the Ebute-Metta and Eti-osa axis

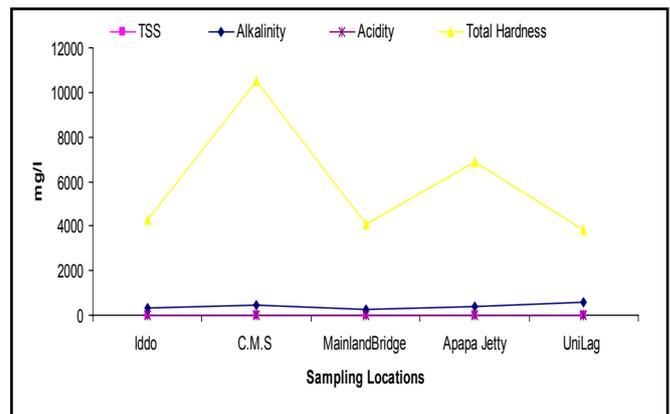


Figure 3. Map showing the TSS, acidity, alkalinity and total hardness distribution of Lagos Lagoon at the Ebute-Metta and Eti-osa axis

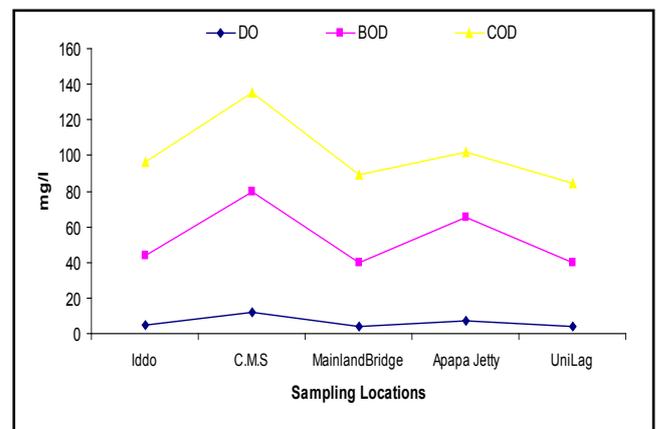


Figure 4. Map showing the DO, BOD and COD distribution of Lagos Lagoon at the Ebute-Metta and Eti-osa axis

Figure 5 shows that the chloride and nitrate are low and similar in level all through the ocean strip. However, the sulphate concentration was high and slightly varies in distribution with the lowest observed at third mainland bridge location of Lagos Lagoon. The dominant anion all through the river was the sulphate.

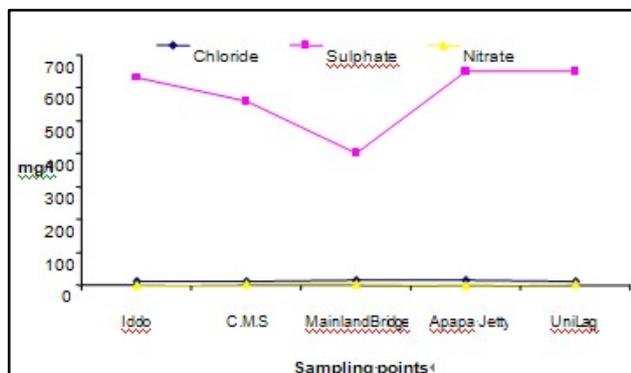


Figure 5. Map showing the chloride, sulphate and nitrate distribution of Lagos Lagoon at the Ebute-Metta and Eti-osa axis

Figure 6 shows that the heavy metal nickel and cadmium were low all through the Lagoon axis though with variation in magnitude. Furthermore, it was also observed from figure that though the values of nickel and cadmium were lower than specified WHO limit, concentration was nickel was highest and similar at Iddo and C.M.S axis while the concentration was Cadmium was highest at the Apapa jetty axis of the Lagos Lagoon than the other sampled locations.

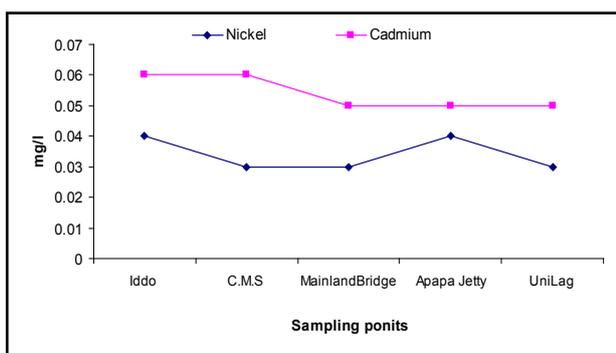


Figure 6. Map showing the Nickel and Cadmium distribution of Lagos Lagoon at the Ebute-Metta and Eti-osa axis

4. Discussion

The study showed that the water quality of Ebute- Metta and Eti-osa axis of Lagos Lagoon are of very good chemical

quality and suitable for any freshwater fauna and flora and recreation purposes. However, fairly high value of DO, BOD and COD were observed in these areas of the Lagoon. Furthermore, the vicinity of the Lagoon at Iddo and C.M.S axis were noticed to be the most polluted area. This implies that the Lagoon at this two sampling points is highly polluted with the commercial activity in that location. The water quality in these locations of the Lagoon is rapidly declining, thereby rendering the water unsuitable for any freshwater fauna and flora and recreation purposes.

5. Conclusions

Uncontrolled disposal of raw sewage, sediment carrying runoff and effluents into the Lagoon system has created serious health concerns for the downstream water user groups. In view of the experiences and the lessons learnt from the past, the concept of Basin-wide planning has been felt necessary for sustainable development in Nigeria.

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