

OYSTER LARVAE AND SPAT IN POMER BAY

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SUMMARY: The abundance of larvae was recorded in July and August, and spat in August. Larvae were spreaded uniformly in the Bay.

RÉSUMÉ: On a observé un grand nombre des larves au mois de juillet et d'août, et des naissaines au mois d'août. Les larves étaient diffusées uniformément dans la baie.

Recent studies of the growth of shellfishes in Pomer Bay indicated this locality as suitable for cultivation of oysters Ostrea edulis L. (Hrs-Brenko and Filić, 1973). This study was undertaken to determine seasonal fluctuations and spatial distribution of larvae and spat in the Bay, since natural recruitment of oysters populations is rather poor.

The fluctuations of the numbers of larvae (from end of March to mid-November) and spat (from mid-June to beginning of September) were influenced a good deal by sea water temperature (Fig. I.). Thus, in April and May only small sized larvae (less than 200 μ m in length) were found in the plankton. The increase of sea water temperature from 16 to 20°C, from mid to end of May, was accompanied with the appearance of the first

advanced larvae (larger than 240 μ m) and the first settled oyster on the panel. One peak of the settlement occurred in mid-July, and others in August. Later, the setting of oysters was completed though the larvae were present in the plankton samples till mid-October. Generally the number of spat in Pomer Bay was low in comparison with other localities (Hrs-Brenko, manuscript).

Considerable differences were never observed in numbers of larvae collected at 4 places in the Bay. It appears that larvae are distributed uniformly in this small basin where the water is constantly mixed by currents and tides.

More details on this research will be given in the paper of Hrs-Brenko, 1977.

Bibliography

Hrs-Brenko, M. and Filić, Ž. 1973. The growth of oysters (Ostrea edulis L.) and mussels (Mytilus galloprovincialis Lmk.) in cultured beds in the northern Adriatic Sea. Stud.Rev. GFCM, (52):35-45.

Hrs-Brenko, M. 1977. Observations on oyster larvae and spat in the northern Adriatic Sea (manuscript).

