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## CHAPTER-15

### MICROPARTICULATE DIETS FOR FISH LARVAE

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#### Introduction:

Sound nutrition of brood stock and larvae are very important and most challenging aspects in fish in captivity. The nutrient requirements of all animals vary throughout their life cycle. Feeding very fragile larvae, which is physiologically not fully developed, and small mouth size, incomplete development of their sense organs and digestive system, are limiting factor in proper feed selection during first- feeding. Thus, mass production of fish and shellfish larvae is depending on live foods such as *Microcystis*, *Spirulina*, *Chlorella*, *Diatoms*, *Artemia* etc. in the hatcheries. However, live feed production requires more facilities, maintenance expenses, and labour to yield a desired amount of live foods safely and constantly. Correspondingly, the nutritive value of planktonic organisms is occasionally variable, and this makes the use of live food for mass culture restrictive. Therefore, it is essential to develop substitute diets as a substitute for live foods to further improve the

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