

TIDAL FLUSHING INFLUENCE ON DISPERSION AND ABUNDANCE
OF BIVALVE AND GASTROPOD LARVAE IN THE UN ESTUARY, KEI
ISLANDS SOUTHEAST MALUKU

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Tidal flushing has been presumed to control dispersion and abundance of mollusc larvae in estuaries. The pattern of larval dispersion may be used as data in coastal zone management and planning. Tidal flushing characteristics related to the dispersion and abundance of bivalve and gastropod was studied in the Un estuary Kei islands Southeast Maluku from October to November 1997. Bivalves and gastropods were recorded. Larvae of gastropods belonged to the genera, *Atlanta*, *Limacina*, *Peracils*, *Diacria*, and *Creseis*. The first three genera were frequently obtained. Four of these genera were identified during inflows and 6 genera during outflows. The differences in number of genera corresponded to different rates of outflow (0.717 ms^{-1}) and inflow (0.577 ms^{-1}), and to the difference of water mass debit of the outflows and the inflows. Temperature and salinity were $27.7 \text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$, $32 \text{ }_{\text{‰}}$ during outflows and $27.5 \text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$, $34 \text{ }_{\text{‰}}$ during inflows. Numbers of both bivalve and gastropod larvae were more abundant in outflows than the inflows, indicating that the area outside the estuary may function as a sink.