

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

By Shau-Hwai Tan¹ & Tat-Meng Wong²

1. Centre for Marine & 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.