



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