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IDENTIFICATION AND EVALUATION OF ECOSYSTEM SERVICES PROVIDED BY CLAM (*VILLORITA CYPRINOIDES*) FISHERIES IN WETLAND

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ABSTRACT: Black clam (*Villorita cyprinoides*), constitute a major molluscan based subsistence level fishery in Vembanadlake providing a variety of ecosystem services to the dependent populations of the ecosystem. The non-realization of the values of the services provided by clams coupled with the anthropogenic activities like dredging aggravated the non-sustainable harvest of the resource. The paper attempts to evaluate the provisioning and cultural services provided by clams in-order to highlight the importance of the management of this ecosystem service provider and various tradeoffs between anthropogenic activities and clam resource utilizations.

Keywords: *Black clam management, ecosystem service provider, ecosystem service evaluation,*

Citation: Paul TT, Salim SS, Manoharan VS, Unnithan U (2015) Identification and evaluation of ecosystem services provided by clam (*Villorita cyprinoides*) fisheries in wetland. *Indian J Trop Biodiv* 23(1): 21-29
