Eliminating Barriers to Commercial Production of Sunray Venus Clams in Florida: Enhanced Hatchery Production Through Broodstock Development

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## **Rational and Objectives**

- Broodstock production and education will aid commercial hatchery operators in their initial production of sunray venus clam seed for the industry.
  - Create initial founder broodstock lines for Florida hatcheries.
  - Demonstrate to hatchery operators the proper development of broodstock for seed production.



# Develop broodstock lines that provide greater genetic variation.





## Why is this important to seed producers and clam farmers?





- Seed producers: By having large genetic variation you are able to select for more desirable traits (e.g., growth, heat tolerance, color).
- Farmers: Large genetic variation increases environmental adaptability in individuals and within populations (increasing survival).



#### Creating Initial Founder Broodstock Lines for Florida Hatcheries

### **Effective Parental Number**



#### **Demonstrated to Hatchery Operators The Proper Development of Broodstock for Seed Production**



Industry Members – Doug Telgin, Anthony Hinkle, and Barry Hurt

#### What is a genetic bottleneck?





FAU Graduate Student – Elyse Steiner





Industry Members - Terry Lange, Tom McCrudden, and Bruno Cristofori A Better Way?



### Recommendations



1. Let females spawn and place eggs together, then split into different containers for <u>each male</u>.

Females





## 2. Inseminate each container with sperm from <u>one</u> male.



## 3. <u>Repeat</u> for **all** males!









### By using:

- 1) factorial mating (along with the concept of effective parental number),
- 2) controlled spawning, and
- 3) good record keeping

you will have a better broodstock line that will ensure your clams have greater genetic variation for future selection and hardiness.



## Questions?