 UTILIZATION OF SHELL RESOURCES IN THE SPERMONDE ARCHIPELAGO, INDONESIA

By Gunarto Latama

Department of Fishery, Faculty of Animal Husbandry and Fishery, Jl. Perin is Kemerdekaan Ilasanuddin University, Ujung Pandang, Indonesia

ABSTRACT

A total of 59 mollusc species were encountered in markets of the Spermonde Islands. Gastropods dominated (95%). Only processed shells have noticeable market value. Shells of Tectus pyramidis, Pinctada maxima, Pinctada margaritifera, and Pinna bicolor are used for ornamental handicraft and for making buttons which are exported. T nivoticus has become very rare in the area, so the button factory has stopped using this species. The value of shells will increase 3 times after processing, thereby making shell buttons an important source of income.