

## Table of contents

<b>SUMMARY</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>RESUMEN</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>RESUM</b>	<b>5</b>
 <b>GENERAL INTRODUCTION</b>	
1. Lipids and fatty acids.....	9
2. Lipids and fatty acids in fish.....	12
2.1 Essential fatty acids of marine and freshwater fish	13
2.2 Biosynthesis, elongation and desaturation.....	15
2.3 Fatty acids in fish reproduction.....	18
3. The European eel	
3.1 Status of the target species .....	19
3.2 The life cycle of the European eel.....	20
3.3 Eel reproduction.....	22
3.4 The European eel and fatty acids	
3.4.1 Energy requirements: migration and starvation	24
3.4.2 Adaptation to environmental conditions.....	25
3.4.3 Quality gamete.....	26
3.5 Projects, grants and companies involved in this thesis.....	27
 <b>OBJECTIVES</b> .....	
.....	29

**CHAPTER I.** Effect of thermal regime on fatty acid dynamics in male European eels (*Anguilla anguilla*) during hormonally-induced spermatogenesis.....

33

**CHAPTER II.** Exploring correlations between sex steroids and fatty acids and their potential roles in the induced maturation of the male European eel.....

65

**CHAPTER III.** Relationship between sperm quality parameters and the fatty acid composition of muscle, liver and testis of European eel..... 91

**CHAPTER IV.** Impact of dietary fatty acids on muscle composition, liver lipids, milt composition and sperm performance in European eel.....

115

## **GENERAL DISCUSSION**

1. Main issues to discuss 145

2. Lipid functions in the sexual maturation of eels ..... 146

3. New approaches towards elucidating the role of fatty acids in steroidogenesis..... 150

4. The liver: a key organ in lipid metabolism during eel reproduction..... 152

5. Fatty acid in broodstock diets..... 153

6. New challenges in eel reproduction.....	154
<b>CONCLUSIONS</b> .....	157
<b>REFERENCES</b> .....	161