

Isolation of *Vibrio harveyi* and *Vibrio alginolyticus* Strains from Cultured Seabass (*Dicentrarchus labrax* L.) and Seabream (*Sparus auratus* L.) in Egypt

Authors : M. Khallaf, R. Khalil, H. Ghetas

Abstract : In the present study, *V. harveyi* and *V. alginolyticus* were isolated from cultured seabass and seabream at Damietta Governorate, Egypt, during summer season. Isolates were biochemically and molecularly identified using primers for Vhh and Collagenase genes. The most prominent clinical observations of diseased fish were exophthalmia, abdominal distension, and multifocal cutaneous hemorrhagic ulceration on the dorsal musculature and caudal peduncle. Physicochemical characteristics of water samples indicated that the unionized ammonia, nitrate, and hydrogen sulphate concentrations were higher than the acceptable limits. Heavy metals concentrations in water samples exhibited higher concentrations than the permissible levels for fish culture, which was considered as chemical stressors that increase the prevalence of these bacterial diseases. Immune parameters were lower in diseased seabass and seabream than apparently healthy fish. Lesions of different fish organs were identified histopathologically.

Keywords : seabass, seabream, *Vibrio alginolyticus*, *Vibrio harveyi*

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