HATCHERY PRODUCTION OF BIVALVE SEEDS IN SOUTHEAST ASIA: STATE OF THE ART AND FUTURE RESEARCH DIRECTIONS

By Tat Meng Wong

Centrefor Marine & Coastal Studies, Universiti Sains Malaysia, Penang 11800, Malaysia

Current address : Open Learning Institute of Hong Kong, 9-13/F, Trade Department Tower, 700 Nathan Road, Kowloon, Hong Kong

ABSTRACT

Since the mid l 980's, adaptive research in a number of laboratories in Southeast Asia has resulted in the successful transfer of bivalve hatchery production technologies pioneered in the United States, Canada and Western Europe to the region, particularly Thailand and Malaysia. Progress in microalgal production, broodstock conditioning, induced spawning, larval culture, setting and other aspects of hatchery operations are highlighted. Economic viability has been demonstrated and currently a few laboratories are poised for commercial level operations. Nevertheless, a number of areas have not been adequately researched. Serious information gaps exist in areas such as the synchronisation of broodstock maturation, larval feeds, diseases of larvae and genetic improvements. These must form the foci of future research to ensure the successful commercialisation of tropical bivalve seed production and culture.