

FARMING OF MUSSELS AND OYSTERS IN THE PHILIPPINES

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A. Culture approach in the Philippines

1. Growing done in spatfall area
2. No thinning
3. Structures fixed to bottom

C. Materials used

1. Primary - bamboo
2. Secondary
 - a) mussels: polypropylene ropes
 - b) oysters: monofilament, oyster shells, old rubber tires

C. Culture techniques

1. Broadcast (for oyster only)
2. Stake
3. Bitin - presently applied to oyster only but basic principle applicable to mussels
4. Tray - good for growing loose oyster spats, not applicable to mussels

D. Problems with present method

1. Crowding results in uneven growth and distortions.
2. Since space is the limiting factor, in mussels there is a larger number of spats lost simply due to lack of space.
3. Siltation is greatly enhanced by the number of bamboo poles in the bottom. This results in environmental deterioration for mussels and oyster production.
4. Materials used are very temporary in nature and have to be replaced very often. Alternative materials are very expensive with no intermediate alternatives.

E. Research Results in SEAFDEC

1. Coconut husks found to be very attractive spat collectors for mussels. Spat collection on polypropylene ropes enhanced greatly by insertion of coconut husks at regular intervals.
2. A method of thinning and transplanting developed using strips of sinamay to bind mussel spats to growing ropes.
3. Use of floating structures will be very convenient but rather expensive.
4. Production of 5-10 kg mussels per meter polypropylene rope can be attained in 6-8 months.
5. It seems possible to eventually evolve a larval monitoring program for oysters to find out time of laying down cultches to catch primarily C. iredalei.
6. Post-harvest life of mussels can be extended by chilling.
7. The brown mussel, the most widespread mussels in the Philippines, has very low aquaculture potential.
8. The green mussel should be classified as Perna viridis rather than Mytilus smaragdinus.