



Blue Swimmer Crab

Portunus pelagicus (Linnaeus, 1758)

- ♦ Blue swimmer crab is one of the most important marine crab in India, distributed all along the east and west coasts with a dominant fishery at Palk Bay and Gulf of Mannar.
- ♦ Suitable species for marine farming. Males grow to a maximum size of 650 g and females 550 g.
- ♦ Captive brood stock is raised either through hatchery raised crab instars or wild collected juvenile crabs in recirculation systems. It is a continuous breeder and berried females are available throughout the year in major fishing areas of the species.
- ♦ Female may lay 0.06-1.90 million eggs/spawning depending on the size of the mother crab.
- ♦ Larval stages comprise of four zoeal stages (Zoea I-IV) and a megalopa stage which moults to the crab stage (Crab Instar-I), which takes on an average 17 days with an average survival of 5%.
- ♦ Zoea-I larvae is stocked and reared in tanks of 1-2 tonne capacity @ 50 nos/ litre. Fine filtered seawater of 30-32‰ salinity is used for larval rearing.
- ♦ Larval feeding is initiated as soon as the zoeae are hatched out. The larvae are fed with a combination of enriched rotifers, freshly hatched nauplii of *Artemia* and egg custard at megalopa stage.
- ♦ The seed production technology is yet to be adopted at commercial level.



Compiled by: Dr Josileen Jose

More information: Director, ICAR-Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute, Kochi, Kerala
Email: director.cmfri@icar.gov.in