SPAT SETTLEMENT AND GROWTH OF THE EDIBLE OYSTER, *CRASSOSTREA MADRASENSIS* (PRESTON) IN THE VELLAR ESTUARY, PARANGIPETTAI, INDIA

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ABSTRACT

The settlement of spat on different types of spat collectors (oyster shells, asbestos, lime coated tiles, and used cycle tyres) was studied from August 1995 to July 1996. Lime coated tile suspended at 80 and 100 cm depth was the most efficient substratum for spat settling. The mean spat per tile was 21.4 and 54.2 individuals respectively. Two peaks of spat settlement were noticed (August-September and April-May). Oysters grew fast in culture trays and the mean shell length was 8.2 cm at the end of one year. The present study shows that the Vellar estuary is an ideal locality for spat collection and culture of this oyster species.