

EXPERIENCES FROM OYSTER TRANSPLANTATION IN THAILAND

By Sanchai Tandavanitj

Phuket Marine Biological Center, Phuket P. O. Box 60, Phuket 83000, Thailand

ABSTRACT

To remedy shortage of spat, oysters have been transplanted from the east to the west coast (and vice versa) of Thailand. But transplantation of oysters may have undesirable effects. *Crassostrea lugubris* were transplanted together with *C. belciieri* to an area where previously only the latter occurred. *C. lugubris* became abundant although this was not intended. Other transplantations have shown that the quality of oyster flesh can be improved by transplantation. Three months after transfer from the west to the east coast of Thailand, the transplanted oyster changed colour of the flesh which increased the market value. Lack of spat in some culture areas was solved by transplantation of spat collected in nature or raised in culture. A study after the transplantation did not show any differences in growth rates of spat from the two sources.