

Sturgeon broodstock production in Pen-culture for conservation and restoration purposes

Seyed Mostafa Aghilinejhad^{1*}, Ali Jalali², Hojatollah Jafarian³

1-Sturgeon Affairs Management of Golestan Province

2-Gorgan University of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources

3-Gonbad Kavous University

*Corresponding author g- mail : aghilinejhad.1341@gmail.com

Abstract

Sturgeons are among the most valuable aquatic species with their stocks being exposed to the risk of collapse for many reasons, including overfishing and illegal fishing, habitat degradation, pollution and climate change. Almost all sturgeon species are on the list of endangered species. Sturgeon rearing in enclosed environments (Pen) can be a solution for long term production and protection of these species. In this research, the data related to the production of sturgeon broodstock in pen-culture in Gorgan bay was investigated. For the first time in Iran, the results showed that wild sturgeon stored in enclosed environment (Pen) reached the maturity. After artificial propagation and larvae culture, the fingerlings were released in the Caspian waters for stock restoration. Given the importance of sturgeons, pen-culture can have a significant impact on the conservation of these species.

Keywords: Sturgeons, Pen-culture, Broodstock production, Stock restoration, Gorgan Bay