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# The commercialization of SEAFDEC's milkfish fry production technology

Aquaculture Department, Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center

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# The Commercialization of SEAFDEC/AQD's Milkfish Fry Production Technology



Aquaculture Department  
Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center  
Tigbauan, Iloilo

# The Integrated Fish Broodstock and Hatchery Demonstration Complex

Built in 1998, the Integrated Fish Broodstock and Hatchery Demonstration Complex showcases the milkfish breeding and hatchery technologies generated from more than two decades of scientific research. It allows entrepreneurs to obtain first-hand information on the integrated operation of fish breeding and fry production.



*A lot 25 x 2 m deep concrete tank fitted with a recirculating system holds milkfish broodstock. An airlift PVC pipe (inset, arrow) fitted with a fine mesh net bag collects eggs naturally spawned by milkfish broodstock*



*Larval rearing tanks for fry production*

*Below: Good quality milkfish eggs supply larvae to the hatchery when hatched overnight*



*A harvest of milkfish fry from the hatchery*

## **The accelerated transfer of milkfish fry production technology**

As milkfish hatchery technology has been developed on a commercial scale, SEAFDEC/AQD fast-tracked its transfer to the private sector. Shrimp hatcheries, mostly displaced by the decline of the industry, were stocked with milkfish hatchlings through the program on accelerated transfer of milkfish fry production technology. SEAFDEC/AQD provided free milkfish eggs and technical assistance. To date, about 11 private hatcheries have adopted the technology.

*A hatchery in Batan, Aklan, previously used for shrimp fry production has been revived for milkfish fry production using SEAFDEC/AQD's technology*



## **The grow-out culture of hatchery-produced fry**

The growth, production, and survival of hatchery-produced milkfish fry were field-tested to compare it with wild-caught fry. The tests consistently showed growth performance of hatchery-produced to be similar with wild-caught fry.





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