

PRELIMINARY RESULTS REGARDING THE POST-LARVAL STAGE FOR THE SPECIES *ACIPENSER BAERII* (J. F. BRANDT, 1869) IN RECIRCULATING AQUACULTURE SYSTEM

E. (Bocioc) Sirbu^{1*}, V. Nistor¹, Fl.M. Dima¹, N. Patriche¹,
M. Tenciu¹, L. B. Athanasopoulos¹, M.D. Popa¹

¹Institute for Research and Development in Aquatic Ecology, Fishing and Aquaculture,
Galati, Romania

*e-mail: icdeapa.galati@asas.ro

Abstract

*The survival and growth of Siberian sturgeon in the post-larval stages, juvenile, growing and up to marketable size is of great importance both for sturgeon species conservation programs and for commercial purposes. Given the diversification of production systems there is a concern for continuous improvement of incubation technologies that allow the production of high-quality Siberian sturgeon larvae. Although larval growth of Siberian sturgeons can be considered more basic compared to other sturgeon species such as sterlet, there is a need to focus on optimizing larval feeding to maximize their survival, given that this phase of breeding technology has a considerable impact on economic profitability. The post-larval stage of *Acipenser baerii* is the most critical period in which significant losses are recorded and, as a result, special attention is paid to the applied technology. In this sense, the adaptation to the conditions of intensive growth in the recirculating system, as well as the optimization of the administered feeding regime led to the increase of survival rate to 73,50%. The average individual weight of *Acipenser baerii* at the beginning of exogenous feeding was between 0,0054 – 0,0069 g and the maximum weight at the end of the experimental period (after 30 days) was 1,05 – 1,20 g. Experiments on the intensive breeding and adaptation of Siberian sturgeon in the post-larval stage may be feasible, if adequate food and environmental conditions corresponding eco-physiological requirements are provided.*

Key words: post-larval stage, *Acipenser baerii*, RAS