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## Study of fatty acid profile, serum biochemical parameters and digestive enzymes activity of different fish species cultured in marine and fresh water under higher biomass: A review

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### Abstract

Stocking density is one of the most significant factors in deciding the efficiency and productivity of the fish. The stocking fish at low density results in high production costs, low economic gain and inadequate utilization of space. Increasing stocking density may activate stress response which negatively affects growth parameters, survival, behavior, health, feeding of fish. Serum cortisol, triglyceride, alanine aminotransferase, aspartate transaminase, alkaline phosphatase and DHA, PUFAs increased significantly as the stocking density increased. So, for good yield fish should be stocked at optimum level. Optimum stocking density is the level where the maximum yields are reached. As stocking density vary from species to species, before stocking any species one must figure out the optimum stocking density to obtain beneficial results.

**Keywords:** Fatty acid, cortisol, antioxidant resistance, stocking density, stress

### Introduction

Stocking density is basically the number of animals kept in given unit of area. It is one of the vital factors in defining the yield and profitability of the fish farm. Be that as it may, high biomass can adversely affect development, behavior of fish, size heterogeneity, physiological reactions, immunity, intestinal micro biota and resistance against disease (North *et al.*, 2005) <sup>[1]</sup> Fish production could increase by increasing biomass but it has adverse relation with fatty acid, amino acid growth parameters and serum level. High biomass may cause poor growth rate, less production and survival chances as well high immune and stress responses (Ellis *et al.*, 2002) <sup>[2]</sup>. High biomass affects the metabolism of fish lipids, especially triglycerides mobilization to energy demand (Alvarellos *et al.*, 2005; Martin *et al.*, 2017) <sup>[21, 22]</sup>. The cholesterol levels were significantly increased as the number of fish increased (Ruane, 2001) <sup>[23]</sup>. An increase in serum aspartate aminotransferase and alanine aminotransferase levels indicates that failure in heart function due to higher biomass. The function of Alanine aminotransferase (ALP) is in nutrient absorption and utilization. Higher level of this enzyme indicates that higher rate of metabolism tend to damage liver (Alvarellos *et al.*, 2005) <sup>[24]</sup> and damage to the liver (Ringo *et al.*, 2018) <sup>[25]</sup>. Free radicals can be removed from body by antioxidant system but external parameters because oxidative stress leads to suppress immune function (Xing *et al.*, 2002) <sup>[26, 27]</sup>. The secretion of goblet cells can keep the integrity of the intestinal mucus barrier <sup>[28]</sup> and relieve signs of persistent intestinal inflammation (Jaqueline *et al.*, 2011) <sup>[29]</sup>. The intestinal flora of fish is not simplest associated with outside elements however additionally has a mutual interaction with fish itself (Sun *et al.*, 2014) <sup>[30]</sup>.

### Fatty Acid Profile of Fish

Fish and shellfish are generally accepted as highly nutritious and healthy foods. Fatty acids are heterogeneous group of compound that is composed of long chain hydrocarbons (Figure 1). The contribution of fish for human consumptions and nourishment relies on accessibility, cultural and personal preferences (Beveridge *et al.*, 2013) <sup>[3]</sup>. Quality of fats in fish meat can be determined by *n-6/n-3* ratio.

People feed having  $n-6/n-3$  fatty acid ratio helps to prevent coronary heart disease by reducing cholesterol in the blood, whereas increased levels of this ratio may lead to cardiovascular disease (Artemis *et al.*, 2016) [4]. (Mishra & Samantaray, 2004) [5] studied that at 32 °C lipid level of fish was high whereas at 21 °C lipid contents was less. Tissue monounsaturated fatty acid (MUFA) contents decreased with increasing lipid level at 32 °C, but the reverse occurred at 21 °C. Pamidighantam *et al.* (2010) [6] indicated that Rohu and Murrel fish egg lipids are good sources for polyunsaturated  $n-3$  fatty acids. Swapna *et al.* (2010) [7] described that major fractions of neutral lipids are hydrocarbons sterolesters and triacylglycerol while Palmitic acid and oleic acids were the major fatty acids in the lipid extracts. In most of the fishes, the content of eicosapentaenoic acid and docosahexaenoic acid were higher in visceral lipids. Fatty acid in Rohu, Grass carp and Tilapia was C16:0, ranging from 32.2% to 38.23%. The other major fatty acids detected were C18:0, C18:1 and C18:3. Abou (2013) [8] suggested that for better growth of fish and consumption of good quality fish meat contained essential fatty acids can be achieved if Nile tilapia culture in pond and feed with Azolla diets. Different fishes have different requirement of fatty acid (Table 1). (Bastien & Benjamin, 2019) [13] Studied the impact of different sources of dietary lipids in Nile tilapia. Fish supplementation with palm oil (PO) and Soya oil, (SO) had a higher concentration of 18: 2n - 6, while fish fed with the liver oil (LO) diet had a higher level of 18: 3n - 3 and those who received the fish oil (FO) diet had more 22: 6n - 3 than to those supplemented with vegetable oils. Zhang *et al.* (2020) [14] decided the profile of unsaturated fat organizations of freshwater fish. Unsaturated fat arrangements comprised of 60.12% to 97.14% soaked unsaturated fats (SFA), 0.90% to 19.28% monounsaturated unsaturated fats (MUFA) and 1.17% to 18.35% polyunsaturated unsaturated fats (PUFA). Zhang *et al.* (2020) [14] determined the protein content of *Tilapia zillii* and *Clarias gariepinus* as 19.0% and 18.8% (% wet weight), respectively. The all out lipid content was high for *C. gariepinus* (9.3%) and low for *T. zillii* (1.1%). Most elevated extents were palmitic corrosive (C16: 0, 22.0-32.2%), myristic corrosive (C14: 0, 4.2-5.2%), palmitoleic corrosive (C16: 1, 3.6-13.2%), heptadecanoic corrosive (C17: 0, 0.7-3.0%), stearic corrosive (C18: 0, 8.1-9.5%), linoleic corrosive (C18: 2, 1.4-12.3%) and oleic corrosive (C18: 1). Erondü & Akpoilih. (2010) [16] studied that palmitic acid was the most abundant fatty acid in *L. rohita*, from 32% to 46% (Table 2).

#### Effect of Stocking Density on Serum cortisol and Enzymes

Serum cortisol level is an essential indicator of stress response in fishes (Swapna *et al.*, 2010) [17] and it indicates that increasing biomass tend to increase stress (Swapna *et al.*, 2010; Wang *et al.*, 2018) [17, 18]. Anti-stress response, serum level was increased for energy mobilization and Lactate dehydrogenase was used for energy production to resist external stimulation (Jabeen & Chaudhry, 2011; Zarkasi *et al.*, 2016) [19, 20]. At higher biomass the antioxidant and digestive capacities of fish tend to decrease. As a result the

intestinal microstructures showed inflammation; the numbers of Clostridium, Bactericides, Lactococcus, Lactobacillus and Bacillus decreased significantly, whereas those of Acinetobacter, Aeromonas, Pseudomonas and Vibrio increased significantly (Wong and Rawals, 2012) [31]. Lipid usually store in subcutaneous tissue, belly flap, muscle tissue, liver, mesenteric tissue, and the head but it may vary according to fish species (Sun *et al.*, 2006) [32]. Palmitic (C16:0) and myristic (C14:0) acids followed by stearic acid are major saturated fatty acids in fish lipids whereas oleic and palmitoleic acids are major monounsaturated fatty acids (MUFA) (Nair *et al.*, 2010) [33]. The digestive enzyme, such as lipase, trypsin, and amylase had been reduced with higher number of fish stocked per unit area and the immune associated enzymes, which include lysozyme, also reduced within side the excessive density institution (Nair *et al.*, 2010) [33] (Table 4). *Gilthead seabream, Sparus aurata* juveniles stock with high biomass indicates that plasma cortisol level tend to increase. Similar results have been described for *Atlantic salmon, Salmo salar* (Nayak, 2010; She *et al.*, 2019) [34, 35] *Plecoglossus altivelis* (Kwetegyeka *et al.*, 2008; Orsavova *et al.*, 2018) [36, 37]. The trypsin, amylase, and lipase activities of shrimp drastically reduced with growth in stocking density. Nonspecific immune signs reduced drastically with growth in density, however there have been no significant variations in phrases of the total haemocyte count (THC), phenoloxidase activity (PO), lysozyme (LZM), catalase (CAT), and superoxide dismutase (SOD) (Donga *et al.*, 2018) [38]. High biomass had a negative impact at the fitness and welfare of aquaculture fish as well (Sirakov *et al.*, 2011) [39]. In particular, high densities could increase stress which causes susceptibility of disease, elevated prevalence of physical injuries (Costas *et al.*, 2007) [40] (Table 3).

Poor body condition, and lessen in growth rate as well feed consumption due to high biomass of fish. High stocking density produced a decrease in hepatosomatic index (from 2.26 down to 2.04) and altered liver fatty acid composition. Oleic acid (18: 1n-9) decreased in liver total lipids of fish held at high stocking density and arachidonic acid (20: 4-n6) and  $n-3$  high unsaturated fatty acids ( $n-3$  HUFA) were reduced in liver polar lipids of those fish. These alterations reflect the effect of high biomass on lipid metabolism to help meet the increased energy demand (Montero *et al.*, 2009) [41]. Oxidative strain is an unavoidable thing of aquatic life, especially in aquaculture, and the oxidative harm of tissues is without delay related to growth, welfare, fitness and production (Sevcikova *et al.*, 2011) [42]. ROS can purpose oxidation of proteins and lipids, changes in gene expression (Grodji *et al.*, 2002; Ahmedabad *et al.*, 2001) [45] [46]. (Łuczynska *et al.*, 2014) [47] observed that fish held at excessive stocking densities led to remarkably depressed hepatic CAT, SOD and GSH-Px. Fish oils is considered as important sources of omega-3 fatty acids (Mohanty *et al.*, 2016) [48] especially docosahexaenoic acid (DHA) and eicosapentaenoic acid (EPA) which lessen the risk of coronary heart diseases (Łukasik and Pecka, 2017) [49].

**Table 1:** Fatty acids requirements of different fish species

Fish Species	Requirements of fatty acids (%)	References
Rainbow trout ( <i>Oncorhynchus mykiss</i> )	Linolenic 1%	[54]
Sea bass ( <i>Dicentrarchus labrax</i> )	Linolenic 0.8%	[54]
Sea bream ( <i>Sparus aurata</i> )	EPA + DHA 0.4–0.5%	[54]
Common carp ( <i>Cyprinus carpio</i> )	Linoleic 1%; linolenic 0.5–1%	[54]
<i>Lates calcarifer</i>	n-3/n-6 1.5–1.8	[49]
Grass carp ( <i>Ctenopharyngodon idella</i> )	Linoleic 1%; linolenic 0.5%	[54]
Tilapia ( <i>Tilapia zilli</i> )	Linoleic 1%; arachidonic 1%	[54]
Tilapia ( <i>Oreochromis niloticus</i> )	Linoleic 0.5%	[54]
Red sea bream ( <i>Pagrus major</i> )	n-3 HUFA at a ratio of 0.5	[15]
African catfish	n-3 PUFA (11.05%)	[16]

**Table 2:** Fatty acid content (mg/100 g) in the muscle tissue of different fish species cultures in marine and fresh water

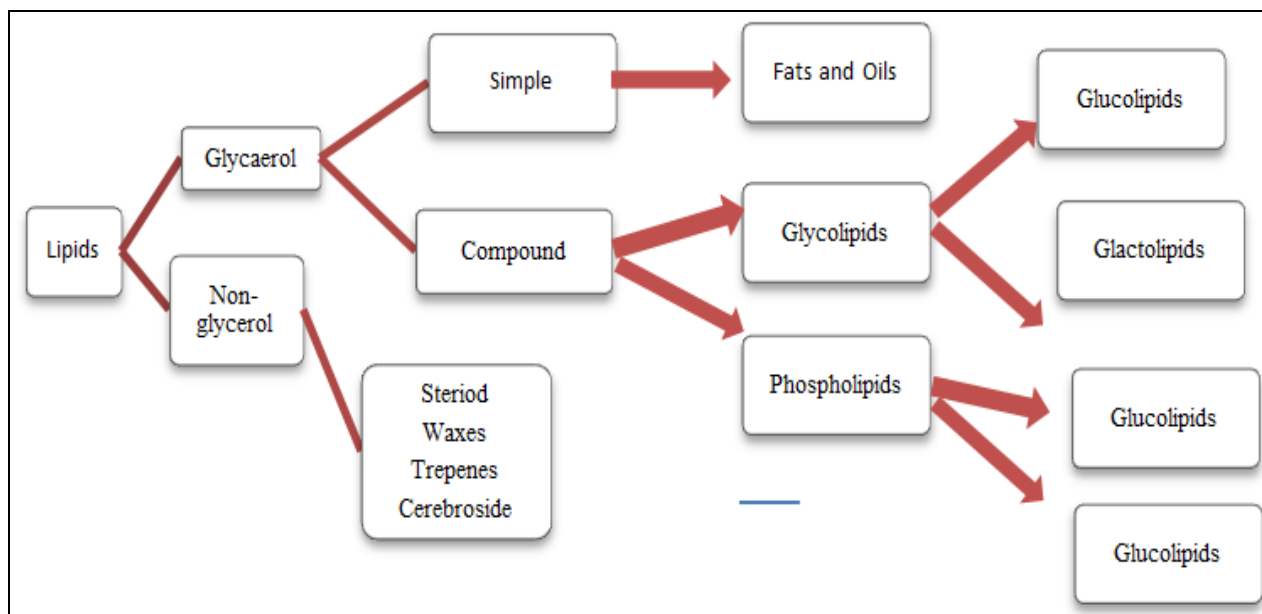
#	Fatty Acid (%)	<i>Labeo rohita</i> [19]	<i>C. carpio</i> [19]	Tilapia [50]	<i>Pangasius</i> [50]	<i>O. mykiss</i> [51]	<i>T. putitora</i> [51]	Grass carp [52]	Bighead carp [52]
1	Caproic	0.03	0.79	0.03	-	0.56	0.12	0.30	0.25
2	Caprylic	0.20	0.27	-	-	-	-	-	-
3	Capric	-	0.02	-	-	-	-	-	0.02
4	Undecanoate	0.007	0.05	-	-	-	-	0.04	0.10
5	Lauric	0.13	0.51	0.11	0.44	0.6	0.5	0.02	0.07
6	Tridecanoate	0.52	0.60	-	-	0.1	0.0	1.76	2.50
7	Myristic	3.17	3.28	2.99	3.70	3.5	5.0	0.28	0.64
8	Pentadecanoic	1.42	1.65	0.46	0.24	0.3	0.6	24.66	21.15
9	Palmitic	32.41	32.96	27.96	29.19	21.8	31.6	0.42	0.63
10	Heptadecanoic	2.30	3.34	0.50	0.26	0.5	0.5	5.48	4.69
11	Stearic	8.19	11.24	6.65	8.14	7.6	9.6	0.15	0.20
12	Arachidic	0.40	0.17	0.26	0.22	-	4.5	0.13	0.05
13	Heneicosanoic	0.17	0.13	0.14	-	-	-	-	-
14	Behenic	0.67	0.31	-	-	-	0.4	0.02	0.01
15	Tricosanoic	0.80	0.11	-	-	-	-	-	-
16	Lignoceric	0.12	0.23	0.32	-	0.21	-	1.80	-

**Table 3:** Pathological effects of oxidized fish oil of different fish species

Fish Species	Pathological Effects	References
Tilapia ( <i>O. niloticus</i> )	Marked congestion, with some haemorrhage, in dermal vessels around snout and at bases of pectoral/ dorsal fins, lordosis, exophthalmia, abdominal swelling (oedema), cataract, orbital collapse, increased mortality	[53]
Chinook salmon ( <i>O. tshawytscha</i> )	Dark body colouring, anaemia, lethargy, abnormal kidney and evidence of gill clubbing	[55]
Channel catfish ( <i>I. punctatus</i> )	Poor growth, poor food conversion efficiency, increased mortality, exudative diathesis, muscular dystrophy, depigmentation, fatty livers	[56]
Yellow tail ( <i>S. quinquerediata</i> )	Reduced growth, swollen liver, decreased lipid deposition ; anorexia, leaning of dorsal muscle, muscular dystrophy	[57]
Tilapia ( <i>O. niloticus</i> )	Swollen pale liver, fatty liver	[58]
Rainbow trout ( <i>S. gairdneri</i> )	Reduce growth ; poor food conversion efficiency; microcytic anaemia; reduced haematocrit and haemoglobin content, liver lipid degeneration	[59]

**Table 4:** Hepatic alanine aminotransferase (ALT), aspartate transaminase (AST), alkaline phosphatase (AKP), cortisol (COR), 5-hydroxytryptamine (5-HT), and glucose (GLU) values of different fish species under high and low biomass

Fish Species	<i>O. niloticus</i>		<i>Blunt snout bream juveniles</i>		<i>Largemouth Bass</i>		<i>Palaemonetes sinensis</i>	
	Low Density [38]	High Density [38]	Low Density [60]	High Density [60]	Low Density [42]	High Density [42]	Low Density [45, 46]	High Density [45, 46]
ALT (U g <sup>-1</sup> prot)	93.04	168.58	10.86	13.62	13.02	38.45	8.57	63.10
AST (U g <sup>-1</sup> prot)	59.52	70.76	83.5	95.04	130.77	140.10	24.19	54.61
GLU (mmol g <sup>-1</sup> prot)	7.64	3.62	9.77	6.98	8.03	6.08	---	---
COR (ng mg <sup>-1</sup> prot)	5.99	2.72	26.07	32.06	8.5	8.95	---	---



**Fig 1:** Classification of lipids which are essential for fish growth and metabolism

### Conclusion

These results showed that the rearing density has a significant influence on fish growth and results in social hierarchy (bottom settled over swimming) at high density that further causes higher cortisol levels and lower growth rates in low rank individuals.

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