

## **NURSING OF GIANT CLAM *TRIDACNA SQUAMOSA* IN CAGES**

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### **ABSTRACT**

Nursing of young giant clam (*Tridacna squamosa*) was carried out from November 1998 to May 1999 in net cages on a reef flat and a reef slope at Ko Mannai, Gulf of Thailand. Three size classes (3-5, 5-7 and 7-9 cm shell length) were selected from a hatchery and nursed in cages. Survival rate and growth of giant clam were studied in cages without net cover, in cages with net cover opened after 2 months of nursing, in cages with net opened after 4 months and in cages closed with a net during the experimental period of 6 months. Giant clams survived significantly different depending on size class and treatment. The shell increment was highest of 3-5 cm clams while 7-9 cm clams had the lowest value.