NURSING OF BLUE-SPOTTED CORAL TROUT,  
_Plectropomus leopardus_ LARVAE 2-25 DAYS OLD

Chatchawan Wuthimethee, Tawat Sriveerachai and Jutharat Sirisombat

Trat Coastal Aquaculture Station. Ban Ao-cho, Tambol Ao-yai,  
Muang District, Trat Province 23000, Thailand

ABSTRACT

Rearing of Blue-spotted coral trout (_Plectropomus leopardus_) larvae 2-25 days old was carried out at Trat Coastal Aquaculture Station during February 22, 2004 to March 9, 2005. The first trial did not success when used chlorine-treated water and used cultured phytoplankton i.e. *Chaetoceros* sp., *Tetraselmis* sp., *Skeletonema* sp. and *Chlorella* sp. as food together with oyster eggs. The second trial which used seawater and *Streptotheca* sp. and fed with rotifer on the forth day of hatching showed low of survival rate 0.09 %. The third trial used seawater in the reservoir which has phytoplankton *Streptotheca* sp. and fed with rotifer on the forth day of hatching showed survival rate of 1.03 %. This result was slightly better than the orther trial which used direct seawater instead of water from reservoir which had survival rate of 0.31%. The fourth, fifth and sixth trials used the natural seawater, which had *Phaeocystis* sp. and water from reservoir that had *Streptotheca* sp.. Also supplied with *Tetraselmis* sp., *Chaetoceros* sp. and *Chlorella* sp., rotifer from 6 days old and Artemia form 11 days old, these showed significant improved in survival rate. The survival rates were 27.49, 15.87 and 57.89 %. Growth in terms of length and weight were 3.57±0.53, 3.49±0.57 and 3.63±0.80 mm/day and 0.5±0.2, 0.5±0.2 and 0.6±0.3 mg/day in the fourth, fifth and sixth trials, respectively. Water quality in the first trial showed a high concentration of total ammonia in the range of 0.0024-0.5729 mg/l due to using of oyster eggs. Water of rest trails showed a good quality within the standard seawater criteria.

Keywords : Blue-spotted coral trout (_Plectropomus leopardus_), nursing., feeds larvae