

Review

CULTIVABLE TROPICAL MARINE MOLLUSCS OF  
ANDAMAN AND NICOBAR ISLANDS, INDIA

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ABSTRACT

The topography of the Andaman and Nicobar Island groups is summarised with emphasis on the coastline and Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ). Molluscs constitute an important marine resource because of their commercial value. The gastropods *Trochus* and *Turbo* are very important for ornamental trade while pearl oysters, edible oysters, mussels, giant clams, and abalones offer excellent scope for coastal aquaculture as a part of sea food export development. The history of molluscan research in the Andaman Islands is reviewed along with the information on the molluscan fishing zones and shell collection methods. The occurrence and distribution of pearl oysters, edible oysters, green mussels and giant clams are described and their culture potential is highlighted by presenting the results of the culture experiments conducted in South Andaman. The need for sea ranching of *Turbo* and *Trochus* to replenish the already depleted stocks in Andaman waters and the prospects of pearl production using blacklip pearl oysters have been emphasised. The research support for the overall development of molluscan fisheries of the Andamans is emphasised.