

DENSITY, BIOMASS AND DISTRIBUTION OF COCKLE, *POTIARCA PILULA*
(REEVE, 1844) IN THE BAY OF MISKAM, WEST JAVA, INDONESIA

Mudjiono & Woro Widiarsih Kastoro

Research and Development Center for Oceanology, Jakarta, Indonesia

ABSTRACT

A dense population of cockle, *Potiarca pilula* (Reeve, 1844), is found in muddy sediment in the estuary of the Bay of Miskam, Panimbang (Banten), West Java. This population was studied seasonally during 1994: May (transitional season I), July (dry season), September (transitional season II), and December (rainy season). Samples were collected along ten transect stations. The mean densities and biomasses ranged from 0.018 to 0.379 individuals m^{-2} and from 0.179 to 2.378 $g\ m^{-2}$ respectively. High densities (0.379 and 0.313 individuals m^{-2}) and biomass (1.427 and 2.378 $g\ m^{-2}$) were found in July (dry season) and September (second transitional season). The lowest values of both density (0.018 ind. m^{-2}) and biomass (0.179 $g\ m^{-2}$) were found in December (west monsoon season/rainy season). The distribution of *Potiarca pilula* is restricted to the muddy sediment in water depths ranging from 0.75 - 3 m (low tide).