

Manual on

Catfish

Reproduction



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Introduction

The African catfish, *Clarias gariepinus* (Burchel, 1882), from a biological perspective, is undoubtedly one of the most ideal aquaculture species in the world (Figure 1). It is widely distributed (70° of latitude), thrives in diverse environments (temperate to tropical), is hardy, grows fast and efficient and has a high yield of tasteful flesh. Furthermore, African catfish is highly fecund and easily spawned under captive conditions. It is expected that the significance of African catfish culture will rapidly grow in the coming decade.

Successful reproduction and the security of a regular supply of high quality fingerlings is the basis of every fish farming operation. Therefore, Coppens International offers a step by step reproduction manual to assist in the set up of reliable hatchery procedures

for African catfish. In this manual all relevant items for successful reproduction and hatchery management are described. The procedures are meant as guidelines and should be adjusted by the hatchery manager to particular hatchery circumstances where needed.

Beside proper management, feed quality is a prerequisite for successful reproduction. CatCo is the Coppens International catfish feed range optimised after continuous and close interaction with catfish farmers. The result of this cooperation ensures that optimum feed quality is reached and that excellent growth is achieved. In this way Coppens International contributes to the maximum economic results for the farmers.



Figure 1