

UTILIZATION OF SHELL RESOURCES IN THE SPERMONDE ARCHIPELAGO, INDONESIA

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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 *Tectuspyramis*, *Pinctada maxima*, *Pinctada margaritifera*, and *Pinna bicolor* are used for ornamental handicraft and for making buttons which are exported. *T. nitidus* 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.