

Eyestalk ablation

Tentative indicator

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Aquaculture Stewardship Council
www.asc-aqua.org



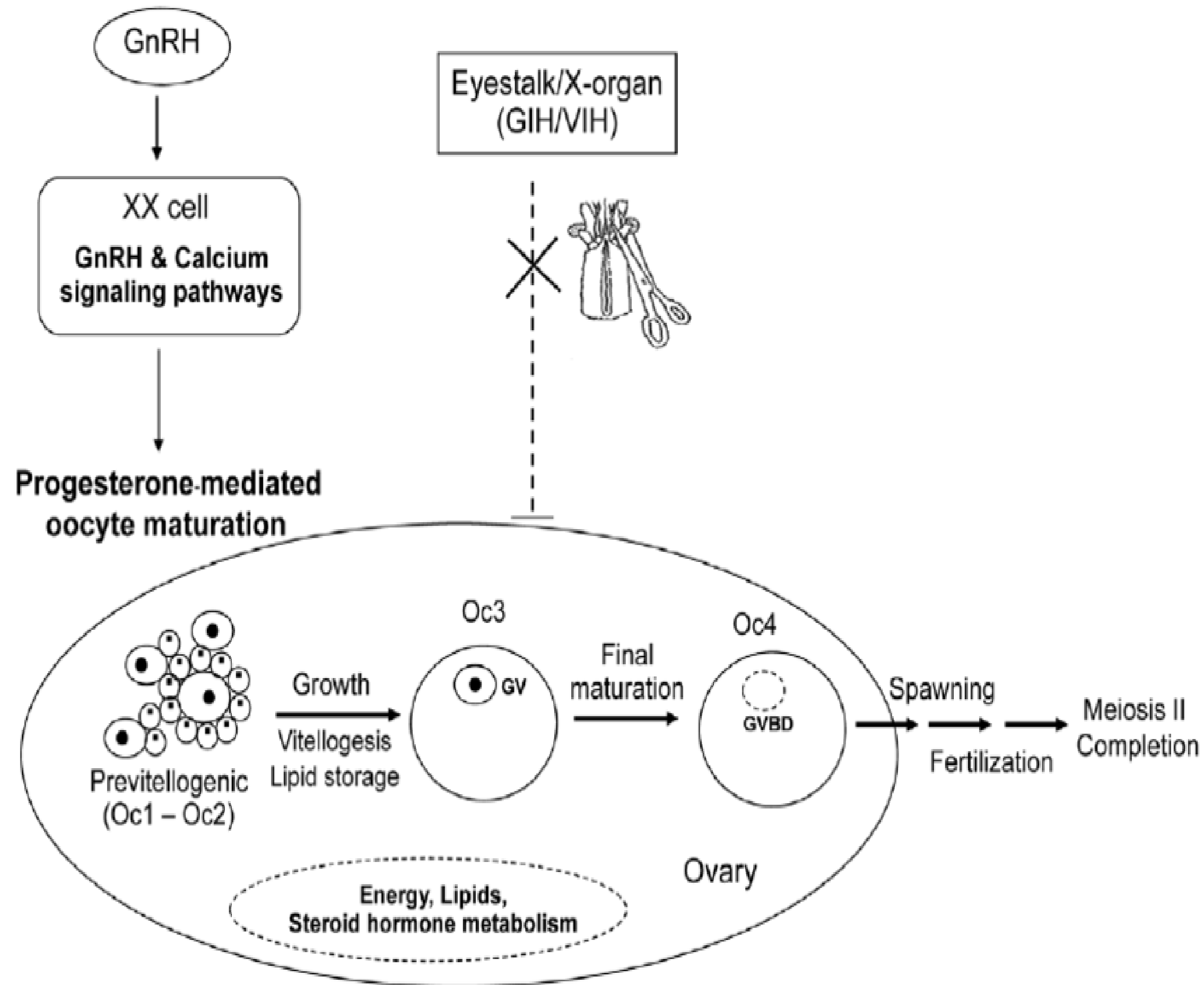
Shrimp, Thailand

Context

Within the first version of the ASC Farm Standard, shrimp health and welfare will only be partially covered. This is being remediated with the creation of a shrimp Technical Working Group (TWG), that will fully address these topics and have them ready for addition onto the Farm Standard during its first revision at the latest.

In the meanwhile, there is a topic that was considered high priority and requiring addition on the first version of the standard. This is eyestalk ablation.

Considerations

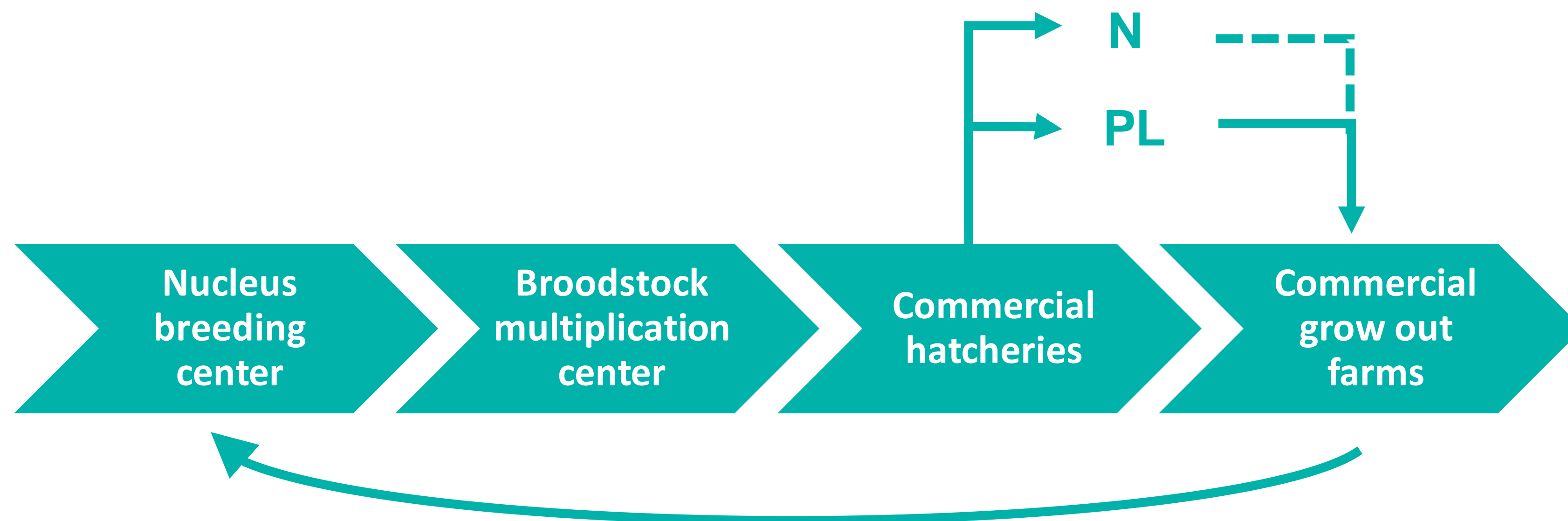


- Widespread practice to induce rapid maturation and spawning through hormonal manipulation in female shrimp.
- It is a form of mutilation that leads to suffering and stress.
- Recent research suggest that ablation free (AF) production is possible in *L. vannamei*.
- For *P. monodon* knowledge is still limited.

Uawisetwathana, Umaporn & Leelatanawit, Rungrapa & Klanchui, Amornpan & Prommoon, Juthatip & Klinbunga, Sirawut & Karoonuthaisiri, Nitsara. (2011). Insights into Eyestalk Ablation Mechanism to Induce Ovarian Maturation in the Black Tiger Shrimp. PLoS one. 6. e24427. 10.1371/journal.pone.0024427.

- AF production comes with consequences, some good, some negative:

Better broodstock survival	Decreased maturity/spawning frequency
Gain in the reproductive life span of broodstock	Decreased total nauplii output
Perception that nauplii (N) and post-larvae (PL) have an improved performance in grow out	Increased costs as larger numbers of broodstock are needed



- Due to the shrimp production cycle, the capacity of the Unit of Certification (UoC) to obtain AF PL might vary a lot. This will depend on regional differences and whereas AF nauplii (N) and post-larvae (PLs) are widely available in the national market.
- Such differences should be taken into account when formulating an indicator.

Proposed indicator

Scope: L. vannamei.

All nauplii, larvae or post-larvae (PL) to originate from ablation free (AF) female broodstock. The following timelines shall apply:

- Date the standard is effective (Q2 2025): 25% of the production to originate from AF broodstock.*
- 2 years from the date the standard is effective (Q2 2027): 50% of the production to originate from AF broodstock.*
- 4 years from the date the standard is effective (Q2 2029): 75% of the production to originate from AF broodstock.*
- 6 years from the date the standard is effective (Q2 2031): 100% of the production to originate from AF broodstock.*

Next steps

Consultation questions:

- 1) Is eyestalk ablation a topic of your interest?
- 2) Have you ever worked directly with shrimp? If yes, which species?
- 3) Is the proposed indicator suitable to satisfactorily address the issue of eyestalk ablation?
- 4) Are the timelines suggested adequate and appropriate? If not, explain why and suggest an alternative.
- 5) Should the scope also include *P. monodon*?



Thank you

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