

CULTURE OF *PENAEUS MERGUIENSIS* (JUMBO SHRIMPS)
LARVAE ON NATURAL AND ARTIFICIAL DIETS.

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ABSTRACT

The present study discusses the design and operation of the experimental crustacean hatchery at the National Institute of Oceanography, Pakistan. The feeding, growth, and survival rates of *Penaeus merguensis* larvae from protozoa to post larvae are demonstrated. The study describes hatchery operations, feed requirements and establishes that the survival rate and growth of *P. merguensis* larvae in controlled laboratory conditions ranges between 40-60%, thus suggesting that *P. merguensis* (jumbo shrimp) is one of the suitable species for shrimp farming in the coastal areas of Pakistan.

Key words *Penaeus merguensis*, shrimp hatchery, larval feeds, growth, survival