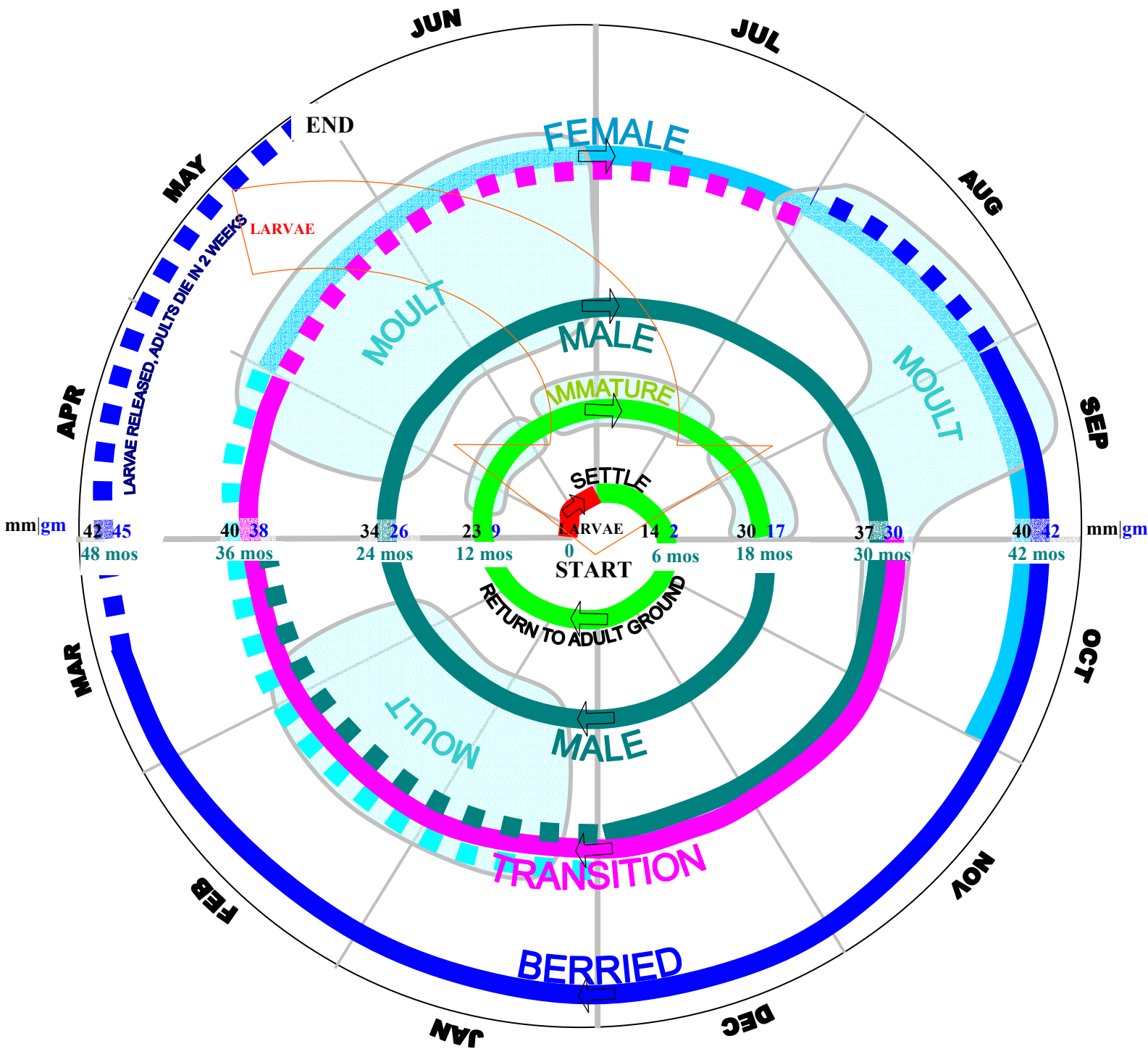


PRAWN CYCLE

v4



The length and weight numbers in this diagram are from a table presented by C.S. Wright and P. Panek, which is referenced back to Butler, Boutillier and Bond, Mikkelsen, and Ricker. Of these, Butler's publication was visited for additional information. Note that Butler's length/weight descriptions are generally lower than provided in the Wright and Panek table, and lower than represented on the diagram, suggesting that a range of values should be presented on the diagram. The length/weight values need to be checked against recent measurements made in field programs. For example, in southern Gulf of Georgia in March 2003, male lengths were 30 – 32 mm and transitions were 35 – 37 mm.

Further, there will be variations based on geography. For more northern areas, the whole diagram may have to be rotated or lengths of development periods altered to represent growing conditions in those waters. As well, size and weight characteristics may change. One enduring question, is how those northern prawns can be so much larger than their southern cousins. Genetics, food supply or a 5 year life cycle?

Butler, T., 1980.

Maximum male carapace length = 48.1 mm
Maximum female carapace length = 61.1 mm
one year after hatching = 12 mos = 21.1 mm, 6.5 gm
second autumn = 18 mos = 27.0 mm, 13 gm, prawns mature as males
most function as males for another year (=30 mos)
the remainder begin sex change at 24 mos
30 mos; mixed group of males and slightly larger females
30 mos males = 32.9 mm, 23 gm
36 mos; all prawns are female or undergoing sex change, transitions
spawning over at end of October
ovigerous period lasts 5 – 5.5 mos
48 mos; 38 mm, >35 gm
large females 43 – 50 mm C/L are either fast growing or in 5th year