# ECOLOGY OF THE INTERTIDAL BOX MUSSEL *SEPTIFER BILOCULARIS* L., NORTH SULAWESI, INDONESIA

**By Medy Ompi**
*Faculty of Fisheries, Sam Ratulangi University, Manado 95115, Indonesia*

## ABSTRACT

The density of box mussel at two stations ranged from a mean of 165 ± 267 ind/m2 to a mean of 89 ± 115 ind/$m^2$. Box mussels were aggregated (I > 1)(Morisita's Index). Mussels in small patches were large compared to mussels in medium and large patches. But, the mean size of mussels was not significantly different among stations (Two-way ANOVA). The number of recruits was different between stations. but not between patches of all sizes. In laboratory experiments, growth was only statistically different between mussels at medium density and small density {One-way ANOVA) Mortality was high in mussels in large groups. Physical and biological factors which may affect the abundance, size distribution, recruitment, growth, and mortality are discussed.