

SISTEMA DE REPRODUÇÃO NATURAL CONTROLADA PARA A ESPECIE TENCA *Tinca tinca*, PARA A REGIÃO NORTE DA ITALIA.

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Reproduction of tench mostly take place spontaneously in carp ponds. It is a common opinion that tench is a fish that do not spawn in small ponds. In Piemonte (N-W Italy), the peculiar interest for tench has increased, developing an important niche market.

The aim of this research was to evaluate the possibility of induce spawning of tench in small fibreglass tanks in order to overcome the limits of the natural reproduction in ponds.

Two hormonal inductions (5 and 22 of June). Three fibreglass tanks (1.5 m³) + kakaban (artificial substrate for eggs). Water temperature: 26°C; inflow: 10 l/h. Tench checked every 6 h to detect the mating behaviour

Spontaneous spawning started 24 h after the induction and ended within 48 h. Number of eggs/g ranged between 750 and 800 (\pm 82000 eggs/kg of body weight).

Total estimated weight of eggs produced (two reproductive cycles): 269 g = 126.67 ± 45.97 g of eggs/kg of body weight (20.69 ± 11 g/spawning female). The need to manage the reproduction has induced the development of artificial propagation methods as applied to others cyprinids even if tench is still considered a non completely domesticated fish; those methodologies need several handling (hormonal injection, suture of female genital papilla, stripping and elimination of eggs stickiness) and the incubating system requests high care and supervision.

Relatively to natural reproduction, tench has always been considered as a fish that do not spawn in small ponds and spawning ponds of different size have been assessed while spawning in small tanks has never been tested and the use of artificial substrates for tench spawning has been reported only in ponds. Our preliminary results allow us to consider kakaban in tanks as a promising way of reproduction since handling is strongly reduced. The major restriction of this system is the impossibility to quantify exactly the production of eggs.

Kakaban in small tanks seems to be a suitable, simple and economic way of tench reproduction. Anyway, in order to confirm those results and to provide breeders with simple protocol taking in consideration the size and the optimal broodstock density, further investigations are needed.

Key words: Tenca – Produção de alevinos

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