

# Use of non-ablation in Shrimp hatcheries: production and animal welfare

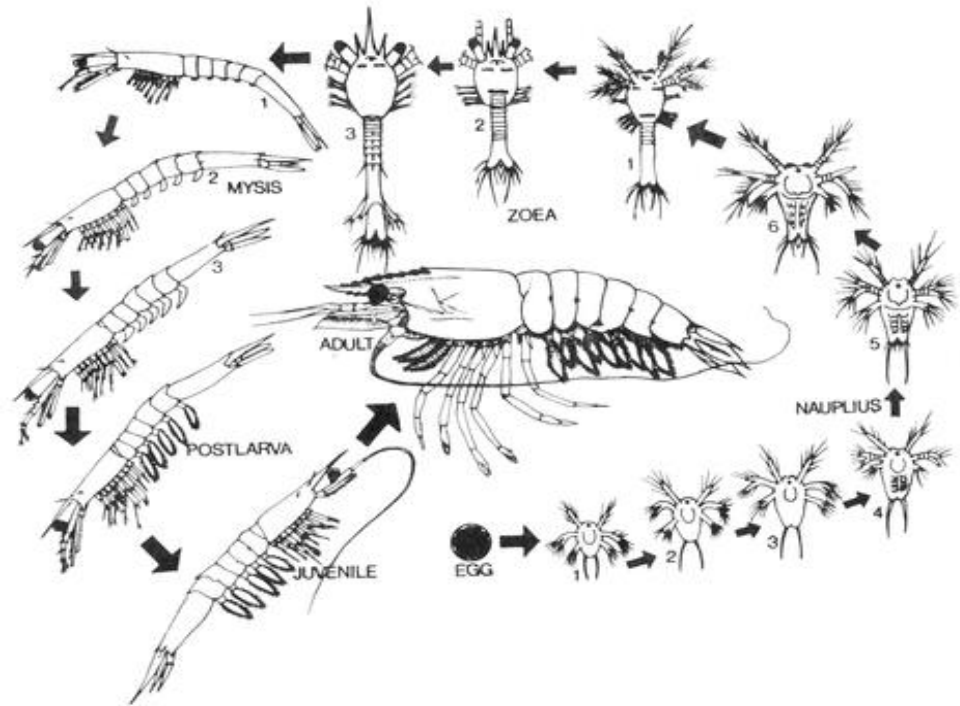
Simão Zacarias, PhD

Postdoctoral Research Fellow

[simao.zacarias1@stir.ac.uk](mailto:simao.zacarias1@stir.ac.uk)

# Shrimp Hatcheries: Unilateral eyestalk ablation

## Rapid Egg Production



# Eyestalk ablation X Welfare Issues



LABEYRIE  
FINE FOODS

ASDA  
Sainsbury's

TESCO  
*Every little helps*

Animal welfare  
NGOs

ALTERNATIVE (S)



# Non-ablation PROJECT **part 1**





Contents lists available at [ScienceDirect](https://www.sciencedirect.com)

# Aquaculture

journal homepage: [www.elsevier.com/locate/aquaculture](http://www.elsevier.com/locate/aquaculture)



## Reproductive performance and offspring quality of non-ablated Pacific white shrimp (*Litopenaeus vannamei*) under intensive commercial scale conditions



Simão Zacarias\*, Stefano Carboni, Andrew Davie, David C. Little\*

*Institute of Aquaculture – University of Stirling, FK9 4LA Stirling-Scotland, UK*



Honduras

# Experimental design

Maturation and Reproduction (61 Days)



5 Tanks with **Non-Ablated female**



5 Tanks with **Ablated female**

Larviculture I (3 tanks per treatment – 16 days)



Larviculture II (5 tanks per treatment – 16 days)



20 days



Nursery: 2 ponds

86 days



Grow-out: 3 ponds

86 days



Grow-out: 3 ponds

20 days



Nursery: 2 ponds

# Results

Table 1: Reproductive performance of non-ablated and ablated female

Reproductive Performance		
Study I	NAF	AF
Mating success per day (%)	$3.2 \pm 0.0^b$	$7.6 \pm 0.0^a$
Spawning event day (%)	$90.1 \pm 0.1^a$	$95.5 \pm 0.0^a$
Hatching rate per day (%)	$78.0 \pm 0.0^a$	$81.7 \pm 0.0^a$
Mortality of female per day (%)***	$1.3 \pm 0.0^b$	$2.3 \pm 0.0^a$
Number of eggs/spawned female/day	$142\,413 \pm 4558^a$	$116\,752 \pm 3568^b$
Number of nauplii/spawned female/day	$112\,610 \pm 4923^a$	$95\,127 \pm 2954^b$
Number of eggs/tank/day	$811\,004 \pm 86\,858^b$	$1440\,285.7 \pm 116\,344^a$
Number of nauplii/tank/day	$653\,004 \pm 73\,466^b$	$1186\,450 \pm 103\,853^a$

Sex ratio 1:2

NAF - non-ablated; AF - ablated female

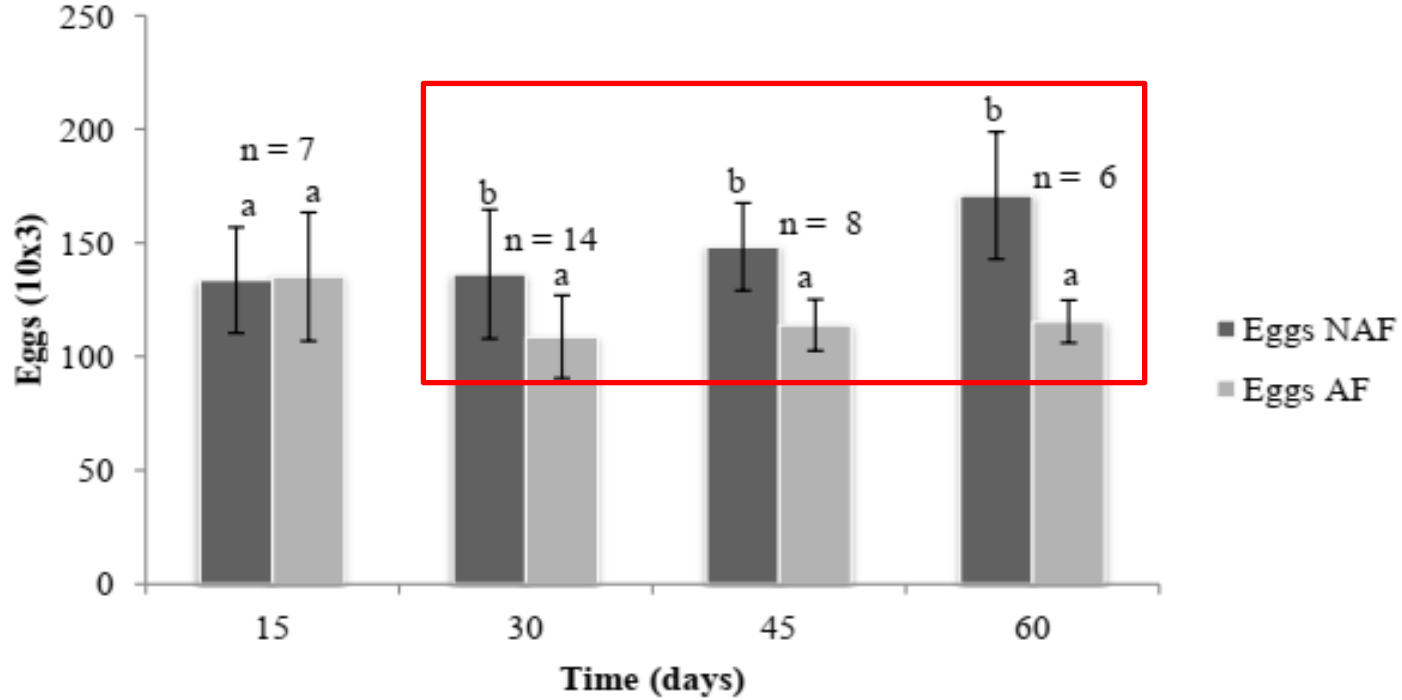


Fig. 1: Egg production per non-ablated (NAF) and ablated female (AF) over time



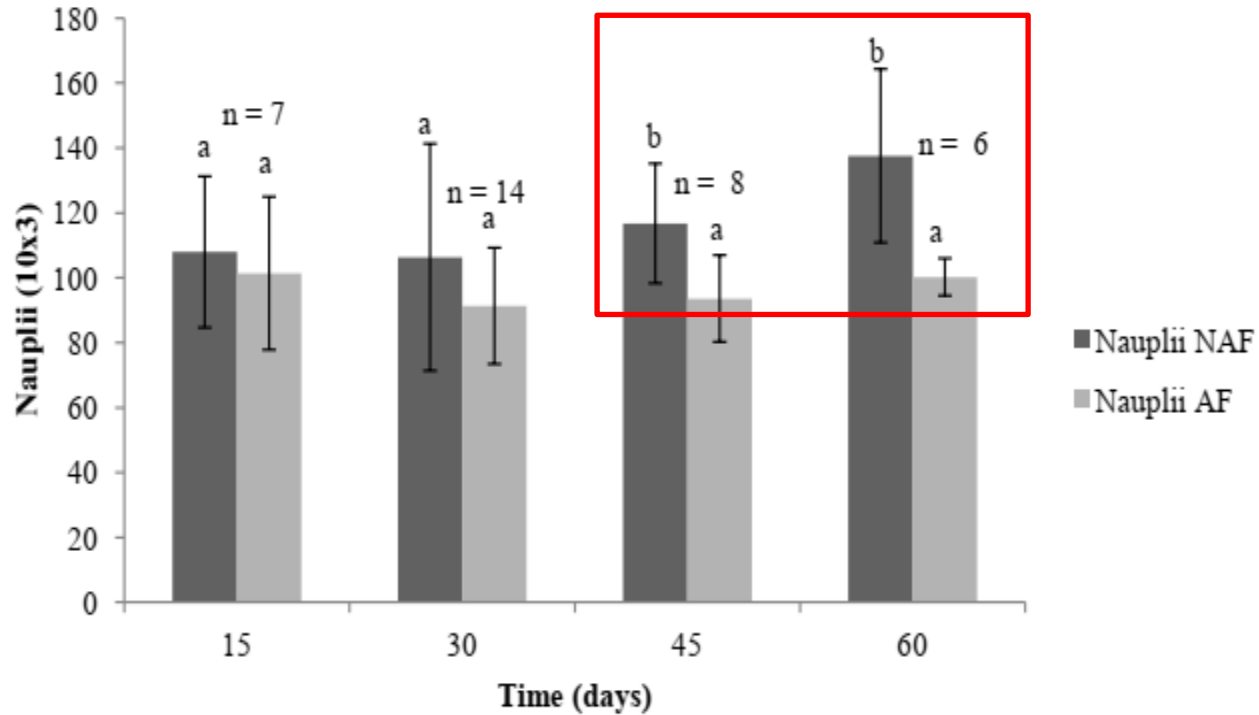


Fig. 2: Nauplii production per non-ablated (NAF) and ablated female (AF) over time

# Larval growth and development of non-ablated and ablated female

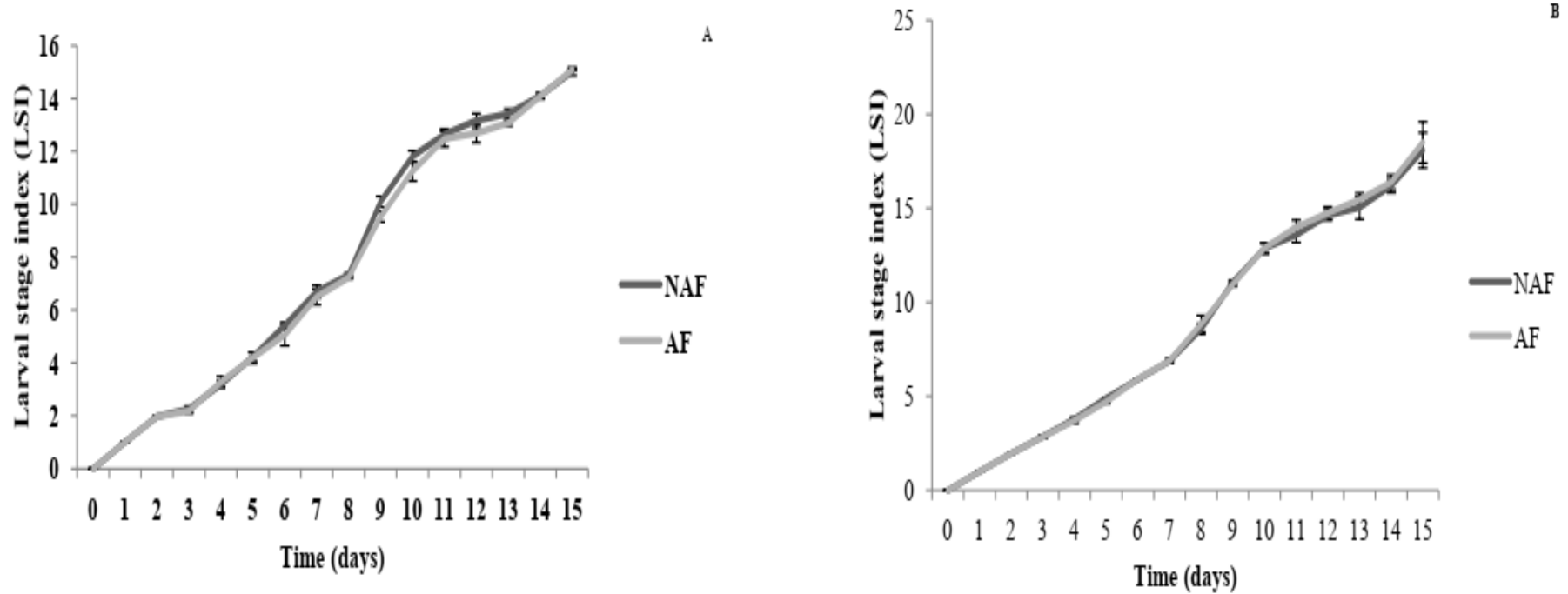


Fig. 3: Larval stage index from non-ablated (NAF) and ablated female (AF)

**Table 3: Growth performance, final survival and survival of PLs from non-ablated (NAF) and ablated female (AF)**

<b>Study I</b>	<b>Larviculture I</b>		<b>Larviculture II</b>	
<b>Parameters</b>	<b>NAF</b>	<b>AF</b>	<b>NAF</b>	<b>AF</b>
Survival to SST (%)	94.7 ± 2.6 <sup>a</sup>	85.7 ± 6.1 <sup>a</sup>	97.4 ± 0.2 <sup>a</sup>	94.9 ± 0.5 <sup>b</sup>
Final survival (%)	48.0 ± 8.7 <sup>a</sup>	41.7 ± 7.0 <sup>a</sup>	48.8 ± 2.6 <sup>a</sup>	43.9 ± 5.6 <sup>a</sup>
Final weight (mg)	3.4 ± 0.3 <sup>a</sup>	3.7 ± 0.2 <sup>a</sup>	6.5 ± 0.6 <sup>a</sup>	6.7 ± 0.8 <sup>a</sup>
<b>Study II</b>	<b>Larviculture III</b>		<b>Larviculture IV</b>	
<b>Parameters</b>	<b>NAF</b>	<b>AF</b>	<b>NAF</b>	<b>AF</b>
Eggs diameter (µm)*	269.6 ± 8.5 <sup>a</sup>	264.3 ± 1.3 <sup>a</sup>	282.4 ± 1.1 <sup>a</sup>	282.9 ± 2.0 <sup>a</sup>
Nauplii length (µm)*	437.7 ± 5.4 <sup>a</sup>	451.0 ± 2.8 <sup>a</sup>	449.4 ± 3.1 <sup>a</sup>	445.2 ± 2.9 <sup>a</sup>
Survival to SST (%)	99.0 ± 0.0 <sup>a</sup>	96.0 ± 1.0 <sup>b</sup>	90.0 ± 0.6 <sup>a</sup>	87.7 ± 0.9 <sup>b</sup>
Final survival (%)	42.6 ± 3.7 <sup>a</sup>	42.1 ± 3.8 <sup>a</sup>	43.8 ± 3.3 <sup>a</sup>	41.0 ± 6.0 <sup>a</sup>
Final weight (mg)	6.7 ± 0.4 <sup>a</sup>	6.2 ± 0.1 <sup>a</sup>	5.0 ± 0.6 <sup>a</sup>	5.3 ± 0.9 <sup>a</sup>
PLs length (mm)	8.9 ± 0.3 <sup>a</sup>	8.7 ± 0.0 <sup>a</sup>	8.6 ± 0.4 <sup>a</sup>	8.6 ± 0.4 <sup>a</sup>

**Table 4: Growth performance and final survival of offspring from non-ablated (NAF) and ablated female (NF)**

<b>Nursery</b>	<b>Study I</b>		<b>Study II</b>	
<b>Parameters</b>	<b>NAF</b>	<b>AF</b>	<b>NAF</b>	<b>AF</b>
Final Weight (g)	0.5 ± 0.0	0.6 ± 0.0	0.8 ± 0.0	0.8 ± 0.1
Weekly Growth (g)	0.2 ± 0.0	0.2 ± 0.0	0.2 ± 0.0	0.2 ± 0.0
Final survival (%)	40.2 ± 7.5	45.4 ± 3.0	89.2 ± 2.3	92.2 ± 1.8
FCR*	0.9 ± 0.1	0.7 ± 0.1	0.9 ± 0.1	0.8 ± 0.1
Yield (Kg/ha)/ (g/m <sup>3</sup> )	273.7 ± 32.8	340.6 ± 41.1	165.4 ± 14.6	188.4 ± 22.0
<b>Grow-out</b>				
<b>Parameters</b>	<b>NAF</b>	<b>AF</b>	<b>NAF</b>	<b>AF</b>
Initial weight (g)	0.6 ± 0.0	0.6 ± 0.0	0.8 ± 0.0	0.8 ± 0.0
Final weight (g)	14.7 ± 0.5	14.9 ± 0.2	14.3 ± 0.0	14.5 ± 0.3
weight gain (g)	14.1 ± 0.5	14.2 ± 0.2	13.5 ± 0.0	13.7 ± 0.3
Weekly Growth (g)	1.2 ± 0.0	1.2 ± 0.0	3.1 ± 0.0	3.2 ± 0.01
SGR (%)**	3.7 ± 0.0	3.7 ± 0.0	8.9 ± 0.0	8.9 ± 0.1
Final survival (%)	51.7 ± 0.9	47.7 ± 2.5	93.0 ± 1.4	95.9 ± 0.8
FCR	1.3 ± 0.1	1.3 ± 0.1	0.7 ± 0.0	0.8 ± 0.0
Yield (Kg/ha)/ (g/m <sup>3</sup> )***	1875.2 ± 27.6	1776.6 ± 82.8	591.6 ± 8.6	617.7 ± 7.5

# Key points

**1. Egg commercial production with non-ablated female can depend on SEX RATIO change**

**2. Non-ablation does not affect larval, post-larvae and juveniles growth performance and survival**

**3. Offspring of non-ablated animals might be more resistant to environmental stress**

# Non-ablation PROJECT **part 2**



Literature Review

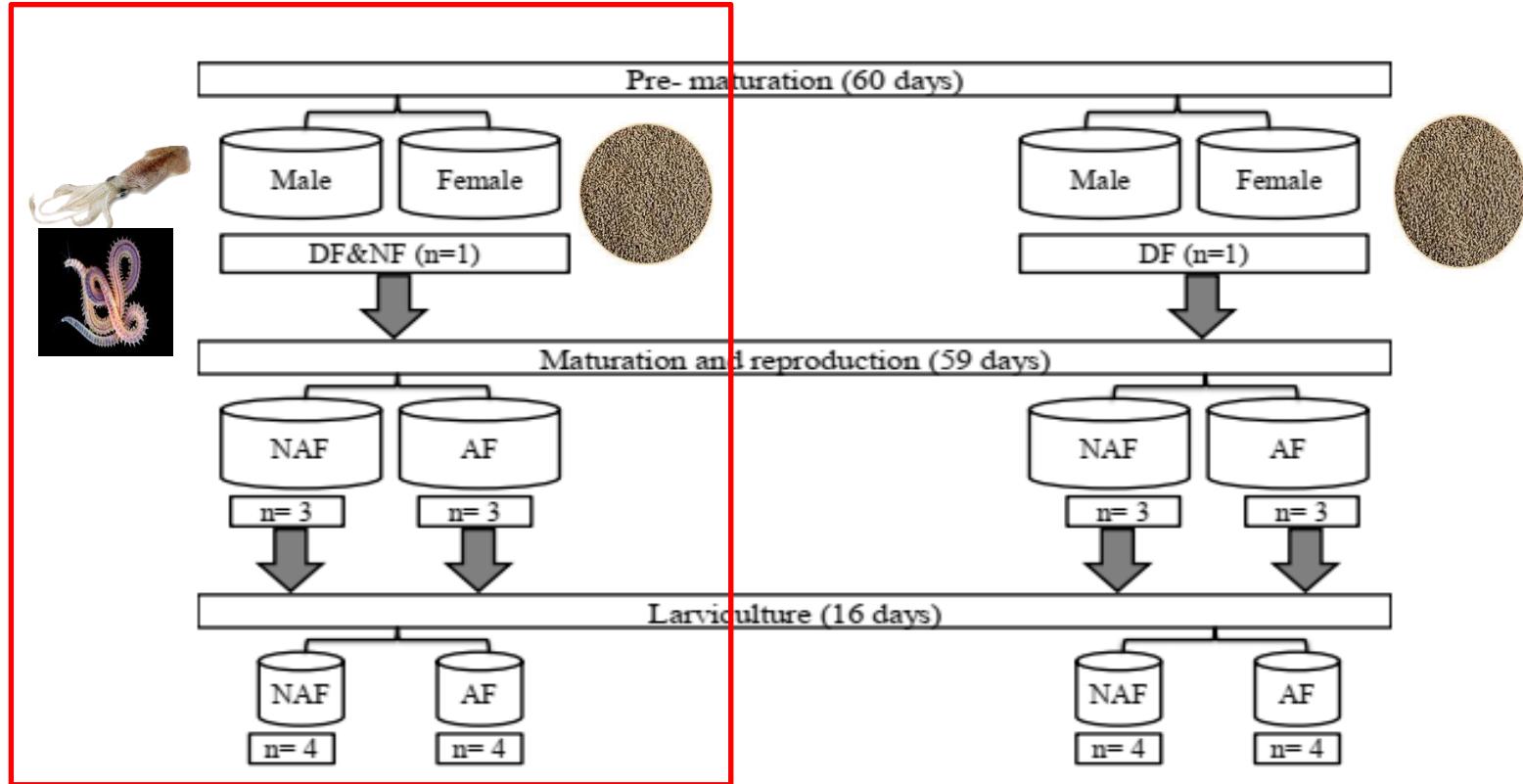


Broodstock pre-conditioning: **Feed Type**

**Effect of pre-maturation conditioning on broodstock reproductive performance and offspring quality of non-ablated Pacific white shrimp (*Litopenaeus vannamei*)**



# Experimental design



**DF** – Dry feed; **NF** – Natural Feed; **NAF** - Non-ablated female; **AF** - Ablated female

# Results

Zacarias et al. Under prep.

**Table 1: Sperm quality during pre-maturation** DF – Dry feed; NF – Natural Feed

Time (Days)	1		22		45		Significance		
	DF&NF	DF	DF&NF	DF	DF&NF	DF	F	T	FxT
GSI (%) (n= 10)	1.5 ± 0.3 <sup>ab</sup>	1.7 ± 0.6 <sup>ab</sup>	0.9 ± 0.1 <sup>b</sup>	2.4 ± 0.2 <sup>a</sup>	1.7 ± 0.4 <sup>ab</sup>	1.5 ± 0.3 <sup>ab</sup>	ns	ns	*
HPSI (%) (n= 10)	3.5 ± 0.2	3.5 ± 0.3	3.4 ± 0.1	4.2 ± 0.2	3.1 ± 0.3	3.1 ± 0.3	ns	*	ns
Spermatophore weight (mg) (n= 7)	35.2 ± 2.5	30.4 ± 2.9	38.5 ± 4.6	46.0 ± 4.6	43.0 ± 3.3	50.6 ± 5.9	ns	*	ns
Sperm Count (10 <sup>6</sup> ) (n= 7)	17.5 ± 2.5	11.8 ± 1.9	24.1 ± 4.5	28.9 ± 5.2	35.6 ± 3.2	24.1 ± 4.0	ns	*	ns
Dead Sperm (%) (n= 7)	21.1 ± 7.4	22.8 ± 7.4	28.2 ± 8.7	17.2 ± 3.8	28.3 ± 6.0	32.2 ± 2.7	ns	ns	ns



**Table 2: Reproductive performance**

Parameters	DF&NF		DF		Significance		
	NAF	AF	NAF	AF	F	A	FxA
Mating success per day (%)	5.8 ± 0.5	6.9 ± 0.6	3.8 ± 0.1	7.0 ± 0.7	ns	*	ns
Spawning event per day (%)	92.1 ± 1.9	90.0 ± 0.9	92.3 ± 0.7	91.8 ± 1.9	ns	ns	ns
Hatching rate per day (%)	55.5 ± 1.0	53.1 ± 1.4	50.6 ± 1.4	51.3 ± 1.0	*	ns	ns
Fertilization rate (%)	78.4 ± 0.5 <sup>a</sup>	70.5 ± 1.4 <sup>b</sup>	69.7 ± 2.1 <sup>b</sup>	68.6 ± 0.5 <sup>b</sup>	*	*	*
Number of eggs/spawned female/day	158090 ± 8212	140364 ± 2351	169938 ± 2341	146582 ± 3372	ns	*	ns
Number of nauplii/spawned female/day	85708.1 ± 1984.1	71942 ± 2261	85049 ± 3180	74474 ± 2109	ns	*	ns
Number of eggs/tank/day	924598 ± 70823	1142248 ± 66564	851764 ± 46620	1165342 ± 24034	ns	*	ns
Number of nauplii/tank/day	506501 ± 34489	590934 ± 35189	453077 ± 25441	594259 ± 13703	ns	*	ns
Mortality of female per day (%)	5.0 ± 1.2	3.8 ± 0.3	3.5 ± 0.1	4.9 ± 0.9	ns	ns	ns

**DF** – Dry feed; **NF** – Natural Feed; **NAF** - Non-ablated female; **AF** - Ablated female

Table 3.

Parameters (mg/g)*	Squid	Polychaete	Dry Feed
Proteins	907.2 ± 23.8 <sup>a</sup>	414.0 ± 10.3 <sup>b</sup>	357.7 ± 1.5 <sup>c</sup>
Carbohydrates	30.3 ± 4.4 <sup>b</sup>	46.6 ± 3.7 <sup>b</sup>	274.4 ± 11.0 <sup>a</sup>
Total lipids	121.9 ± 1.3 <sup>b</sup>	137.7 ± 1.8 <sup>a</sup>	117.4 ± 0.1 <sup>b</sup>
Total saturated	16.6 ± 0.4 <sup>a</sup>	15.3 ± 1.3 <sup>a</sup>	17.7 ± 0.3 <sup>a</sup>
Total monounsaturated	6.3 ± 0.0 <sup>b</sup>	3.6 ± 0.4 <sup>c</sup>	23.5 ± 0.3 <sup>a</sup>
Total n-6 PUFA	1.3 ± 0.0 <sup>b</sup>	0.9 ± 0.0 <sup>c</sup>	25.5 ± 0.4 <sup>a</sup>
Total n-3 PUFA	31.5 ± 1.3 <sup>a</sup>	20.2 ± 0.4 <sup>b</sup>	9.5 ± 0.1 <sup>c</sup>
18:2n-6	0.2 ± 0.0 <sup>c</sup>	0.9 ± 0.0 <sup>b</sup>	24.8 ± 0.4 <sup>a</sup>
20:4n-6	0.4 ± 0.0 <sup>a</sup>	0.4 ± 0.0 <sup>a</sup>	0.3 ± 0.0 <sup>a</sup>
20:5n-3	8.1 ± 0.4 <sup>a</sup>	8.1 ± 0.4 <sup>a</sup>	3.7 ± 0.1 <sup>b</sup>
22:6n-3	22.5 ± 0.9 <sup>a</sup>	3.1 ± 0.4 <sup>b</sup>	0.2 ± 0.1 <sup>c</sup>

Feed composition

Table 4: Larval growth performance and survival

Parameters	DF&NF		DF		Significance		
	NAF	AF	NAF	AF	F	A	FxA
LSI at Z1	1.0 ± 0.0	1.0 ± 0.0	1.0 ± 0.0	1.0 ± 0.0	ns	ns	ns
LSI at M1	3.9 ± 0.0	3.7 ± 0.2	3.7 ± 0.1	3.9 ± 0.1	ns	ns	ns
LSI at PL1	6.7 ± 0.1	6.6 ± 0.1	6.6 ± 0.1	6.7 ± 0.09	ns	ns	ns
LSI at PL10	15.4 ± 0.2	15.3 ± 0.2	15.6 ± 0.1	15.6 ± 0.1	ns	ns	ns
Survival to SST PL10-11 (%)	88.5 ± 2.9	82.7 ± 5.1	90.0 ± 2.5	80.0 ± 1.2	ns	*	ns
Final weight (mg)	2.2 ± 0.0	2.2 ± 0.3	2.4 ± 0.3	2.2 ± 0.0	ns	ns	ns
Final Survival (%)	37.1 ± 3.9	34.8 ± 1.6	41.0 ± 3.7	30.4 ± 2.2	ns	ns	ns
Parameters (mg/g)	NAF	AF	NAF	AF	F	A	FxA
Total lipids	22.9 ± 1.4	20.0 ± 0.4	19.3 ± 0.8	19.7 ± 0.9	ns	ns	ns
Total saturated	2.4 ± 0.1	2.3 ± 0.0	1.8 ± 0.4	2.4 ± 0.1	ns	ns	ns
Total monounsaturated	2.0 ± 0.1	1.9 ± 0.0	1.5 ± 0.3	2.2 ± 0.1	ns	ns	ns
Total n-6 PUFA	1.5 ± 0.3	1.5 ± 0.0	1.2 ± 0.2	1.7 ± 0.1	ns	ns	ns
Total n-3 PUFA	1.9 ± 0.2	1.9 ± 0.0	1.4 ± 0.3	1.9 ± 0.1	ns	ns	ns
18:2n-6	1.0 ± 0.0	1.1 ± 0.0	0.8 ± 0.2	1.2 ± 0.1	ns	ns	ns
20:4n-6	0.3 ± 0.0	0.3 ± 0.0	0.2 ± 0.0	0.3 ± 0.0	*	ns	ns
20:5n-3	0.7 ± 0.1	0.8 ± 0.1	0.6 ± 0.1	0.8 ± 0.0	ns	ns	ns
22:6n-3	0.9 ± 0.0	0.9 ± 0.0	0.7 ± 0.0	0.9 ± 0.0	ns	ns	ns

DF – Dry feed; NF – Natural Feed; NAF - Non-ablated female; AF - Ablated female

# Key points

**1. Supplementing squid and polychaete in pre-maturation is a potential key step to success of non-ablated shrimp female**

**2. Non-ablation does not affect larval and post-larvae growth performance and survival**

**3. Offspring of non-ablated animals might be more resistant to environmental stress**

# Non-ablation PROJECT **part 3**



**Salinity stress test: Non-ablated shrimp broodstock produced ROBUST OFFSPRING**

**Focus :**

Is there a link between non-ablation and the “fitness” of the offspring?



**Disease Challenge**





ELSEVIER

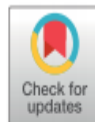
Contents lists available at [ScienceDirect](https://www.sciencedirect.com)

## Aquaculture

journal homepage: [www.elsevier.com/locate/aquaculture](http://www.elsevier.com/locate/aquaculture)



Increased robustness of postlarvae and juveniles from non-ablated Pacific whiteleg shrimp, *Penaeus vannamei*, broodstock post-challenged with pathogenic isolates of *Vibrio parahaemolyticus* ( $Vp_{AHPND}$ ) and white spot disease (WSD)



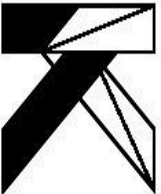
Simão Zacarias<sup>a,\*</sup>, Daniel Fegan<sup>b</sup>, Siriroj Wangsoontorn<sup>b</sup>, Nitrada Yamuen<sup>c</sup>, Tarinee Limakom<sup>c</sup>, Stefano Carboni<sup>a</sup>, Andrew Davie<sup>a</sup>, Matthijs Metselaar<sup>d</sup>, David C. Little<sup>a</sup>, Andrew P. Shinn<sup>a,c,d</sup>

# Experimental Set Up



1. Challenge *P. Vannamei* Postlarvae  
with AHPND/EMS

2. Challenge *P. Vannamei* Juveniles  
with WSD



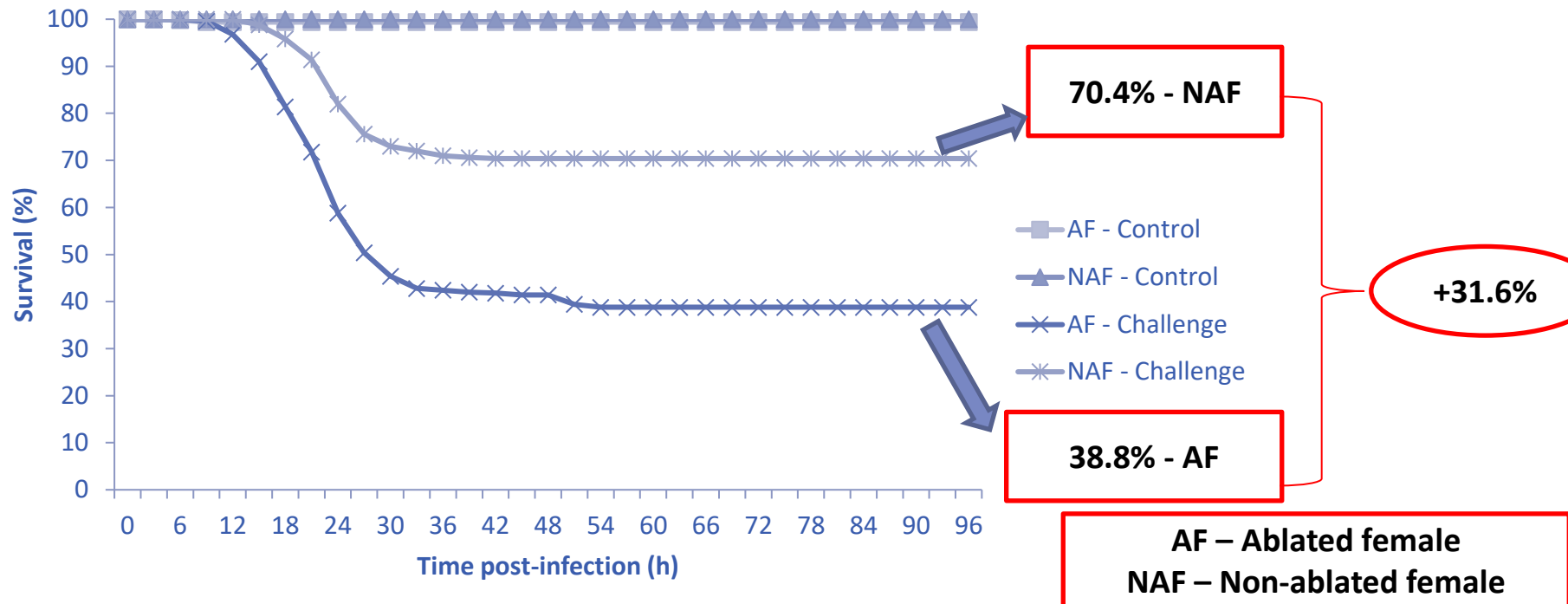
Benchmark  
Holdings plc



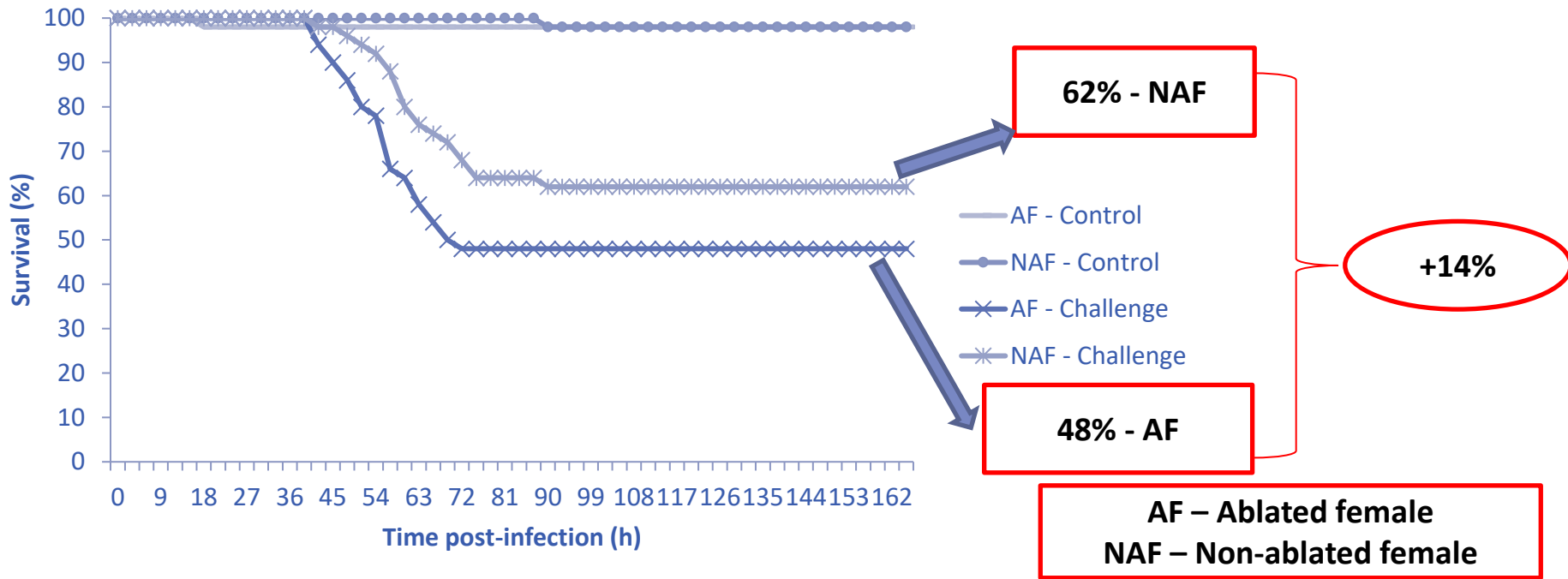
Thailand

# Results

## 1. Survival of *P. vannamei* Postlarvae challenged with and without AHPND/EMS



## 2. Survival of *P. vannamei* Juveniles challenged with and without WSSV



# Key points

**1. Offspring of non-ablated female are robust and more resistant to typical diseases**

**2. Validation of the data under commercial conditions are still required**

**3. Understanding mechanistic factors contributing to robustness improvement of offspring from non-ablated is also required**

# Final considerations

**1. Adopting Non-ablation will require change in some practices including SEX RATIO MANIPULATION and/or include or improve pre-maturation conditioning**

**2. Non-ablation does not affect larvae, post-larvae and juvenile growth performance and survival under normal conditions**

**3. Offspring of non-ablated female are more resistant to diseases**

# Other Key Considerations

**1. Broodstock Genetic or Strain: different response to non-ablation**

**2. Selective breeding program: Increase selection frequency**

**3. Maturation system: RAS or flowthrough**

# Global use of Non-Ablation







**THANK YOU!**

[simao.zacarias1@stir.ac.uk](mailto:simao.zacarias1@stir.ac.uk)

