

STATUS OF STUDY ON BIODIVERSITY AND AQUACULTURE OF MARINE MOLLUSCS IN VIETNAM- THE PRESENT SCENARIO AND FUTURE PROSPECTS

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ABSTRACT

Located in tropics, with its 3260 km coastline from Mong Cai to Ha Tien, Vietnam is remarkably rich in aquatic mollusc. Exploitation of the mollusc resource reached 50,000 tons including squid by 1995, making molluscs the second highest output after fish and shrimp. Mollusc in Vietnam take an important role in earning foreign currency, provide food and making employment. Fish export, including molluscs, makes 13.7% of the total export amount. This export is one of the top three export items next to petrol and rice. This report summarises works carried out for many years, both by foreigner and Vietnamese, on biodiversity and aquaculture of marine mollusc in Vietnam and we introduce the research strategy, work plan and schedule for activities during the concluding phase of the TMMP in Vietnam.