

Growth and mortality of the European oyster



A study of the growth and mortality of the European oyster *Ostrea edulis*, including the effects of *Marteilia refringens* and *Bonamia ostreae*, was carried out in three oceanic areas in the Bay of Arcachon from May 1989 to February 1991. One-year-old spat, free from disease were used for the trials. Six months after beginning the trials, *Marteilia refringens* had severely infested the cultures. Although *Bonamia ostreae* was found during the first year, the rate of infestation was low. In the second year Bonamiasis increased and high mortality (>60%) occurred in *Ostrea edulis* populations. Although the growth of the oysters was good, their condition index was generally poor. Moreover, shell perforations by *Polydora* sp. were observed. In spring 1990, a low glycogen storage was noted which may have been related to the *Marteilia refringens* infestation although no relationship with the carbohydrate content and mortality was detected. The influence of different rearing procedures on *Ostrea edulis* survival and development in four commercial batches of oysters, free of disease, was also studied. The growth of *Ostrea edulis* in single culture was better than in cultures mixed with *Crassostrea gigas*. However, infestation by *Marteilia refringens* and *Bonamia ostreae* in the laid cultures was quite similar to that of the experimental cultures (bags). Due to the persistence of these two parasites, the culture of *Ostrea edulis* on a commercial scale is not advisable in the Bay of Arcachon.

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