# THE CONVERSION OF PIKEPERCH YEARLING (*SANDER LUCIOPERCA*) FROM NATURAL TO DRIED DIET UNDER OPERATING CONDITIONS

***Provozní ověření efektu převodu rychleného plůdku candáta obecného (Sander lucioperca) na suché krmné směsi***

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**Abstract:** The aim of this study was to verify the conversion of pikeperch (*Sander lucioperca*) from natural to dried diet. The rearing experiment was performed in Velký Dvůr fish farm from 12th of June to 2nd of July 2009. Pikeperch yearlings with a total length (TL) of 48.84 mm and body weight (w) of 0.89 g were obtained from the Mírový pond and transferred to artificial channels equipped by bottom water outlet. Water temperature varied from 17 to 22°C, oxygen saturation of water did not fall bellow 80%. UV lamp and filtration was used to maintain suitable water quality. Fish density was 3.28 individuals per litre. Experimental feeding strategy for conversion was co-feeding (artificial diet with the addition of living natural diet in the beginning of the experiment). Zooplankton from the natural ponds was used as a source of living natural diet. Granulated fish diet was applied by band self-feeder. Two differently coloured fish diets were used during the experiment, Skretting F 1A Pro aqua Brut 57/15 1 mm (57% protein, 15% fat – brown colour) and Coppens Troco Crumble HE 1556, 0.8- 1.2 mm (56% protein, 15% fat – orange colour). Feeding ratio was 5% of fish stock. Fish achieved average body weight of 1.45 g and total length of 57.9 mm. The number of fish that underwent the conversion successfully reached 4256 individuals (52% at Skretting variant) and 2604 individuals (32% at Coppens variant), respectively. Detectable cannibalism did not exceed 5% however the losses were up to 15%.

**Key words:** pikeperch, yearling, co-feeding, controlled conditions.

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