

REPRODUCTIVE BIOLOGY OF THE BLACK LIP PEARL OYSTER
***PINCTADAMARGARITIFERA* (LINNE, 1758)**
INNHA TRANG-KHANH HOA, VIETNAM

Ha Le Thi Loe
Institute of Oceanography, Nha Trang, Vietnam

Samples of Black-lip-pearl oysters (*Pinctada margaritifera*) were collected in Nha Trang-Khanh Hoa coastal areas from April 1997 to March 1998. *Pinctada margaritifera* spawned around the year but the main season was from January to July. The first spawning occurred at an average shell height of 6 cm and a weight of 35,9 g. There was a relationship between sex ratio and size. With increasing size, the male frequency decreased and the female frequency increased. The proportion of females (58.6 %) was higher than that of males (41,3%) in nature.