Because Government officers are present full time at the few designated landing points, any illegalsized shell, or shell over quota, can be returned to the reef, alive. Equal quotas are reissued from scratch every harvest.

## Reply to the request for information published in Bulletin #4

Source: Dr Lyle Vail, Lizard Island Research Station, Cairns, Australia

A request for information on spawning behaviour of tropical holothurians was published in the Bechede-mer Information Bulletin #4.

A list of observations compiled by Dr Lyle Vail (18/1/93) is presented below.

For two species, *Stichopus chloronotus* and *Holothuria coluber*, it gives the first observations on spawning. The details provided will be very useful for a general analysis. We hope that other colleagues will have the chance to observe spawning and will send their observations and photos to: Maria Byrne, Histology F13, University of Sydney, NSW 2006, Australia, or Chantal Conand, Laboratoire de Biologie marine, Université de la Réunion, 97489 Saint-Denis Cedex, La Réunion, France.

These observations will included in the next bulletin.

## Holothurian spawning - Lizard Island - 18/1/93

Observer Anne Hoggett
Species Stichopus chloronotus

Number Four individuals spawning out of a group of about 50 animals in an area of about

50 m x 50 m. Anterior half of the body elevated when spawning with a slight

swaying from side to side.

Locality In front of Lizard Island

Date 4/11/90

Moon phase One day after full moon
Time 18h30 (daylight saving time)
Habitat Algae/seagrass patch

Observer Lynda Axe Species *Bohadschia argus* Number One individual

Locality North Reef, Lizard Island

Date 8/6/91

Observer Campbell Davies, Gary Russ

Species Bohadschia graffeii Locality Lizard Island Behaviour Anterior end raised

Date 11/11/92

Moon phase 1 day after full moon

Observer Brigid Kerrigan Species Holothuria coluber

Locality Watsons Bay, Lizard Island

Date 12/11/92

Moon phase 2 days after full moon

Time 16h00 (about 2.5 hours before sunset)

Depth 6–8 m

## Holothurian spawning - Lizard Island - 18/1/93 (cont'd)

Observer Anne Hoggett
Species Stichopus chloronotus

Number An aggregation of about 20 individuals was in an area about half a football field

in size. Of these, 4–5 individuals were observed spawning; anterior half of body

elevated, slight swaying from side to side.

Locality In front of Lizard Island Research Station

Date 12/11/92

Moon phase 2 days after full moon

Time 17h00–18h00 (just before sunset)

Habitat Reef flat, 1–2 m depth

Observer Anne Hoggett Species *Bohadschia graffeii* 

Number 1 only

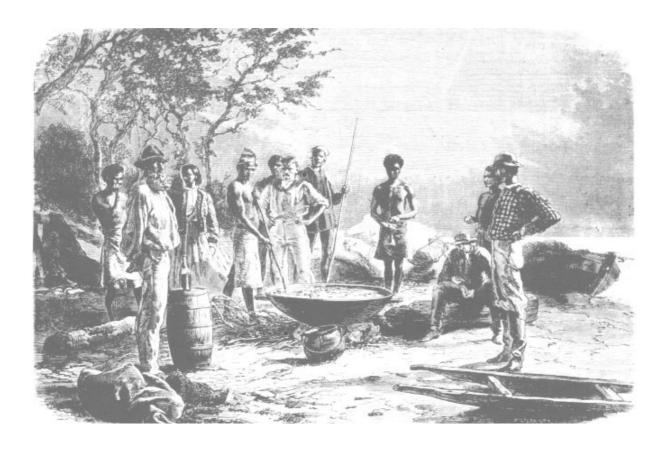
Locality North Direction Island, 5 nm from Lizard Island

Date 21/11/92

Moon phase 3 days before new moon

Time 15h30

Habitat Reef slope, about 3 m depth



Beche-de-mer processing in New Caledonia in the 19th century (in: The fishery resources of Pacific Island countries. Part 2. Holothurians, by Chantal Conand. *FAO Fisheries Technical Paper*, No 272.2. Rome, FAO. 1989. 143 p.)