

GROWTH RATE OF *TROCHUS NILOTICUS* L. WITH EMPHASIS ON MACRO-ALGAL FOOD ITEMS

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A study on the growth rate of *T. niloticus* was conducted at the Marine Science Hatchery, University of Hasanuddin, Barang Lompo Island, and South Sulawesi. In nature, the food items of top shell *T. niloticus* are genera of macroalgae, such as *Gracilaria*, *Eucheuma*, microalgae, and other small organisms. In the hatchery, the growth rates were measured in terms of shell length and shell width when *T. niloticus* was fed with a mixture of dry + fresh algae, and dry algae alone. The algae were *Caulerpa*, *Padina*, *Gracilaria* and *Eucheuma*. The green macroalgae *Caulerpa* resulted in the best growth rate of shells of *Trochus*. The brown and the red macroalgae also resulted in growth of the shell, but not as well as the green macroalgae.