

**POSTLARVAE DENSITY AND PHOTOPERIOD EFFECTS ON THE SETTLEMENT AND METAMORPHOSIS OF THE DONKEY'S EAR ABALONE, *HALIOTIS ASININA* LINNE, 1758**

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**ABSTRACT**

The effects of photoperiod and density of postlarvae on settlement and metamorphosis of the native abalone, *Haliotis asinina* were determined in two separate experiments. Abalone larvae were hatched from spontaneously spawned eggs of tank-held broodstock. Experiments were conducted in static water conditions within a 10 day-period. Post-larvae held under a 24 h light regime showed higher settlement rates (mean: 12 %) than did larvae held at different light-and-dark periods (range: 3-9 %). Larvae kept in the dark had the lowest survival (3 %). Postlarvae stocked at lower stocking densities of 100 and 150 l<sup>-1</sup> had higher settlement rates (12-12.5 %) than postlarvae stocked between 200 and 600 postlarvae l<sup>-1</sup> (1-5 %).