EFFECT OF HOLDING TEMPERATURE ON SETTING PERFORMANCE OF *CRASSOSTREA BELCHERI* (SOWERBY) LARVAE

By Shau-Hwai Tan 1 & Tat-Meng Wong 2

1. Centre for Wine & Coastal Studies, Universiti Sains Malaysia, 11800 Minden, Penang, Malaysia
2. Open Learning Institute of Hong Kong, 9-13 F, Trade Department Tower, 700 Nathan Road, Kowloon, Hong Kong

ABSTRACT

Competent eyed larvae of the tropical oyster *Crassostrea belcheri* were kept moist and held at test temperatures ranging 5-25 °C and room temperature (29 ± 2 °C) for durations of 12, 24, 36, 48, 60 and 72 hours before being transferred to their respective setting aquaria. For all exposure durations, optimal settlement occurred at 15 °C, with maximum setting in larvae exposed for 12 and 24 hours (26 vs 20 % in controls). At temperatures above and below 15 °C, setting performance were comparable to controls during the first 24 hours. Thereafter, setting performance deteriorated progressively with increase in exposure duration. Two week post-settlement survival of spat held at 15 and 20 °C for 24 hours were significantly higher (80-87 %) compared to the controls (46 %). The implications of these results on storage of eyed larvae intended for remote setting of *C. belcheri* are discussed.