# The effect of gradually decline of salinity on haemolymph parameters of adult shrimp *Litopenaeus vannamei* (Boone, 1931)

# M. K. Pazir<sup>1\*</sup>, A. Ajdari<sup>2</sup>, A. Ghawampour<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Shrimp Research Center, Iranian Fisheries Sciences Research Institute, Agricultural Research, Education & Extension Organization (AREEO), Bushehr, Iran.

<sup>2</sup>Offshore Fisheries Research Center, Iranian Fisheries Sciences Research Institute, Agricultural Research, Education & Extension Organization (AREEO), Chabahar, Iran

**Received:** June 2020 **Accepted:** August 2020

### **Abstract**

The present study was conducted to evaluate the effects of salinity levels (40, 35, 30, 25, 20, 15, 10 and 5‰) on haemolymph parameters and survival of adult shrimp Litopenaeus vannamei. Shrimps were distributed in fiberglass tanks containing water with 40% salinity then salinity was gradually declined during 7 days at rate of 5‰ a day by adding clean fresh water. Haemolymph of three shrimps was daily sampled from each treatment in triplicates. The haemolymph parameters including total haemocyte count (THC), total plasma protein (TPP), differential haemocyte count (DHC) were measured. Significant differences were found between treatments in terms of THC values (p < 0.05). The highest THC were observed in shrimps exposed to salinities of 25 and 5‰ (p>0.05) versus the lowest THC was measured in 35% one.

\*Correspondence M.K. Pazir, Shrimp Research Center, Iranian Fisheries Sciences Research Institute, Agricultural Research, Education & Extension Organization (AREEO), Bushehr, Iran (e-mail: dr.pazir@gmail.com) No significant difference was found in TPP levels between examined salinities (p>0.05). Hyaline cell composed 67.8 to 68% of THC  $(31.4 \times 10^6 \pm 0.79 \times 10^6 \text{ cell ml}^{-1})$ , but those of semi-granular and granular cells were 1.8 to 2% and 29.4 to 30%, respectively. Both semigranular and granular cell counts were significantly lower in group 10% throughout the experiment period. However, hyaline cells count was found to be lower in shrimps exposed to 30%, 25% and 20% salinities (p < 0.05). The semi-granular cells showed higher values in shrimps exposed to salinities of 30% compared to other treatments (p < 0.05). In salinities of 5‰ and 10‰, the values of granular cells were the lowest. It is suggested that a declining rate of 5‰ in salinity of water per day conducting for adaptation of L. vannamei could be appropriate to the shrimp, since THC and TPP levels can be recovered every 7 days through the salinity change.

**Keywords:** *Litopenaeus vannamei*, Salinity, Immune Parameters, Survival

# Introduction

Environmental factors including temperature, dissolved oxygen, salinity and pH have been recognized affecting the immune system in crustaceans (Le Moullac and Haffner, 2000). The Pacific white shrimp, L. vannamei is widely distributed in the eastern Pacific from Sonora (Mexico) to Tumbes (northern Peru), where water temperature and salinity varies in and between 15-33°C respectively. So, this species is hyper-osmotic regulator at low salinity levels, hypo-osmotic regulator at high salinity limit with an isoosmotic point about 715 mOsm kg<sup>-1</sup> equivalent to 25% (Sowers et al., 2006). Accordingly, the suitable salinity and temperature levels for growth and survival of L. vannamei ranging 10 to 35% and 20 to 30 °C, respectively (Ponce-Palafox et al., 1997). Another research Sowers et al. (2006) showed that salinity level in range of 15 to 20% improves the growth of L. vannamei. Although the good tolerance of the shrimp to environmental changes have been evidenced, the sudden changes in water parameters such as temperature, salinity and pH have been expressed reducing the immune level and increase the susceptibility to some bacterial and viral diseases (Pazir et al., 2011; Wang and Chen, 2006). There are many studies regarding the effects of temperature, salinity and pH on the immune system and growth of L. vannamei (Jiang et al., 2005; Kakoolaki et al., 2011; Pan et al., 2007; Perazzolo et al., 2002); however, little works have investigated the impacts of sudden changes of these parameters during handling.

Due to annually incidences of white spot disease (WSD) and losses of shrimp farmers this species was primarily introduced to Iran since 2004 by Iranian Fisheries Sciences Research Institute (IFSRI) as an alternative species (Afsharnasab *et al.*, 2014). It has been introduced to Iran shrimp farming industry since 2006, when commercial shrimp farming mainly was based on *Fenneropenaeus indicus* for about 10 years with (Pazir *et al.*, 2011).

The area of this survey was located along the northern coasts of Persian Gulf where salinities of the shrimp farms were 20-57‰ (Kakoolaki et al., 2015). In this area, L. vannamei juveniles and adults, usually are transferred from one region to another, with different water salinities, and sometimes due to insufficient adaptation, which resulted in sever mortalities. In these cases, it is supposed that drastic salinity changes may affect the immune capability of shrimps. Wang and Chen (2005), claimed that the shrimp relocated from 25% environment to lower salinity limits (5-15%) salinity) decreased immune responses and against Vibrio resistance alginolyticus infection, which significantly resulted in lower growth and survival rate in L. vannamei (Gao et al., 2016).

In the present study, the effect of salinity fluctuations was investigated on the immune parameters of *L. vannamei* to determine the safe range of salinity changes for handling and adaptation of the shrimps during transportation between regions with different salinity levels.

# Materials and methods

# Animals and experimental conditions

This study was carried out in Iran shrimp Research Institute located in Boushehr province, Iran, during March to April 2018. Sub-adults of L. vannamei (mean total weight:  $32.87 \pm 0.36$  g; mean total length:  $14.69 \pm 0.05$ cm) were obtained from private shrimp farms. All the shrimps were in the inter-molt stage and the molt stage was identified by examination of uropod in which partial withdrawal of epidermis could be revealed (Robertson et al., 1987). Fiber glass cylindrical tanks (4000 l) were used to stock shrimps at density of 35 pcs/m<sup>2</sup> in triplicates. Shrimps were fed with formulated pellet (Havoorash Company, Boushehr, Iran; moisture content: 5-10%; crude protein: 40-45%; crude lipid: 7-11%; crude fiber: 1.5-2%; ash content: 8-13%).

### **Environmental parameters**

During the experiment, water temperature, dissolved oxygen and pH were daily measured by HACH (HQ40d) Multi-Parameter. The physicochemical values were obtained as  $27 \pm 1$  °C,  $5.02 \pm 0.32$  mg mL<sup>-1</sup> and 7.8-8.2 respectively. Water salinity level was maintained at 40‰ (salinity is normally using in the area) at the beginning of the study, and gradually declined by adding fresh water at a rate of 5% a day to obtain 35, 30, 25, 20, 15, 10 and 5‰ water

salinity during 7-days experiment period by adding freshwater at 8:00 o'clock. The salinity was measured using a Refract meter (ATAGO S/Mill, Japan). To assay immune parameters, sampling was carried out with 150 shrimps for each treatment in triplicates.

### Sampling and immune parameters assay

Haemolymph were sampled daily and randomly obtained from the shrimp 4 h after water exchanges. The haemolymph samples (100 μl) were taken from ventral sinus situated at the first abdominal segment and put into a 1 ml sterile syringe (25 gauge) prefilled with 0.6 ml of ice-cold shrimp anticoagulant buffer (30 mMtri-sodium citrate, 0.34 M sodium chloride, 10 mM EDTA, 0.115 M Glucose, pH 7.55, osmolality 780 mOsm kg<sup>-1</sup>) mixed with 0.4 ml haemolymph and placed into a 1.5 ml eppendorf tube, and then kept at 4 °C (Vargas-Albores *et al.*, 1993).

### Total haemocyte count assays

The haemolymph samples were separated into two parts and incubated at 4 °C. A drop of anticoagulant – haemolymph combination was positioned on a haemocytometer to count haemocyte count (THC) under a light microscope at 40X (Cetti, triton II, England). Cells were counted on both sides of the grids, and then THCs were measured using the following equation:

$$THC = \frac{number\ of\ cells\ counted}{proportion\ of\ chamber\ counted} \times \frac{volume\ of\ sample\ dilution}{volume\ of\ original\ mixture\ in\ sample} \times \ 10^6\ (cells\ ml^{-1})$$

### Total plasma protein measurement

To assay the total plasma protein (TPP), the haemolymph was centrifuged (2500 rpm for 15 min at 4 °C) and supernatant was subjected to

assay TPP according to a modified Biuret method (Ghaednia *et al.*, 2012), using bovine serum albumin (BSA) as standard.

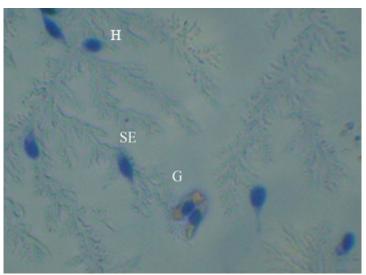
### Differential haemocyte count assay

To determine the differential haemocyte counting (DHC), a 0.2 ml samples of haemolymph were taken from shrimps (individually) into a sterile syringe (1 ml) containing 0.2 ml fixative (10% formalin in 0.45 M NaCl) based on the aforesaid method. After 10 min, 20 µl of the fixed haemolymph suspension was spread on a microscope glass slide. For counting of haemocytes (H), the smear was completely dried at room temperature for 20 min and then was submerged in May Grünwald stain. After 5 min, Phosphate buffer (1.15 M, pH 6.6) was added for 5 min with slow blowing. The mixture was then removed and the slide deepened in Giemsa

stain for 15 min. After that, the slide was rinsed with distilled water for 10 min, and covered by a covering glass (Kakoolaki *et al.*, 2010). Three main different types of haemocytes were determined following the method of Johansson et al. (2000); Kondo (2003) as: hyaline cells (HCs), semi-granular cells (SGCs) and granular cells (GCs) (Fig. 1). About 200 cells were counted on each slide, totally. The DHC was measured using the following equation:

$$DHC\% = \frac{\text{number of different haemocyte type}}{\text{total haemocyte cell count}} \times 100$$

The proportion of GH in total haemocyteswas recorded and used to calculate the total number of haemocytes (i.e. count/200  $\times$  THC).



**Figure 1**. Hemocyte cell differentiation of shrimp treatments (magnification: 400X), Granular Cell (G), Semigranular cell (SE), Hyaline cell (H).

# Survival rate

The survival rate of shrimp was measured by through following equation:

Survival (%) =  $(N_t/N_0) \times 100$ 

Where  $N_t$  and  $N_\theta$  are the numbers of live shrimps at the end and beginning  $(\theta)$  of the experiment (t) respectively.

### **Data Analysis**

Data were analyzed using SPSS 18.0 software and presented as means ± standard deviation. The significant differences between groups were calculated using one-way analysis of variance (ANOVA), followed by Tukey test to compare the means of groups, two by two.

# Results

# Water quality

The water quality parameters including temperature (23-25 °C), dissolved oxygen (4.5-5.2 mg mL<sup>-1</sup>) and pH (7.8-8.1) were kept, and at normal ranges during the experiment period. The water-quality parameters such as NO<sub>2</sub>-N, NH<sub>3</sub>-N and PO<sub>4</sub>-P were not significantly different among the treatments (p>0.05).

### **Immune parameters**

There were significant differences in THC values between salinity treatments (Fig 2, p < 0.05). The THC levels decreased by a decline in salinity from 40% to 35% and 30%. After an increase in 25% salinity, the levels of THC returned to initial levels in salinities of 20%, 15% and 10%. In salinity of 5%, THC levels increased again reached THC levels in 25% salinity treatment.

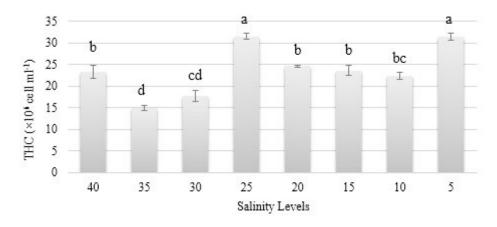


Figure 2. Mean ( $\pm$  S.E.) total haemocyte count of *L. vannamei* at different salinity levels. Bars with different letters are significantly different (p<0.05) among treatment.

Also, no significant difference (p>0.05) was observed in THC levels between the shrimps exposed to 40‰, 20‰, 15‰ and 10‰. According to differential haemocyte counting data, there were significant differences (p<0.05) in hyaline, semi-granular and granular cells between salinity treatments. Hyaline cell composed 67.8 to 68% of THC (Fig 3), but semi-granular and granular cells composed 1.8 to 2% and 29.4 to 30% of THC, respectively. Both semi-granular and granular cell counts were significantly (p<0.05) lower than other treatments throughout the experiment period.

However, hyaline cells count were found to be lower in shrimps exposed to 30‰, 25‰ and 20‰ salinities (Fig 3, p<0.05). The lowest percent of hyaline cells were observed in shrimps exposed to salinities 25‰ and 30‰ (Fig 3, p<0.05). The semi-granular cells showed higher values in shrimps exposed to salinities of 30‰ and compared to other treatments (Fig 3, p<0.05). In salinities of 5‰ and 10‰, the values of granular cells were lower compared to other treatments. Furthermore, the highest values of granular cells were observed in shrimps exposed to 25‰ salinity (Fig 3, p<0.05).



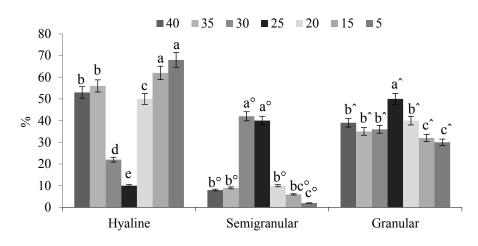
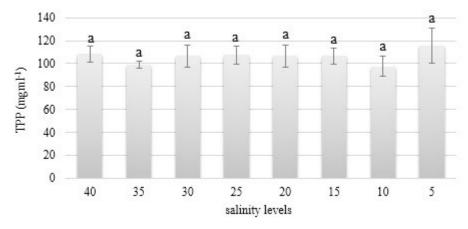


Figure 3. Percent of different haemocyte cells of L. vannamei exposed to different salinity levels.

TPP levels in shrimps exposed to 35‰ was significantly lower compare to those exposed to 40‰ (Fig 4, p<0.05). Afterwards, TPP levels elevated gradually and reached 115 mg

mL<sup>-1</sup> at 5% salinity. No significant differences were observed in TPP levels between the shrimps exposed to <35% salinity (Fig 4, p>0.05).



**Figure 4.** Mean ( $\pm$  S.E.) total protein plasma of *L. vannamei* at different salinity levels. Bars with different letters are significantly different (p<0.05) among treatment.

### Survival rate

A mean survival rate of 88% was recorded for all salinity treatments during experiment period with no significant differences by salinity graduation (p>0.05).

### **Discussion**

In decapods, the number of haematocytes can be altered by environmental parameters including temperature, salinity, dissolved oxygen, pH and ammonia (Verghese *et al.*, 2007). It is known that fluctuations in normal environmental factors affect growth and survival of shrimps (Verghese *et al.*, 2007). Salinity is major important environmental factor affecting the survival, growth, physiology and immunology of shrimps (Lu-Qing *et al.*, 2005). In the present study, the THC levels decreased when the salinity decreased from 40% to 30%, increased in 25% salinity and reached initial levels in salinities of 20%, 15% and 10%. In addition, after a decline in

and antibacterial activity increased during this period. By the 6th day of exposure, all parameters returned to their initial levels in control group. Wang and Chen (2006) reported that L. vannamei was more susceptible to Vibrio alginolyticus when they were transferred from 25‰ salinity to 5‰ during 24h, while susceptibility of tiger shrimp Penaeus monodon to increase with decline in water salinity. Also, the susceptibility of L. vannamei to V. alginolyticus increased in shrimps exposed to water with low salinities (Liu et al., 2004). Similar results also observed when P. monodon exposed to low salinities and then challenged with P. damselae sub sp. In this regard, significant reductions were found in immune parameters including THC, HC, phenoloxidase activity, SOD activity, phagocytosis activity and clearance efficiency (Wang and Chen, 2006). A short-term (10h) decline in salinity from 30 to 15%, reduced the bactericidal and antibacterial activity of F. chinensis and L. vannamei (Pan and Jiang, 2001) in F. paulensis, although THC levels decreased with declining in salinity from 34 to 22%, the THC levels recovered after 7 days (Perazzolo et al., 2002). Esparza-Leal et al. (2019) exhibited that the total haemocyte count (THC) of shrimp

TPP levels in shrimps exposed to 35%, TPP

elevated gradually and reached 115 mg mL<sup>-1</sup> at

5‰ salinity. In coincidence with results of this study, Lu-Qing et al. (2005) observed decline in

haemocyte count in the shrimp Marsupenaeus

janponicus when transferred from 30 % salinity

to 5‰ during 6 days, however immune

parameters including phenol oxidase activity

declined in a time-dependent manner at all salinity levels, indicating a reduction in resistance of shrimp against infections, since a low value of THC shows an alarm of the immune system.

All above results clearly show that shrimps are capable to copy with sudden changes of water salinity, however, the recovery duration may be different depending of species. In addition, salinity stress may reduce the immunity system in shrimps, which this may be related to the decreased levels of THC during stress (Jia *et al.*, 2014).

The decreased levels of THC also reported in relation to life cycle of shrimps and other environmental stressors such as temperature (Cheng *et al.*, 2005). These reduced THC was in coincidence with apparent decreases in immune system, indicating the effects of life cycle and temperature stress on immune system of shrimps (Lin *et al.*, 2012).

In the present study, the THC levels decreased when salinity decreased from 40% to 35% and 30%. However, a significant increase in THC levels at 25% salinity was observed, which may be due to the haemocyte proliferation rate, or the migration of THC from other tissues to the circulatory fluids or osmosis equilibrium between haemolymph and the environment (Vargas-Albores *et al.*, 1998).

In this study, little changes were observed in TPP levels of *L. vannamei* during salinity challenge. Nevertheless, a significant decline was found after reducing salinity from 40% to 35%. Afterwards, TPP levels elevated gradually and reached 115 mg mL<sup>-1</sup> at 5%

salinity, indicating the gradual adaptation of the shrimps to salinity changes with time. In P. californiensis, although salinity had no effect on TPP levels, the total haemocytic pro-PO increased as salinity was elevated (Vargas-Albores et al., 1998). Another study, exhibited that a rapid reduction in salinity level remarkably affected ATPase, SOD, ACP, and AKP activities. Osmotic, metabolism, and immune-corresponded enzyme attributes of L. vannamei are sensitive parameters to respond to sudden decrease of salinity (Shen et al., 2020). According to the results of this study, decreasing the salinity for sub-adult of L. vannamei should be gradually and not change more than 5% per day. When the water salinity reduces, shrimps will act osmosis adaptation, by haemocyte cell proliferation and migrating them from other tissues to the circulatory fluid to improve the health status.

# **Acknowledgments**

Shrimp Research Center provided financial support for this research. We thank the honorable managing director of the Shrimp Research Center and all of the colleagues who work in the Bandargah Research Station.

# **Conflicts of interest**

None of the authors has any conflicts of interest to declare.

# References

Afsharnasab, M., Kakoolaki, S., Afazli, F., 2014. The Status of white spot syndrome virus

(WSSV) in Islamic Republic of Iran. *Iranian Journal of Fisheries Sciences*, 13, 1021-1055.

Cheng, W., Wang, L.-U., Chen, J.-C., 2005. Effect of water temperature on the immune response of white shrimp *Litopenaeus vannamei* to *Vibrio alginolyticus*. *Aquaculture*, 250, 592-601.

Esparza-Leal, H.M., Ponce-Palafox, J.T., Cervantes-Cervantes, C.M., Valenzuela-Quiñónez, W., Luna-González, A., López-Álvarez, E.S., Vázquez-Montoya, N., López-Espinoza, M., Gómez-Peraza, R.L., 2019. Effects of low salinity exposure on immunological, physiological and growth performance in Litopenaeus vannamei. Aquaculture Research, 50, 944-950.

Gao, W., Tian, L., Huang, T., Yao, M., Hu, W., Xu, Q., 2016. Effect of salinity on the growth performance, osmolarity and metabolism-related gene expression in white shrimp *Litopenaeus vannamei*. *Aquaculture Reports*, 4, 125-129.

Ghaednia, B., Mirbakhsh, M., Sharifpour, I., Mehrabi, M.R., Yeghaneh, V., Shamsiyan, S., 2012. Dietary administration of yeast β 1, 3 1, 6 glucan on immunity and survival rate of white Indian shrimp, *Fennerpenaeus indicus* challenged with white spot syndrome disease. *Journal of Advanced Veterinary Research*, 2, 24-31.

Jia, X., Wang, F., Lu, Y., Zhang, D., Dong, S., 2014. Immune responses of *Litopenaeus vannamei* to thermal stress: a comparative study

of shrimp in freshwater and seawater conditions. *Marine and freshwater behaviour* and physiology, 47, 79-92.

Jiang, L.-x., Pan, L.-q., Fang, B., 2005. Effect of dissolved oxygen on immune parameters of the white shrimp *Litopenaeus vannamei*. *Fish & Shellfish Immunology*, 18, 185-188.

Johansson, M.W., Keyser, P., Sritunyalucksana, K., Söderhäll, K., 2000. Crustacean haemocytes and haematopoiesis. *Aquaculture*, 191, 45-52.

Kakoolaki, S., Afsharnasab, M., Sharifpour, I., 2015. The relation between temperature and salinity with WSSV occurrence in shrimp farms in Iran: An article review. *Survey in Fisheries Sciences*, 2, 31-41.

Kakoolaki, S., Sharifpour, I., Soltani, M., Ebrahimzadeh Mousavi, H., Mirzargar, S., Rostami, M., 2010. Selected morpho-chemical features of hemocytes in farmed shrimp, Fenneropenaeus indicus in Iran. *Iranian Journal of Fisheries Sciences*, 9, 219-232.

Kakoolaki, S., Soltani, M., Ebrahimzadeh Mousavi, H.A., Sharifpour, I., Mirzargar, S., Afsharnasab, M., Motalebi, A., 2011. The effect of different salinities on mortality and histopathological changes of SPF imported *Litopenaeus vannamei*, experimentally exposed to white spot virus and a new defferential hemocyte staining method. *Iranian Journal of Fisheries Sciences*, 10 (3), 447-460.

Kondo, M., 2003. Experiments of body defence mechanisms in crustacean. Shimonoseki: NFU, 1-13.

Le Moullac, G., Haffner, P., 2000. Environmental factors affecting immune responses in Crustacea. *Aquaculture*, 191, 121-131.

Lin, Y.-C., Chen, J.-C., Li, C.-C., W. Morni, W.Z., A. Suhaili, A.S.N., Kuo, Y.-H., Chang, Y.-H., Chen, L.-L., Tsui, W.-C., Chen, Y.-Y., Huang, C.-L., 2012. Modulation of the innate immune system in white shrimp Litopenaeus vannamei following long-term low salinity exposure. *Fish & Shellfish Immunology*, 33, 324-331.

Liu, C.-H., Cheng, W., Hsu, J.-P., Chen, J.-C., 2004. Vibrio alginolyticus infection in the white shrimp *Litopenaeus vannamei* confirmed by polymerase chain reaction and 16S rDNA sequencing. *Diseases of aquatic organisms*, 61, 169-174.

Lu-Qing, P., Ling-Xu, J., Jing-Jing, M., 2005. Effects of salinity and pH on immune parameters of the white shrimp *Litopenaeus* vannamei. *Journal of Shellfish Research*, 24, 1223-1227.

Pan, L.-Q., Zhang, L.-J., Liu, H.-Y., 2007. Effects of salinity and pH on ion-transport enzyme activities, survival and growth of *Litopenaeus vannamei* postlarvae. *Aquaculture*, 273, 711-720.

Pan, L.Q., Jiang, L.X., 2001. Effect of sudden changes in salinity and pH on the immune activity of two species of shrimp. *Journal of Ocean University of Qingdao*, 32, 903-910.

Pazir, M.K., Afsharnasab, M., Jalali Jafari, B., Sharifpour, I., Motalebi, A.A., Dashtiannasab, A., 2011. Detection and identification of white

spot syndrome virus (WSSV) and infectious hypodermal and hematopoietic necrosis virus (IHHNV) of *Litopenaus vannamei* from Bushehr and Sistan and Baloochestan provinces (Iran), during 2009-2010. *Iranian Journal of Fisheries Sciences*, 10, 708-726.

Perazzolo, L.M., Gargioni, R., Ogliari, P., Barracco, M.A.A., 2002. Evaluation of some hemato-immunological parameters in the shrimp *Farfantepenaeus paulensis* submitted to environmental and physiological stress. *Aquaculture*, 214, 19-33.

Ponce-Palafox, J., Martinez-Palacios, C.A., Ross, L.G., 1997. The effects of salinity and temperature on the growth and survival rates of juvenile white shrimp, *Penaeus vannamei*, Boone, 1931. Aquaculture, 157, 107-115.

Robertson, L., Bray, W., Leung-Trujillo, J., Lawrence, A., 1987. Practical Molt Staging of *Penaeus setiferus* and *Penaeus stylirostris*. *Journal of the World Aquaculture Society*, 18, 180-185.

Shen, M., Cui, Y., Wang, R., Dong, T., Ye, H., Wang, S., Fu, R., Li, Y., 2020. Acute response of Pacific white shrimp *Litopenaeus vannamei* to high-salinity reductions in osmosis-, metabolism-, and immune-related enzyme activities. *Aquaculture International*, 28, 31-39.

Sowers, A.D., Tomasso, J.R., Browdy, C.L., Atwood, H.L., 2006. Production Characteristics of *Litopenaeus vannamei* in Low-salinity Water

Augmented with Mixed Salts. *Journal of the World Aquaculture Society*, 37, 214-217.

Vargas-Albores, F., Guzmán, M.-A., Ochoa, J.-L., 1993. An anticoagulant solution for haemolymph collection and prophenoloxidase studies of penaeid shrimp (*Penaeus californiensis*). *Comparative Biochemistry and Physiology Part A: Physiology*, 106, 299-303.

Vargas-Albores, F., Hinojosa-Baltazar, P., Portillo-Clark, G., Magallon-Barajas, F., 1998. Influence of temperature and salinity on the yellowleg shrimp, *Penaeus californieinsis* Holmes, prophenoloxidase system. *Aquaculture Research*, 29, 549-553.

Verghese, B., Radhakrishnan, E., Padhi, A., 2007. Effect of environmental parameters on immune response of the Indian spiny lobster, *Panulirus homarus* (Linnaeus, 1758). *Fish & Shellfish Immunology*, 23, 928-936.

Wang, F.I., Chen, J.-C., 2006. Effect of salinity on the immune response of tiger shrimp *Penaeus monodon* and its susceptibility to *Photobacterium damselae* subsp. damselae. *Fish & Shellfish Immunology*, 20, 671-681.

Wang, L.-U., Chen, J.-C., 2005. The immune response of white shrimp *Litopenaeus vannamei* and its susceptibility to *Vibrio alginolyticus* at different salinity levels. *Fish & Shellfish Immunology*, 18, 269-278.