EXPERIMENTAL STUDY OF THE GROWTH OF GLASS-EELS (ANGUILLA ANGUILLA)

The effects of salinity, feeding and grading

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A rearing of glass eels in controlled conditions was carried out in aquaria for 3 or 9 months. The study consisted of an analysis of the effects of salinity (S = 2.5 to 30 ‰), of feeding on growth of elvers and juvenile eels. Grading was carried out after the first two months. The results are as follows :

1) No correlation was observed between pigmentation and salinity.

2) The salinity produced conspicuous effects on feeding and growth, in favour of a low salinity (2.5 to 3.5 %).

3) Food was a major influence on elver development; the best results were obtained with a natural food (Carcinus).

4) A wide length and weight distribution of eel population was observed; such heterogeneity needs selective grading. When separated from large sized individuals, the small-sized juvenile eels became capable of higher growth performances.