

B-61: Site assessment for shrimps culture systems in North Western Province : survey on soil quality

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Majority (72%) of the shrimp culture systems developed are on intertidal zones while the remaining farms are on supratidal zones.

An investigation on soil quality in potential sites and sites developed for shrimp culture revealed the presence of 3 acid sulphate soil classes and 2 potential acid sulphate soil classes in intertidal areas of Chilaw and Mundal lagoon system. Relatively high levels of iron (1,780 to 7,248 mg/kg) and manganese (78 to 230 mg/kg) were observed in these sediments. Soil pH varied between 3.2 and 4.0 in acid sulphate soil classes while pH decreased to 2.9 in potential acid sulphate soil classes after 3 months moist incubation.

pH values (6.2 - 8.0) of the supratidal zones were closer to the acceptable ranges for shrimp culture development.