

## ABSTRACT

Placuna placenta is widely distributed in the municipality of Oton, Iloilo, Philippines. However, since its recent recurrence no monitoring has been done. Thus stock assessment of P. placenta was deemed necessary. Catch Per Unit Effort (CPUE) of the shell per month and size frequency of their catch were determined in two barangays of Oton (Brgy. Botong and Brgy. Trapiche) from August to December 2012. There was a drastic CPUE increase in Brgy. Botong and a decrease in Brgy. Trapiche during the period. Mean CPUE at Brgy. Trapiche was 71.81 kg/diver and 78.48 kg/diver at Brgy. Botong. Divers in the two barangays collected only P. placenta shells above 7.1 cm which were considered to be mature. Moreover, gatherers did not collect <6 cm P. placenta shells and left to mature while >15 cm shells were left. Size frequency distribution of the stock from Brgy. Trapiche, Botong and Cabanbanan were also determined for four weeks using random quadrat method. Placuna placenta with 9.1 - 10 cm SW had the highest frequency (23.16%) and those <6 cm had the lowest frequency distribution (0.19%) in pooled samples from Brgy. Trapiche, Botong and Cabanbanan. These results indicate that P. placenta could be considered a sustainable resource in the municipality of Oton, Iloilo.

Key words: Placuna placenta, CPUE, size frequency distribution, Oton, Iloilo