

Review of the current state of the culture of *Sepia officinalis* (Mollusca, Cephalopoda)

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ABSTRACT

According to the conclusions of the X Congreso Nacional de Acuicultura (2005), species diversification is one of the priorities of world aquaculture. Three matters have been discussed in this review concerning the current state and knowledge of the culture of *Sepia officinalis*: feeding, culture density and reproduction in captivity.

With respect to the feeding of this species, there is a variety of experiments like the ones carried out by Forsythe *et al.*, 1994, Fuentes *et al.*, 2001, Domingues *et al.*, 2004, and Domingues *et al.*, 2005, in which these animals were offered different diets, and their growth rates and survival were estimated. The results obtained point out that the feeding during the early stages of life must consist of living preys, suggesting that the culture of this species is economically non-viable.

Culture density studies performed by Forsythe *et al.*, 1994, Domingues *et al.*, 2003 and Domingues *et al.*, 2005 established the optimal conditions for the culture and concluded that this species should be cultured at low densities, due to individual cannibalistic and aggressive behaviour of the males during reproductive season. Growth of animals was lower at higher densities.

Regarding reproduction, Rodríguez de la Rúa *et al.*, 2005 highlight that the reproductive cycle is characterized by an intermittent terminal spawn, and that spawn only occurs once in the life time of the animal after which they die making it especially hard to conceive the commercial culture of *Sepia officinalis*.

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