

Project Update: June 2013

Results from the most recent monitoring in April and May 2013 show that there has been a continued strong increase in numbers in the seagrass protect area at Tha Payoi. There, estimated conch numbers are now 30.7 per 100m². Importantly, 83% of those are adult animals, compared to only 17 to 24% in 3 plots outside the protected areas. Additionally, an increase in conch numbers has occurred in unprotected areas as more juveniles are recruited into those populations. The latest data support the belief that the protected area at Tha Payoi is acting as a refuge from harvesting for adults that are producing juveniles which disperse into nearby unprotected areas. Surprisingly, numbers continue to remain modest (< 5 per 100m²) in the protected area at Pak Jok, and are now less than in the three unprotected areas (all > 5 per 100m²). For the sea cucumber, large-sized adults occur in the Tha Payoi protected area, but almost none outside, where many more juveniles now occur.



A large sea cucumber, *Holothuria scabra*, from the Tha Payoi protected area.