



Closed System Production of *Americamysis bahia*

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The mysid shrimp is the main food item for sea dragons in aquarium and zoos through out the world. The propagation method developed at the John G. Shedd Aquarium eliminates the need for wild-caught animals and provides a constant supply of appropriate sized mysids for our sea dragon population. Several authors have previously presented methods for the captive propagation of mysids. By modifying techniques in feeding, juvenile collection and breeding times, Shedd Aquarium has the ability to produce enough *A. bahia* on site for our sea dragon feeding needs. In less than 100sqft of space we can produce between 8000-10,000 mysids every seven days that are in the four to five week size class. If juvenile size classes are needed then production is approximately 30% higher for this same set-up. Total time dedicated to producing this population is approximately six to seven hours of staff time per week. Current protocols for the system call for three feedings each day with a mix of prepared diets and newly hatched artemia nauplii.

Keywords: Ex situ and aquaculture, Conservation and management, *Americamysis bahia*