GROWTH AND SURVIVAL OF OYSTER SPAT (CRASSOSTREA BELCHERI/SOWERBY) AS A FUNCTION OF FLOW RATES IN A RECIRCULATED UPWELLING SYSTEM

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ABSTRACT

Size, weight and survival of spat were examined weekly for 5 weeks in a recirculated upwelling system at flow rates of 25, 50, and 100 mL/min. Each upwelling tube held 5 g of spat (3 replications). Growth of C. belcheri/sowerby spat was positively correlated with increasing rate of water flow. At the end of the experiment, the oyster spat had increased in size from 1.39 mm to 5.11-7.10 mm. A flow rate of 25 mL/min gave poor results in terms of growth and survival, significantly different from higher flow rates. Survival of spat was 1-5 and 57-82% at flow rates of 25, 50, 75, and 100 mL/min, respectively.