

**NOTE ON DISTRIBUTION AND EXPLOITATION OF THE BABYLON
SNAIL *BABYLONIA AREOLATA* OFF BINH THUAN, VIETNAM**

Ngo Anh Tuan

University of Fisheries, Nha Trang, Vietnam

ABSTRACT

In Binh Thuan province, the babylon snail is common 8-15 km off shore at depths of 8-25 m characterised by water temperatures of 27-29 °C, salinity 31-35 ‰, pH 7.5-8.2, dissolved oxygen 4-5 mg/L, and transparency 90-250 cm. The soft bottom is sandy silt and silty sand. The main catching season is from January to April and the minor season from October to December. Snails vary much in size, from 5 to 50 g per individual. In general, the harvested sizes were too small. The average catch was 580 and 280 metric tons annually during 1993-1995 and 1996-1998 respectively. Exploitation of small snails, particularly during the breeding season made the resource decline. Therefore, an appropriate plan to conserve this resource is necessary to avoid over-exploitation.