

EDITORIAL ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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interrupted normal function of the post-gastric digestive tract. Therefore, continued development, normal nutrient absorption and fluid absorption and retention functions would not occur. Thus a significant effect on these 1-day-old hatchlings was suggested. The findings did not indicate whether or not recovery was possible. The high percentage of affected animals in the first year of study further suggested that occurrence of this disease in the wild population could have a significant impact on year class success. It is clear that the etiology of this disease cannot be determined from these preliminary observations. Nutritional, environmental and genetic factors as well as infectious etiologies are possibilities. However, this preliminary description of an enteropathy in larval herring is significant for several reasons. First, it has demonstrated that specific disease processes occur in larval herring and therefore could be important

factors in determining recruitment into the adult population. Secondly, this report exemplifies the importance of monitoring marine laboratory animal health where animals are used in controlled experiments. Clearly, serious diseases in laboratory animals may increase experimental variability or contribute extraneous effects which confound results. Finally, this study, in addition to others cited in the introduction, demonstrates that the laboratory study of larval animals is an important tool for the examination of factors which may affect populations in nature.

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