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Orientation: Sustainable use of Marine Resources
Specialization Area: Management and use of resources & Aquaculture
Research Area: 2.1 Research of resources based on knowledge 2.11 Biotechnology applied to aquaculture



PhD project: Production of carpet shell clams (*Ruditapes decussatus*, Linnaeus 1758) in hatcheries: optimization of conditioning and induction of fixation and metamorphosis.
Supervisors: Dr. Susana Nóvoa Vázquez (Centro de Investigación Mariñas Ribadeo)
Dr. M. Luz Pérez-Parallé Mera (Universidade de Santiago de Compostela)

Summary: The natural production of bivalves represents a sector of great importance both from the social and economic point of view in Galicia. The carpet shell clam is one of the most appreciated native bivalve species of Galicia, however, due to overexploitation and other physical, chemical and biological conditions, its production has been decreasing progressively in recent years and is not enough to cover the demand. Obtaining spat under controlled hatchery conditions can allow the repopulation of natural banks and increase the production of this bivalve. Among the difficulties for the culture of skin clams in hatcheries is, on the one hand, obtaining larvae outside the natural spawning period and, on the other, overcoming the stage of fixation and metamorphosis. This makes the optimization of broodstock conditioning very convenient and, therefore, it is very necessary to study the optimal abiotic conditions for broodstock conditioning, as well as to identify possible inducing molecules that facilitate fixation and metamorphosis in order to be able to establish a protocol that allows obtaining seeds throughout the year, especially outside the natural reproduction season of this species.

