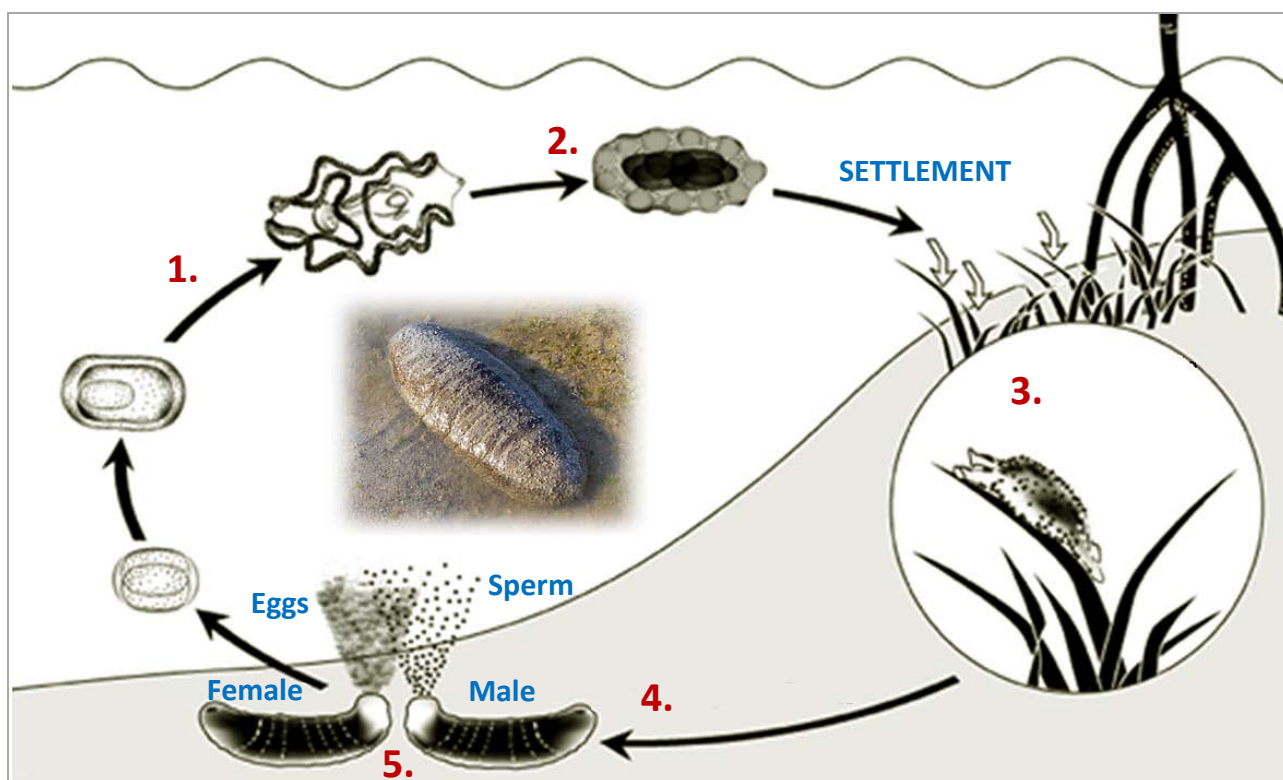




Torres Strait Sokpis (Warrior Reef Sandfish)

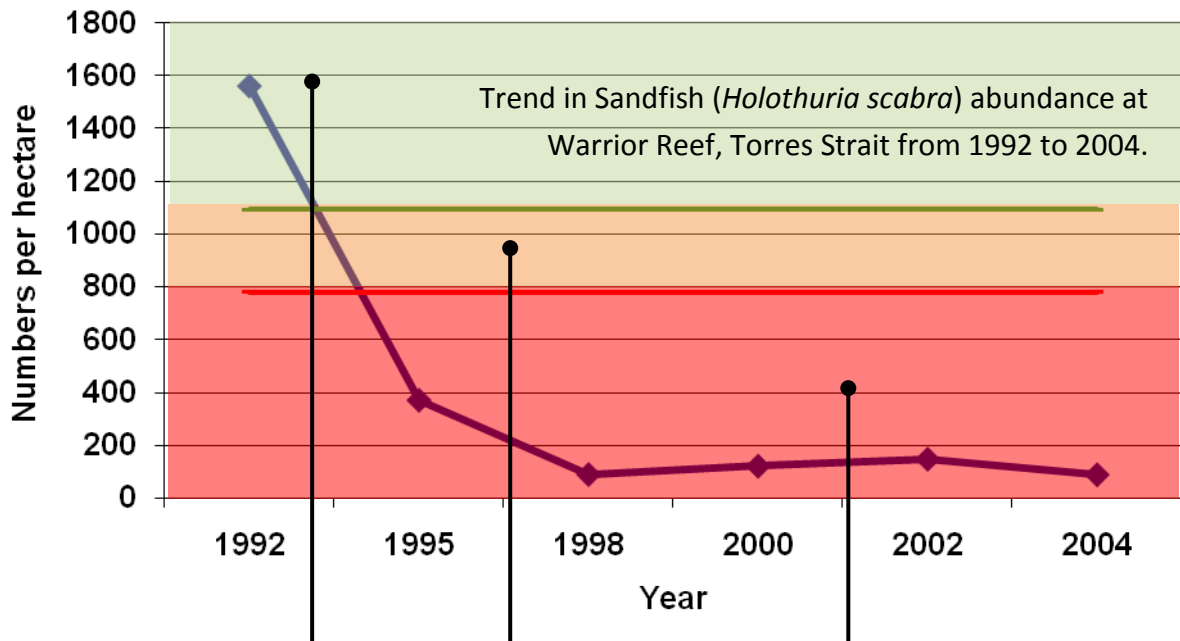
Life Cycle of the Sandfish (Sea cucumber)

1. Tiny fertilised eggs develop into very small larvae
2. Larval stages drift in the water for more than a week before settling on the sea floor as juvenile sea cucumbers



3. Sea cucumbers settle at a size of about one millimeter (1 mm) and grow into juveniles
4. Sea cucumbers need to grow for more than 2-3 years before they reach a large enough size to produce eggs and sperm
5. Males and females need to be close enough (within 2-10 metres) to each other to allow sperm to fertilise eggs successfully

Sandfish stocks in the Torres Strait are currently at an **unhealthy** level



Sandfish stocks are **HEALTHY** (green) when the number of sandfish harvested each year is less than the number of sandfish reaching a mature age to spawn each year.

Sandfish stocks are **STABLE** (amber) when the number of sandfish harvested each year is equal to the number of sandfish reaching a mature age to spawn each year.

Sandfish stocks are **UNHEALTHY** (red) when the number of sandfish harvested each year is much greater than the number of sandfish reaching a mature age to spawn each year.

Healthy Sandfish stocks can be rebuilt by:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Prohibiting the commercial harvest of sandfish (TAC = 0 t)	Having a minimum size limit of 180 mm when harvesting	Harvesting only by hand or with a hand-held non-mechanical implement	Having a ban on the use of hookah or SCUBA gear during harvest	Having a bag limit of three (3) sandfish per person or six (6) sandfish per dinghy during traditional fishing in the area of the fishery	Researching new harvest strategies and community-based management

This fact sheet was produced by researchers from the CSIRO funded by the **Australian Government's Marine and Tropical Sciences Research Facility (MTSRF) Program 3 'Torres Strait: Status, Use and Trends'**.

Further information about Program 3, including overviews of each of the Torres Strait projects, visit http://www.rrrc.org.au/mtsr/theme_1/program_3.html

To download this and other MTSRF fact sheets, visit http://www.rrrc.org.au/publications/tnq_factsheets.html