

HATCHERY CULTURE OF *TROCHUS NILOTICUS* AND *TECTUS PYRAMIS*  
(GASTROPODA: PROSOBRANCHIA: TROCHIDAE) IN PHUKET, THAILAND

Michael Bech

*Institute of Biological Sciences, University of Aarhus,  
Finlandsgade 14, 8200 Århus N, Denmark*

ABSTRACT

Broodstocks of *Trochus niloticus* and *Tectus pyramis* were induced to spawn by the static water method. The hatchery reared juveniles were stocked at different densities in relation to surface area of algae. The growth rate of *T. niloticus* was 2.5 times higher at a stocking density of 10 juveniles m<sup>-2</sup> compared to 500 juveniles m<sup>-2</sup>. Survival rates of *T. pyramis* ranged from 8.7 % at a stocking density of 700 juveniles m<sup>-2</sup> to 57 % at a stocking density of 10 m<sup>-2</sup> after 5 months. At high stocking densities only less palatable species of algae could colonise the panels. High grazing rates caused rapid changes in algae composition and declining growth rates of juveniles. Stock assessment of both species around Phuket Island showed very low population sizes with the highest density of 31 *T. niloticus* and 25 *T. pyramis* hectare<sup>-1</sup>, indicating that reseedling using hatchery cultured juveniles should be included in the management strategy of these species.