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AN EVOLUTION OF OYSTER MARICULTURE INDUSTRY IN CHINA: NEW KNOWLEDGE, VARIETY AND PRODUCT

ZHANG Guo-Fan^{1, 2, 3, 5}, LI Li^{1, 3, 4, 5}, QUE Hua-Yong^{1, 2, 3, 5}

(1. Key Laboratory of Experimental Marine Biology, Institute of Oceanology, Chinese Academy of Sciences, Qingdao 266071, China; 2. Laboratory for Marine Biology and Biotechnology, Pilot National Laboratory for Marine Science and Technology, Qingdao 266237, China; 3. Center for Ocean Mega-Science, Chinese Academy of Sciences, Qingdao 266071, China; 4. Laboratory for Marine Fisheries and Food Production Processes, Pilot National Laboratory for Marine Science and Technology, Qingdao 266237, China; 5. National and Local Joint Engineering Laboratory of Ecological Mariculture, Qingdao 266071, China)

Abstract The oyster, as major marine bio-resources, has become one of the most important maricultural species world-wide. Although oysters have been cultured for a long history, the lack of high-quality oysters hinders the improvement of both efficiency and economic return of the industry. High-quality and good shell-shaping oysters dominate the high end international market. To address high-quality oysters production in China, we investigated the composition and distribution of *Crassostrea* sp., followed by construction of the first whole-genome sequence map, revealing high variability of the genome and significant specific expansion of gene families. A 50-million level SNPs resource library was constructed and 190K gene chip for genotyping was built following re-sequencing of global 27 populations with a total of 487 individuals. Resourceomics progress paves the road for innovation of high-quality oysters. The gene modules which involved in the regulation of glycogen content have been located in the genomes. Gene-module assisted selective breeding technique was established to improve the meat quality, as evidenced the breeding of Haili No. 1, a new variety with high glycogen content. The breeding efficiency improved by 65.81%, solving the problem of nutrition content selection in oysters. Cultchless oyster preparation technique is built on the base of characteristics of oyster metamorphism, as well as utilization of both up-welling and down-welling systems. The harvest of cultchless oysters was improved by 3 times. The application of both shell-remolding grow-out technique and optimization of grow-out water depth helps the production of high-quality oyster, in which the meat rate and good shell-shape approximated to 20%—23% and 92%, respectively. Cultchless oyster preparation and shell-remolding grow-out technique ensures the oysters to reach the standard of international brands of oysters. A standardized culture technique of high-quality oyster has been formulated and implemented on a county scale, supporting the forming of the leading brand of Rushan Oyster, in which the over-all economic return increases 2—3 times compared to the previous culture techniques. Rushan Oyster promotes the improvement of industry quality and efficiency, as well as upgrading of oyster mariculture industry.

Key words genomics; gene module; new variety; cultchless remolding; high-quality oyster