

**MARINE MOLLUSCS: APPLICATION OF MOLECULAR MARKERS FOR ESTIMATION OF EFFECTIVE POPULATION SIZE AND GENE FLOW**

Vibeke Simonsen <sup>1</sup> & Kongkiat Kittiwattananawong <sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>*National Environmental Research Institute, Vejlsoevej 25, P.O. Box 314, DK-8600  
Silkeborg, Denmark*

<sup>2</sup>*Phuket Marine Biological Center, Phuket, Thailand*

**ABSTRACT**

The aim of this review is to present methods for estimation of effective population size and gene flow among populations of marine molluscs. The basis for the estimation is the existence of an adequate genetic marker, e.g. protein and/or nucleic acid marker. The method for estimation of effective population size is based on temporal variation of allelic frequencies or linkage disequilibrium, whereas the methods for estimation of gene flow are based on spatial variation of allelic frequencies. Applications of the various methods for marine molluscs will be presented.