

IMPOSEX IN THE NEOGASTROPOD *THAIS* SP. AS AN INDICATOR
OF ORGANOTIN CONTAMINATION
IN PELABUHAN RATU BAY, WEST JAVA, INDONESIA.

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ABSTRACT

Ship paints containing tin (Sn) compounds, mainly tributyltin, have negative impact on marine organisms, particularly neogastropods. One effect is imposex in the gastropods, which is the emergence of male characters in females causing blockage of the egg duct in the extreme cases. The intensity of imposex depends on the degree of contamination and the species exposed. The higher the tributyltin content, the higher the intensity of imposex, as shown at a station near Pelabuhan Ratu harbour the tin content in the sediment was 0.34 ppm and the imposex intensity was 56 %, whereas at a station 6 km away from the harbour the imposex intensity was lower with a tin content of 0.23 ppm and an imposex intensity of 33 %.