

INDONESIAN PEARL CULTURE PROSPECT

Dedi Soedharma

*Faculty of Fisheries, Agricultural University, Kampus Darmaga, Bogor 16680.
Indonesia*

ABSTRACT

Indonesia is an archipelago consisting of 17,508 islands with a total shore length of 81.000 km. Most of this shore is located in calm water, particularly in bays which provide opportunities for mariculture development. With proper environmental management, these shores could be a strong asset for the development of fisheries production, job opportunities, livelihood of fishermen, and national income. Recently, mariculture activities, especially in the field of pearl culture, have developed quite well in the eastern part of Indonesia, Maluku and West Nusa Tenggara, where 65 pearl culture industries have been set up. About 40 industries are located in the Aru Island, Bacan Island, and Ceram Island. About 15 industries are in Lombok and Sumbawa islands (West Nusa Tenggara), 11 in the South-East Central, and North Sulawesi, and in West Irian, while 3 are in Lampung (west Indonesia). Most of the pearl oyster culture depends on spat collected in nature, but some companies have had success with propagation in hatcheries. However, successful pearl oyster culture may create problems due to contradicting interests of tourism and mariculture development. Therefore, it is important that the local government (province) solves the problems as soon as possible.