

**VIBRIO ALGINOLYTICUS INFECTION IN SEA BASS (*DICENTRARCHUS LABRAX*)**

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Sea bass and sea bream culture are of most relevance in commercial aquaculture development in Canary Islands, this activity being under expansion at the present time.

In this work a bacterial infection produced by *Vibrio alginolyticus* in sea bass (*D. labrax*) broodstock was studied. Fish were held in four rectangular, 7 m<sup>3</sup> tanks at an average stocking density of 9 kg/m<sup>3</sup>.

The infection affected a group of 8 individuals, whose clinical signs included progressive ulceration of the skull basis and lower jaws, and general darkening of the skin.

Isolation of bacterial organisms on TSA medium with 2% NaCl and the application of a range of characterisation tests were used for the identification of pathogens.

High water temperatures and poor water quality are discussed as possible stress factors primarily involved in the development of the infection, as *Vibrio alginolyticus* is considered as an opportunistic pathogen.