

Pond Grow-out of Freshwater Prawn with Different Feed and Feed Protein Levels

Ben Posadas, Christine Walters and David Long



TREATMENT	DAYS 1-30	DAYS 31-60	DAYS 61-120
A	CSM	CCF 32	CCF 32
B	CSM	CCF 32	SF 35
C	CSM	CCF 32	SF 40
D	CSM	SF 35	SF 35

CSM - COTTON SEED MEAL
 CCF - CHANNEL CATFISH FEED, SINKING, PELLET
 SF - SHRIMP FEED, SINKING, EXTRUDED
 Both diets were manufactured by Farmland Feed



The objective of this experiment was to determine the effects of different protein contents on the survival, count, yield and feed conversion of freshwater prawns raised in ponds. Twelve ponds consisting of 3 control ponds and 9 treatment ponds were used in the experiment. Each pond was stocked in June 15, 2000 with 4,500 30-day-old juveniles weighing 0.15 g each and harvested after 120 culture days. Prawns in 3 control ponds were fed with 32% protein sinking pelletized catfish feed (CCF32) from day 31 until harvest time. The first 3 treatment ponds were fed with CCF32 from day 31 to day 60 and with 35% protein sinking extruded shrimp feed (SF35) from day 61 until harvest time. A second set of 3 treatment ponds was fed with CCF32 during the second period and with 40% protein sinking extruded shrimp feed (SF40) during the final period. The final set of 3 treatment ponds was fed with SF35 from day 31 until harvest time. Feeding schedules were prepared for 3 feeding periods: first 30 days, second 30 days and last 60 days. A daily ration of cottonseed meal was provided during the first 30 days at a rate of 20 lb/acre. Feed was broadcast along 4 sides of each of the 12 ponds twice daily, around 8-9 A.M. and 4-5 P.M. Dissolved oxygen and temperature were monitored daily while salinity, pH, ammonia and nitrite were measured on a biweekly basis. Experimental results showed that the use of different feed protein levels did not have any significant effects on prawn survival rate, count, yield and feed conversion. Prawn yield averaged 1,049 kg/ha or 936 lb/ac. The average survival rate was 51% with wider fluctuations in ponds fed with SF35 and SF40. Prawn count averaged 22 prawns/kg or 10 prawns/lb. Gross feed conversion ratio was 3.5 kgs of feed per kg of prawn produced. Using these experimental results in a hypothetical single-enterprise commercial freshwater prawn farm consisting of 50, 2-acre ponds, the average cost of production is about \$3.40/lb or \$7.50/kg, if prawns are fed with CCF32.

