

DISTRIBUTION OF HEAVY METAL POLLUTANTS IN PUNNAKAYAL COASTAL SEDIMENTS, SOUTHEAST COAST OF INDIA

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Abstract

This study is the first documented evidence on heavy metal levels in surface sediments of Punnakayal coastal environment in the Gulf of Mannar, Southeast coast of India. Sediment samples were collected every month from January to December, 2008. Chromium, Copper, Lead and Zinc metals concentrations were estimated from these samples. The concentrations of Chromium ranged between 15 – 40 ppm; Copper 18 – 48 ppm; Lead 15 – 36 ppm and Zinc 180 – 410 ppm in the surface sediment. Highest metal concentration is recorded in November, 2008 followed by May, 2008. The significant increase of metals in sediment is mainly due to pollution effect, related to anthropogenic wastes discharged through river run-off.

Keywords: Chromium, Copper, Lead, Zinc, Sediment.