

STUDY ON REPRODUCTIVE BIOLOGY OF ASIATIC HARD CLAM *Meretrix meretrix* (Linnaeus, 1758) OF THUAN AN INLET, THUA THIEN - HUE PROVINCE

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Summary

The present study was conducted to determine the reproductive biology of Asiatic Hard Clam (*Meretrix meretrix* Linnaeus, 1758) for seed production and grow-out. A 30–50 clam samples were collected monthly at surrounding Thuan An inlet, belong to the Tam Giang lagoon Thua Thien - Hue province. The results showed that the gonad development of the clam was divided into five stages: rest stage; developmental stage; mature stage; spawning stage; and spent stage. The spawning season of the clam started from april to august. Peak spawning was between may and june. The size at which *Meretrix meretrix* reached its first maturity was 40 mm in length; Annual sex ratio male: female ranged from 0.9 to 1.1. The condition factor (index) of *Meretrix meretrix* ranged from 10.4 to 19.8%; increasing from february to june and decreasing from july to january. The absolute and relative fecundity of *Meretrix meretrix* at the size from 40–69 mm was 1.253.667 eggs/individual and 165.268 eggs/g, repectively.

Keywords: *Meretrix meretrix*, reproductive biology, Tam Giang lagoon.