MINERAL MIXTURE REQUIREMENTS OF YOUNG SWIMMING CRAB

(*Portunus pelagicus* Linnaeus, 1758)

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**ABSTRACT**

The effect of dietary mineral mixture on growth performance was evaluated in young crabs (*Portunus pelagicus*) at initial weight of 0.04 grams maintained in the rearing system for 10 weeks. Mineral mixture was supplemented in basal diet at the levels of 0, 1, 2, 3 and 4 % in diet 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5, respectively. The dietary mineral mixed significantly effected on growth, survival rate and molting frequency of young crabs from week 9 onward (\(p<0.05\)). The final weight gain at week 10 were 14525, 18137, 22835, 23193 and 23636% in diet 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5, respectively. It is evidenced that low inclusion level of mineral mixed in diet 1 to 4 leaded to mortality of young crabs because of molting failure. Diet 5 with mineral mixed represented in diet up to 4% contributed to the best results of growth performance, survival rate and molting frequency. Result of this study helps understanding the role of mineral in young crabs for molting success, molting frequency consequently growth and survival rate and it comes to conclusion that the best level of dietary mineral mixed for young crab is 4%.

**Keyword**: Young swimming crab, *Portunus pelagicus*, mineral mixture

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