Dietary Protein Levels in Formulated Feed for Eeltail Catfish

*Plotosus canius* (Hamilton-Buchanan)

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Abstract

An optimum dietary protein level for Eeltail Catfish (*Plotosus canius*) was evaluated by using 4 formulated feeds containing different dietary protein at 36, 40, 44 and 48% and gross energy at 439, 410, 409 and 404 Kcal/100 grams diet in diet 1-4, respectively. They were compared with trash fish feeding groups (diet 5). Twenty fish with initial weight of 5 grams each were raised in 180-L aquaria and fed with experimental diets at 5-7% of body weight twice daily at 09.00 A.M. and 16.00 P.M. for 12 weeks. At the end of feeding trial, mean body weight and weight gain of experimental fish from treatment 1-5 were 15.95, 19.83, 19.26, 19.71 and 20.49 grams and 219.87, 296.83, 278.95, 291.22 and 306.67 %, respectively. Mean body weight and weight gain of fish fed with dietary protein levels of 40-48% were significantly better than those of fish fed 36% protein but were not significant different from those on trash fish feeding groups. Feed conversion ratio of fish fed 4 formulated feeds (2.58, 2.73, 3.17 and 2.58) were significantly better than that of fish fed trash fish (9.42) (p<0.05). Survival rates were not significant different (p>0.05) among treatments and varied between 98-100%. It can conclude from the result that the optimum dietary protein for *P. canius* was 40%.

Keywords: Eeltail catfish, *Plotosus canius*, protein levels

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