Photoperiod effects on feeding, food conversion, growth, and survival of abalone (*Haliotis asinina* Linné) during nursery rearing

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Juveniles of 10 mm shell length were subjected to four photoperiodic regimes namely, 6L:18D, OL:24D, diffused 12:12D, and ambient light (12L:12D) serving as control. Juveniles were fed fresh seaweed, *Gracilariopsis bailinae*, in excess amounts throughout the experiment. At the end of a 105-day experiment, juveniles held under ambient photoperiod were significantly bigger and had higher average daily growth rate than the rest of the treatments. Feed conversion efficiency was higher at ambient light than at other photoperiodic regimes. Daily feeding rates at 65-day culture period were similar for all treatments; however towards the end of culture period, feeding rate of abalone at ambient light was lowest compared to the rest of the treatments. Percent survival was significantly higher in animals at ambient light and at 6L:18D with 99% and 97% respectively, than at other photoperiodic regimes.

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