

Manage Your Trochus Fishery

KNOW YOUR RESOURCE AND FISHERY

Resource: Know the biology of trochus — *Tectus* (formerly *Trochus*) *niloticus* — and its habitat preference. Survival of juvenile and healthy stock depend on a healthy reef system.

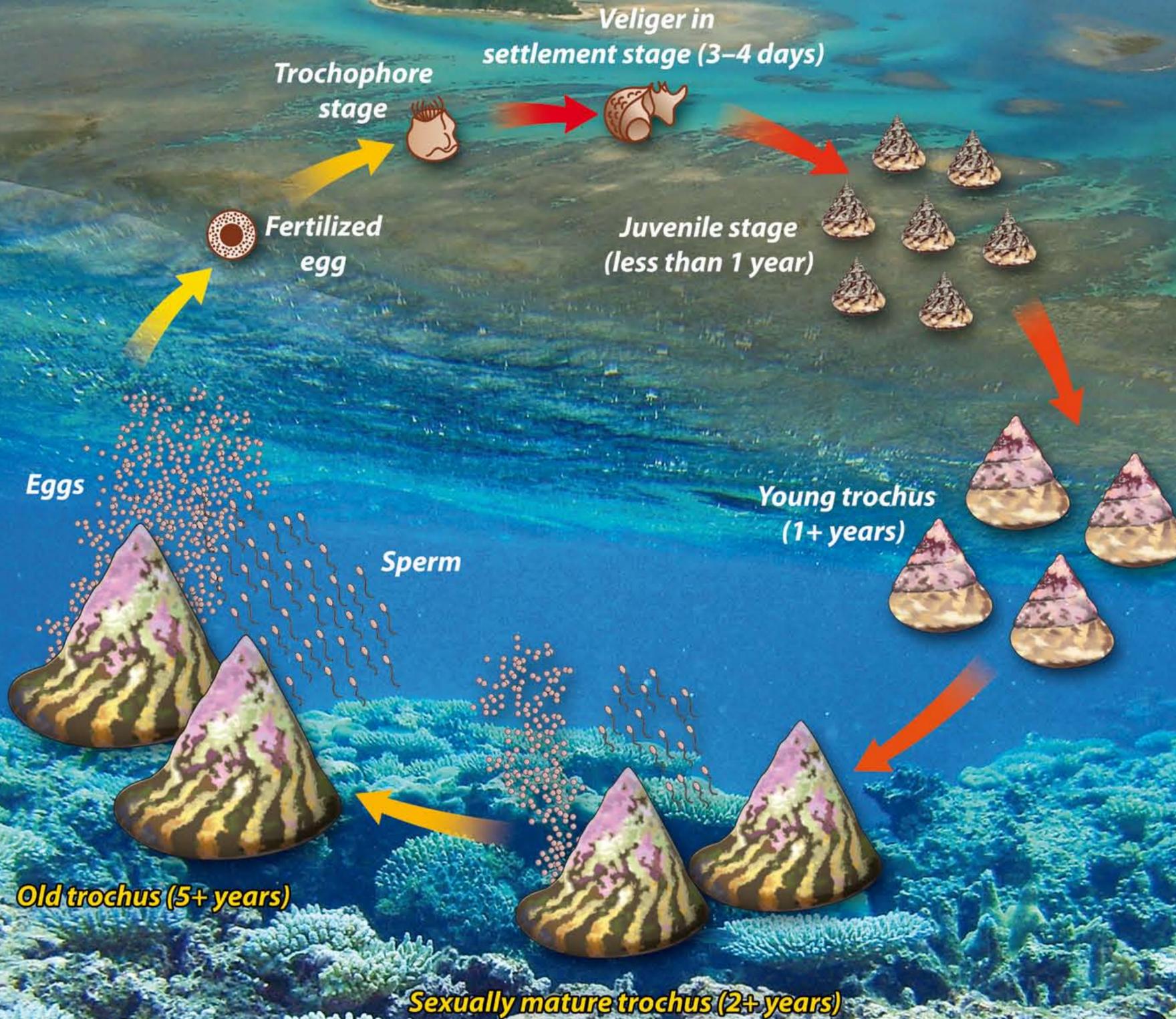
Fishing: Know your fishers and their fishing ground, and your exporters. Hand collecting by wading or by free diving are accepted fishing methods.

Value: Trochus shell is used in mother-of-pearl buttons and jewellery. The fishery provides income to fishers and export revenue for the country. Trochus meat is a source of protein.

Pressure: High demand for the shell and lack of effective management have led to severe overfishing in many areas, and the loss of an income-generating activity.

Monitoring: Adopt standardized resource assessment methods to collect comparative data. Inspect harvests and exports; return undersize trochus alive; monitor catch records.

Resource custodians: Fishers know their resource well. Involve them in assessment surveys and seek their advice on local management practices.



IMPROVE YOUR MANAGEMENT

Management plan and regulations: Develop a fishery management plan or review the existing one; impose relevant regulations and enforce them.

Permanent closure: Close the fishery permanently and organize short open seasons. A good indicator to open the fishery is when population abundance is 500+ shells per hectare.

Harvest control: Set harvestable sizes at 8–11 cm; set total quota by season and by exporter; estimate stock by area and set harvestable quantity at 30–40% of the harvestable stock.

Licenses: Limit the number of export licenses based on the size of the resource; promote participation of locals in the industry where possible.

Marketing strategy: Adopt a marketing strategy that ensures the highest price is paid to fishers for their resource.

Adult introduction: Adult introduction can be effective in developing a new fishery or replenishing a depleted stock if it is done in a suitable habitat, following recommended procedures. But it takes at least 15–20 years.