

Economics of fish feeding

Facts

- Fish feed represents a major cost in fish production
- Efforts have been tried to reduce feed cost
- Debate continues about highest profit or lowest cost
- The economic theory of “dimensioning returns” has been adopted as the base of the wise use of fish feed
- Similarly important, any additional production cost should be economically justified

Applications

- In principal, ad libitum feeding will most likely produce largest fish biomass
- However, with the exception of fry feeding, the option of ad libitum feeding may not be economically justified.
- In commercial aquaculture, 90% the ad libitum ratio has been found the optimum ratio from biological & economical views

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Considerations

- In most situations, attempting to reduce the cost of feed during nursery stage was found not the right approach especially cost of feed during this phase is not that significant and proposed feeding alternative may impose negative effects on nursed fry or fingerlings
- In particular research projects such as genetics (strain evaluation), tested fish are usually fed at ad libitum ratio

Unconventional fish feed

- Production economics and nutritive merit are key factors to consider in determining the possible use of unconventional feed stuff
- Some of untraditional feed materials are promoted based on its abundance and/or its use in other animal feed
- Many of untraditional feed stuff was not suitable to fish, hard to process or may be even harmful
- nonconventional feed will remain in this category as long as its use is limited; if used at wider or commercial scale it is no longer unconventional