

THE CONDITION FACTOR OF OYSTER, *CRASSOSTREA BELCHER*,
AT KHOA YOA BAY, RANONG PROVINCE

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ABSTRACT

A total of 450 oysters were collected from the culture rafts in Khoa Yoa Bay, Ranong Province, Thailand, from March 1996 to May 1997. The condition factor (C.F) was calculated as the ratio between the dry weight of the oyster meat and the volume of the shell cavity x 1,000. The occurrence of fat oysters (C.F > 150) peaked from March to April and thin oysters (C.F < 70) were mostly found from July to October. Medium fat oysters (70 < C.F. < 150) were found all year round. The occurrence of fat oysters was significantly related with the salinity and the amount of rainfall. The condition factor was not significantly related to the temperature or the density of diatoms or total plankton. Settlement of oyster larvae occurred after the oyster's C.F. had been higher than 150 for two months.