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RESEARCH REPORTS

Sustainable Aquaculture for a Secure Future

Title: Weaning methods using formulated feeds for snakehead (*Channa striata* and *Channa micropeltes*) larvae

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Abstract: The culture of snakehead fish (*Channa striata* and *Channa micropeltes*) in Vietnam is limited, and snakehead culture has been banned in Cambodia, because traditional practices include capture of fingerlings from the wild as seed, as well as capture of small-size (also known as trash fish or low-value) fish. As hatchery breeding technology has improved, we investigated the optimal weaning practices for these two species. Both laboratory experiments and farm trials were conducted. For *C. striata*, the optimal weaning procedure is to begin at 17 days after hatch (dah) and wean the fish at 10% replacement of live feed with formulated feed per day. However, for *C. micropeltes*, the optimal procedure is to wait until 40 dah to begin weaning and then to wean the fish with a 10% replacement of live feed with formulated feed every 3 days. These results should enable farmers to domesticate snakehead culture in Vietnam and Cambodia and eliminate reliance on fish captured from the wild as both seed and feed.

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