FIELD RELEASE OF CULTURED MURICID GASTROPODS (*CHICOREUS RAMOSUS*) AT ARTIFICIAL REEFS IN THE ANDAMAN SEA, THAILAND

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ABSTRACT

Hatchery-reared juvenile *Chicoreus ramosus* (average total length 7.0 cm) were released at artificial concrete reefs to determine rates of growth, mortality and dispersion. During the eight months experiment, growth rates of the released juveniles were comparable to juveniles cultured in land based aquaculture systems. Mortality was very low (< 5 %), but dispersion had reduced the released stocks after 97 days. The released juveniles migrated mainly from one concrete module to another, because the modules constitute islands in terms of food. Restocking of *C. ramosus* on artificial reefs could become an efficient method to establish self sustainable populations.