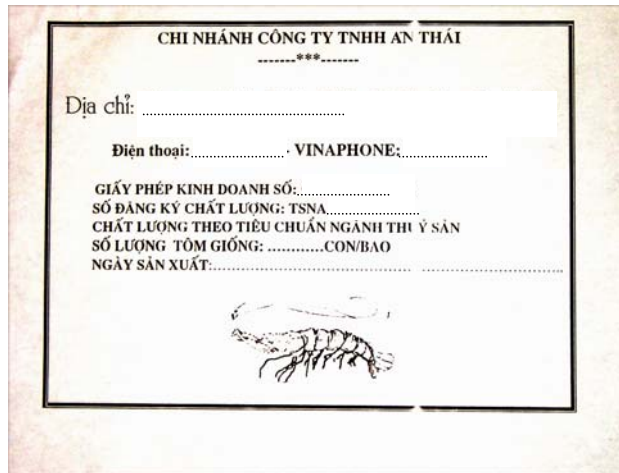


1) Stock your pond only once per crop. Organize stocking so that all the farmers in your area stock within 3-4 days. Within one area, try to stock the seed from the same batch in neighboring ponds.

The guidelines that follow will help you to select good quality seed. If you cannot find a batch with good quality, use these guidelines to select the best batch available to you.

2) Check if the hatchery has the certificate for good postlarvae. If they do, make sure that all the bags of postlarvae that you buy have a hatchery label (see picture). Try to buy the postlarvae from a hatchery that has these labels.



3) Select seed batches with good activity. To do that, collect a sample from the bottom of the tank. Put the postlarvae in a large bowl and stir the water rapidly. If most of the postlarvae concentrate in the center, it means that they are weak and the batch is poor.

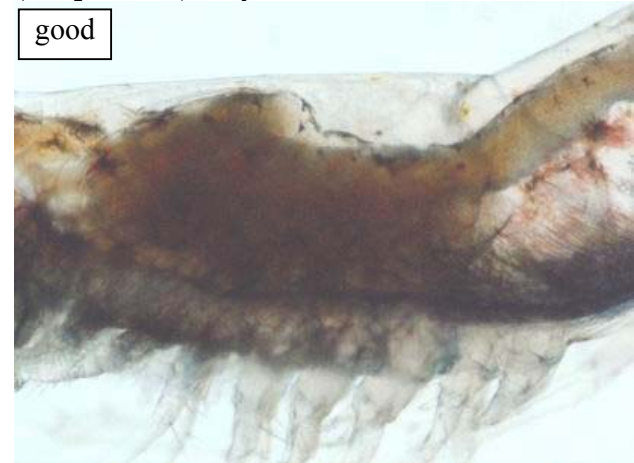
4) Select seed batches with large postlarvae of about the same size. Postlarvae 15 should be about 12mm in total length. If they are smaller, they may not be ready for stocking. If the size difference is large, some postlarvae may be diseased, underfed and of low quality.



5) Take another 20-30 PL from the batch, put them in a glass half full with the water they came in, add an equal volume of freshwater and wait for one hour. If more than one.

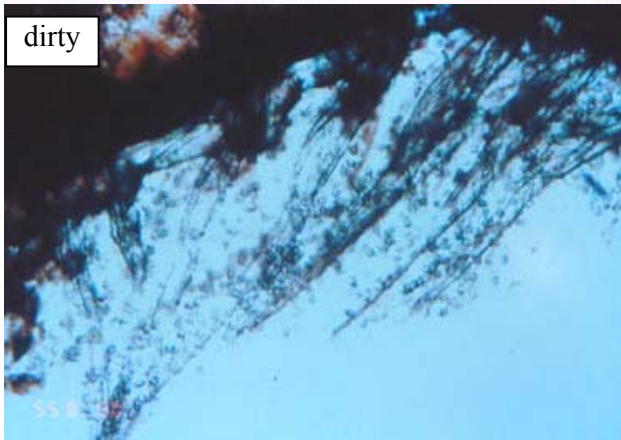
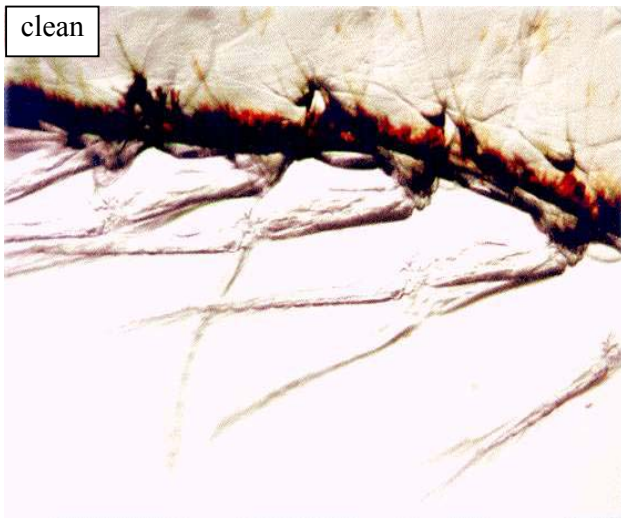
quarter dies, look for a better batch.

6) If you have a magnifying lense, take 15 postlarvae from the batch and see if any of them have a bad (small and/or empty) hepatopancreas and empty gut (see pictures). If yes look for a better batch.

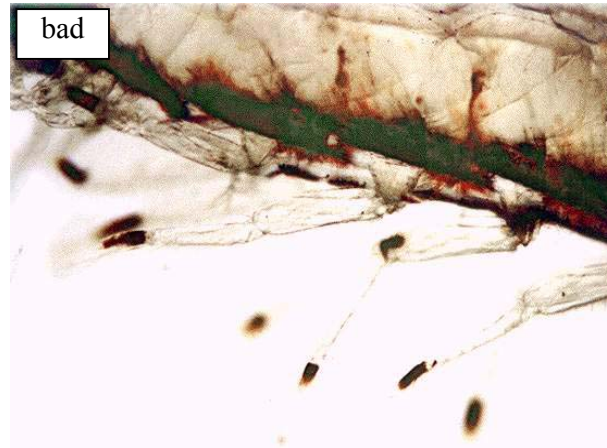


If the hatchery has a microscope ask them to help you use it to examine the postlarvae more clearly (steps 7 and 8). If there is no microscope available continue to step 9.

7) Check the same 15 postlarvae to see if any of them are dirty. If they are, look for a better batch.



8) Check the same 15 postlarvae to see if any of them have many legs damaged (broken and black) or missing. If they have, look for a better batch.



9) If possible, take another 15 postlarvae from the batch, put them into a plastic bag and give them (while they are still alive) to a laboratory that can test for a viral disease called MBV. Try to take only batches which test negative for MBV.

10) Take another 60 postlarvae from the batch and put them in a small jar with alcohol and deliver them to a PCR laboratory for WSSV testing. Try to take only batches which test negative for WSSV.

*Developed by Drs Pornlerd Chanratchakool, Flavio Corsin & Matt Briggs. We acknowledge Prof. Timothy Flegel for supplying many of the pictures presented. With the contribution of Tran Quoc Thanh (DOFI Nghe An), Tran Van Lieu, Dang Thu Hoan (DOFI Ha Tinh) and Pham Van Khang*



## Reducing Risks of Aquatic Animal Disease Outbreaks

### 10 STEPS FOR PLANNING TO STOCK WITH GOOD QUALITY SEED for Nghe An and Ha Tinh farmers



March 2004