

STATUS OF BIVALVE EXPLOITATION AND FARMING IN THE COASTAL
WATERS OF SOUTH VIETNAM

Vo Si Tuan & Nguyen Huu Phung
Institute of Oceanography, Nha Trang, Vietnam

ABSTRACT

Edible bivalves play an important role in Vietnamese fishery, especially in recent years with increasing export demand. The most commercial resources are *Anadara antiquata*, *Anadara granosa*, *Meretrix lyrata*, and *Chlamys nobilis*. The annual harvest is about 90-120 thousand tonnes. There are two main catching grounds: South Central Vietnam for sublittoral species, and the Mekong delta for littoral species. It has been difficult to manage sustainable utilisation of fisheries for molluscs, but bivalve culture has developed since 1987 and contributes now to improved living standard of coastal communities in southern Vietnam. Plans for management and farming of *M. lyrata* and *A. granosa* are presented.