

International Artemia Aquaculture Consortium and its relevance for larviculture

Artemia remains a critical feed source for larval fish and crustaceans, underpinning the hatchery production phase of around 10 million tonnes of aquaculture end product.

Around 90 percent of current *Artemia* cysts are naturally produced and harvested from inland salt lakes. There is a need to assure the sustainable supply of *Artemia* cysts to support hatchery production, from both wild and farmed sources. There is also a need to improve and standardise practices for *Artemia* utilisation in hatcheries, which have drifted away from optimum over time.

The International Artemia Aquaculture Consortium is a network of scientists and institutions collaborating to explore needs and opportunities such as the conservation of *Artemia* biodiversity, development of science-based protocols for sustainable harvesting of wild sources, strain selection, selective breeding, documentation of good practices, training, and extension.