

CONSERVATION OF *TROCHUS* AND *TURBO* IN ANDAMAN WATERS

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ABSTRACT

Trochus niloticus and *Turbo marmoratus*, have been fished in the Andaman waters since the 1920s. The fishing was regulated under the "Andaman and Nicobar Islands Fisheries Regulation, 1938" and rules framed thereunder. The Shell Fishing Rules specifically dealing with collection of shells for commercial purposes came into existence in 1978. The information on the resource characteristics of *Trochus* and *Turbo* is available only for the periods between 1930 and 1940 and 1980s. Subsequently, there has been no systematic study on the resources except for some information on catches and distribution of *Trochus* in shallow areas at a few locations. The two shell resources have shown declining trends in catches, indicating considerable depletion of stocks, probably due to overfishing. *T. niloticus* seem to be available in good numbers whereas *T. marmoratus* is nearly extinct. The conservation required for *T. niloticus* is stock enhancement while for *T. marmoratus*, the stock itself has to be revived totally. The present paper discusses the status of the resources over several decades to the present, constraints in the conservation management and the strategies proposed for effective resource management.