

Decapsulation Protocol:

Removes surface pathogens from *Artemia* cysts and prevents introduction of inedible *Artemia* egg shells to larval fish systems

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Add 32 g cysts to 920 ml fresh dH₂O, for 1-2 hours (no more than 2).

Dissolve 2.4 g NaOH in 10.56 ml fresh dH₂O.

Dissolve 4.93 g Tropic Marin (or any other good artificial marine salt mix) in 149.44 ml dH₂O.

Combine above two solutions to make the NaOH buffer solution. Cool to 4°C.

Add 160 ml NaOCl (Aldrich; active chlorine between 6 and 14%) to 160 ml dH₂O

Prepare 320 ml 1% sodium thiosulphate (3.2 g in 320 ml)

Have plenty of fresh dH₂O for rinsing steps, and crushed ice available.

Then:

- Drain hydrated cysts into the 100mm plankton mesh sieve;
- Immerse sieve containing cysts in pre-cooled NaOH buffer over ice;
- Add NaOCl solution; stir continuously for between 3 and 5 min until cysts have changed colour from grey/brown to grey/white to orange;
- Remove sieve and rinse the cysts thoroughly;
- Place sieve in the sodium thiosulphate solution and stir continuously for 1 min;
- Remove and rinse thoroughly for approx. 5 min until there is no residual smell;
- Drain & dry; may be stored dry at 4°C for up to 7 days or alternatively in a saturated brine solution indefinitely.