Aquaculture and the Environment
Present Status and Future Challenges

Mohammad Mustafizur Rahman
Editor

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COMMERCIAL SPECIES OF SEA CUCUMBER
(ECHINODERMATA: HOLOTHUROIDEA) FROM FAMILY
STICHOPODIDAE

Kamarul Rahim Kamarudin

Introduction

Sea cucumber (Echinodermata: Holothuroidea) is a unique marine animal of Malaysia due to its values in medicine as well as in economy. A number of 53 species of sea cucumbers were recorded in Malaysia by the author. It is estimated that more than 80 species of sea cucumber are present in the Malaysia’s seawaters (Kamarudin et al. 2010a). At least five local names of sea cucumbers i.e. timun laut, gamat, bat, balat, and brunok are used by the Malaysians. Among the common names, gamat is the most well known by the Malaysians especially in Peninsular Malaysia or West Malaysia. Gamat is a local name for all species of family Stichopodidae e.g. Stichopus horrens Selenka, 1867 and Thelenota anax H.L. Clark, 1921. In other words, genera of Stichopus and Thelenota are the two members of family Stichopodidae or gamat which can be found in the Malaysia’s seawaters. Meanwhile, timun laut is a general local name for all species of sea