

TRAP FISHING FOR SPOTTED BABYLON, *BABYLONIA AREOLATA*  
LINK, 1807 (GASTROPODA) IN THE EASTERN GULF OF THAILAND

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ABSTRACT

Ban Phe District, Rayong province, has the largest commercial harvest of *Babylonia areolata* in the Eastern Gulf of Thailand. Snails are caught in traps, 35 x 40 x 30 cm, baited with mixed trash fish and portunid crabs. Four fishing boats, carrying 60 traps each, were monitored at intervals during February to May 1996. The catch of *B. areolata* ranged from 0-9 snails per trap with an average catch of 0.9 snail per trap. Average snails measured 69.0 mm in length, 42.6 mm in width and weighed 46.7 g, shell included. The normal market price was 180 baht per kg snail. The catch was estimated at approximately 108 kg per boat per month corresponding to a gross income of 19,440 baht. Net income was 9,105 baht per month (ca. 365 US\$). In addition, 11 species of by-catch were captured by the Babylon traps,