Nursing of Blue Swimming Crab, *Portunus pelagicus* (Linnaeus, 1758) from Megalopa to Crab Stage in Net Cages and Concrete Tanks

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Abstract

The experiment on nursing of blue swimming crab, *Portunus pelagicus* (Linnaeus, 1758) from megalopa to crab stage was carried out at Chanthaburi Coastal Fisheries Research and Development Center during 15 June to 3 July 2004. The first group was nursing in net cages 1.2x1.2x1.0 meters in 2 meters diameters circular concrete tanks. Water volume in each net cage was 1.3 m³ and stocking densities of megalopa was 11,700 larvae/net cage or 9,000 larvae/m³. The second group was nursing in 2 meters diameters circular concrete tanks. Water volume in each tank was 2.0 m³ and stocking densities of megalopa was 18,000 larvae/tank or 9,000 larvae/m³. Both experiments were carried on with 3 replications. The result showed that the average productions in the group nursing in net cages and group nursing in concrete tanks were 982±197 and 3,077±397 larvae survival rate were 8.39±1.68 and 17.09±2.21 percent respectively. The difference was highly significant (P<0.01). From the result, nursing of blue swimming crab from megalopa to crab stage in concrete tank better than net cage.

Key words: Blue Swimming Crab, *Portunus pelagicus* (Linnaeus, 1758), Nursing, Net Cages, Concrete Tanks

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