

Invertebrate Aquaculture

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Dear Editor,

In response to an Email from Fisheries and Aquaculture Journal asking me about writing any commentary or any letter to editor on current research trends in the Fisheries and Aquaculture, I can only talk about the current trends in aquaculture with special regards to invertebrate aquaculture that is my area of research.

Regardless of the cultured invertebrate animal, there are four stages involved in the route of culturing which are:

1. Broodstock conditioning
2. Spawning induction
3. Larval rearing
4. Grow out

Within these four stages, there are many newly developed trends worldwide. I can summarize some of them briefly as many research ideas are developing to enhance the quality and production rate of gametes, larvae, juveniles and marketable sized adult. This can be achieved through improving nutrition regime, environmental condition and disease control. Recent trends in nutrition researches are numerous such as using nanotechnology, biotechnology in developing highly nutritional value algae, algal paste and formulated diets. While probiotic bacteria and bioactive compounds additions were amongst the recent trends in disease control.

In Egypt, the research area of invertebrate aquaculture is confined mainly to the National Institute of oceanography and Fisheries (NIOF) and partly to General Authority for Fish Resources Development (GAFRD). On the other hand, sectors of Egyptian fisheries and fish aquaculture researches are belonging to many organizations such as NIOF, Faculties of Agriculture, Faculties of veterinary medicine, GAFRD. Additionally, few years ago, two faculties of fisheries were established beside an institute of fish farming and technology.

Researches of invertebrate aquaculture in Egypt were directed to shrimp culture in the last two decades, whilst sea cucumber and bivalves' culture were adopted recently. On Egyptian commercial scale, there are only few farms for shrimp and clams production.

For my own currently area of research, pearl oyster and pearl production are the points of my present researches. By the way, this area is touched for the first time in Egypt.

I would like to mention that many monitoring programs for recording and detecting the invasive species along Egyptian coasts are currently developed.

Please accept my best wishes for the Fisheries and Aquaculture Journal and editorial board.

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