

# OPPORTUNITIES REGARDING THE REARING OF STERLET (*Acipenser ruthenus*) IN FLOATABLE CAGES, LOCATED ON IRRIGATION CANALS

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## Abstract

*Sturgeon rearing technologies have been developed especially for the sterlet species (*Acipenser ruthenus*), as this is a species that reaches sexual maturity faster than other sturgeons and is also smaller in size and therefore easier to handle. With a prospect of major development, sturgeon farming is currently practiced in rearing systems with different types of fresh water, such as surface water, depth water (including geothermal water) and industrial water. At the beginning of the last century sturioniculture was successfully applied in ponds, but nowadays, with the need for quantitative and qualitative productions imposed by the principles of economic viability, and in the current context of the need to adapt to the effects of climate change, intensively controlled rearing systems have been developed.*

*The aim of this paper is the analysis of the opportunity to develop technologies for sterlet rearing in floating cages located on irrigation canals. The experiments took place in the Lunca Magistral Canal (CML) which is part of the irrigation network in Covurlui Plain. The Lunca Magistral Canal has a length of 19240 m and stretches from km 78.4 of the Danube from where it makes its way, passes behind Lake Brateş and reaches close to the commune of Vânători in Galaţi County. From C.M.L. 6 pressurization stations are supplied to irrigate 5,566 ha by sprinkling.*

*Preliminary results obtained 30 days after the population of a cage (located on the CM Lunca irrigation canal) with a size of 6x6m, with 500 sterlet specimens (*Acipenser ruthenus*) with an average weight of 11 g/specimen, reveals that sterlet immediately adapted to the specific conditions of the irrigation canal, with a daily growth rate of 0.167 g/day.*

**Key words:** sturgeon, irrigation canal, sterlet, growth performance