

FIELD TRIAL VACCINATION OF CHANNEL CATFISH *Ictalurus punctatus* WITH A LIVE ATTENUATED VACCINE AGAINST ENTERIC SEPTICEMIA OF CATFISH IN CHINA

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The efficacy of Aquavac-ESC<sup>®</sup> vaccine was evaluated against enteric septicemia of catfish (ESC) in Guangxi province of China. Channel catfish (*Ictalurus punctatus*) fry at 2 cm were stocked in cage in Liujiang River, Liuzhou after immersion vaccination. The fish were observed for a period of seven months. The result indicated that the vaccine was safe. The result of ELISA showed that Aquavac-ESC<sup>®</sup> could stimulate the immune system of channel catfish to produce specific antibody even in the fry stage. The survival rate and weight gain of vaccinated group were similar to those of control group because of the absence of strong natural challenge during the study. However, feed conversion rate of the vaccinated group was 16.0% lower than that of the control. It suggests that proper application of Aquavac-ESC<sup>®</sup> would provide economical benefits to the farmers.