KARAKTERISTIK KARAGINAN DARI RUMPUT LAUT (*Kappaphycus alvarezii*) PADA UMUR PANEN YANG BERBEDA

CARRAGEENAN CHARACTERISTICS FROM HARVESTING SEAWEED *(Kappaphycus alvarezii)* WITH DIFFERENT AGES

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ABSTRACT: It has been tested against carrageenan characteristics resulting from harvesting seaweed with different ages, namely 30 days, 45 days, and 60 days. The purpose of this study was to determine the exact age of harvest in relation to the characteristics carrageenan produced from seaweed Kappaphycus alvarezii in coastal waters Desa Tolongio, Kec. Anggrek Kab. Gorontalo Utara. The research was carried out for 6 months from preparation to reporting. The method used was the explorative method, by using a Completely Randomized Design (CRD) with three replications. To determine the effect of harvest age on the characteristics carrageenan, we had tested the gel strength, viscosity, whiteness, water content, ash content and heavy metal (Hg). And to see differences between the treatment and to determine the best harvest age followed by Least Small Difference Test (LSD). All observational datas were tabulated and processed statistically using SPSS 16.0. Based on the results of research, it was known that carrageenan that was harvested of 45 days had some characteristics that approach required carrageenan for trading, namely 318.07 g/cm2 gel strength, viscosity of 101.33 cP, 10.72% ash content, and heavy metal (Hg) was not detected, whereas the water content of 23.68% and 37.2% whiteness degree was still not meet the standards of commercial carrageenan.

Key words: Characteristic, carrageenan, Kappaphycus alvarezii, harvest age.

NDAHULUAN

Kebutuhan dunia terhadap karaginan, terus mengalami peningkatan sejalan dengan mbahan penduduk dunia. Karena itu, sangat diperlukan adanya upaya serius untuk memacu duktivitas *K. alvarezii* sebagai sumber karaginan, baik secara kuantitas, maupun kualitas. nesia sebagai salah satu negara penghasil karaginan (karagenofita), hanya mampu mensuplai tar 18% kebutuhan karaginan pasar dunia, suatu level produksi yang jauh lebih rendah bila ndingkan dengan produser karagenofita lainnya, seperti Filipina, yang dapat mensuplai pasar ia sekitar 62% (Risjani, 1997).

Untuk mendapatkan kandungan karaginan yang maksimal memerlukan kondisi kungan yang baik bagi pertumbuhan *K. alvarezii* seperti lokasi penanaman, metode idaya, pengelolaan bibit dan penanganan pasca panen. Secara umum kandungan dan posisi kimia rumput laut dipengaruhi oleh jenis rumput laut, fase (tingkat pertumbuhan), dan r panennya. Untuk memperoleh mutu karaginan yang baik, umur panen rumput laut *K.*