

COMPARISON OF OYSTER (*CRASSOSTREA BELCHER*) CULTURE BY HANGING AND CEMENT TUBE METHODS

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ABSTRACT

A comparative study on growth of oyster was conducted during April-November 1993 in Ranong, Andaman Sea, Thailand. One thousand *Crassostrea belcheri* oyster seeds (6-9 cm) were divided into two groups. One group was attached to nylon strings (3 mm x 2 m) hanging from rafts, with 10 individuals on each string. The other group was cemented to a cement tube (15 cm in diameter x 40 cm in length) with 15 individuals on each pole. Both methods were used in the same shallow water area. Growth was monitored every month and water quality measured twice a month. The growth rates were not method dependent and had an average of 1.27 cm in the study period. The survival rate was best with the hanging method (91% against 78%). The salinity ranged from 5-30‰, dissolved O₂ 6.3-7.5 ppm, pH 7.3-8.1, temperature 28-30 °C, and transparency 35-159 cm. The production cost using the hanging method was higher than the cement tube: 4.7 and 3.6 baht/oyster respectively.