

**STATUS AND SOLUTIONS FOR FARMING AND MANAGEMENT  
OF THE CLAM *MERTRIX LYRATA* AT GO CONG DONG,  
TIEN GIANG PROVINCE, VIETNAM**

Vo Si Tuan  
*Institute of Oceanography  
Nha Trang, Vietnam*

**ABSTRACT**

The clam *Meretrix lyrata* is an important resource in the far south provinces of Vietnam with an annual harvest from nature of about 670-700 tons. Clam farming has been developed since 1987 and brought high economic and social benefits to the coastal communities, especially in Go Cong (Tien Giang province). Based on a survey by the Institute of Oceanography in 1997-1998, this paper provides some information concerning the status and proposed solutions for management and farming of the clam resource. The growth characteristic of clams in Go Cong advises to culture clams with a shell height from 8 to 43 mm, i.e. from 1.5 to 20 months in age, or from 5000 to 30 individuals/kg. The growth is best within this range. Moreover, the marketable size is proposed to be bigger than the size at the first spawning. The best quality of clam is obtained from June to October when the clams have the highest degree of fatness.