

## ***Litopenaeus vannamei* Maturation and Larval Rearing Procedures used by Brazilian Industry.**

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Shrimp larvae production in Brazil started in 1972, with penaeid native species. Larvae production of the introduced shrimp *Litopenaeus vannamei* started in 1983 increasing from 100 million/year to 16 billion/year in 2010, in 20 hatcheries. The most important advances in larvae production happened after 1999, when Brazil closed its borders to prevent the entrance of WSVD. After that, many improvements were made in broodstock production, maturation feeds, larval management and genetic improvement programs. The Brazilian shrimp industry has 18,000 ha of ponds, producing about 80,000 ton/year and has been supported by *L. vannamei* larvae, totally domesticated and adapted to local conditions. In 2007 a SPF (Specific Pathogen Free) genetic improvement program has started, making it possible for the industry to produce non SPF and SPF animals. The supply is year round, being sold Post-larvae in different stages as PL<sub>5</sub>, PL<sub>10</sub>, PL<sub>15</sub> and PL<sub>20</sub>, accordingly the preference of the producer. High quality larvae feeds, probiotic use in larval rearing tanks and very low water exchange are some of the key factors to guarantee the success of shrimp larval industry of Brazil.