

## Breeding programme on sand lobster initiated at Tuticorin Research Centre

The work on broodstock development and breeding of sand lobster *Thenus orientalis* was initiated under the ongoing research project 'MD/IDP/01. Technology development for seed production of shellfish'. Observations revealed that the availability of sand lobsters in this area is very scarce. Arrangements for collection of brooders with the trawl owners during December 2011 yielded few brood sand lobsters size/weight ranging 180-218mm/250-320g, of which one female was in a berried condition. A recirculation system fitted 1.0 ton FRP tank with cleaned sand as substrate was used as broodstock tank with an over turn of 300% water per day. The brooders were fed with freshly opened and cleaned clams (*Paphia malabarica*). Further arrangements for additional brood collection and breeding are being taken up.



A berried sand lobster, *Thenus orientalis*