

REPRODUCTIVE BIOLOGY OF TEATFISH SEA CUCUMBER (*Holothuria nobilis* Selenka, 1867) IN SOUTH CENTRAL SEA WATER

Nguyen Van Hung, Duong Thi Phuong, Tran The Thanh Thi

Summary

This paper has presented the results of reproductive biology of teatfish sea cucumber which is distributed in Vietnam south central sea water. The main spawning season of teatfish sea cucumber is from March to August at water temperature 29 - 31°C. First sexual maturity was observed at teatfish sea cucumber with body weight of 700 g/individual. The absolute fecundities was 176.030 eggs/ind. at size group of 900 - 1600 g/ind. and the relative fecundities of 147 eggs/gram of female body weight. Both cell division and embryo development have completely finished for 34 - 36 hours after fertilization and newly hatched auricularia. Water temperature in nursery system at 28.5 - 31.5°C to be larvae have metamorphosed including early *auricularia* for 2 - 3 days; mid *auricularia* for 7 - 8 days and developing become late *auricularia* for 15 - 16 days after hatched and finally become *doliolaria* larvae to be settle down for 18 days after hatched.

Keywords: *Teatfish sea cucumber, reproductive biology, spawning season, auricularia larvae.*