

# AN ASSESSMENT OF WATER QUALITY IN INTEGRATED POULTRY- CUM - FISH RESERVOIR, NIFFR NEW- BUSSA

IN REFERENCE TO  
MAXIMIZING THE WATER RESOURCES POTENTIAL OF NIGERIA FOR SUSTAINABLE  
AQUACULTURE

UNDER THE SUB- THEME  
"FISH PRODUCTION AND THE ENVIRONMENT

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## ABSTRACT

*In this reservoir, the parameters being assessed are very important in the aspect of fish culture. There parameters are: physical parameters which includes temperature. (O), Transparency (M). Chemical parameters include: Dissolve oxygen ( mg/l ) pH concentration and the Biological Parameters which include phytoplankton and zooplankton. The phytoplankton and zooplankton identification and estimation were carried out in the NIFFR Limnology Laboratory, (Green House), New Bussa. Each identified zooplankton and phytoplankton species was placed according to its major group e.g. zooplankton was grouped into three families, ROTIFERA, CLADOCERA and COPEPODS. During this study period it was observed that copepods that copepods have the highest total number of zooplankton both beside the poultry and monk (station 'A' & 'B'). Water temperature of station 'A' (beside the poultry house) range form. 27o C – 29 5 c also same station 'B' (near the monk). Dissolve oxygen station 'A' range form 6.30 mg /l – 7.40 mg/ l while that of station 'B' range from 6.20 mg/ 7.50 mg/ l, turbidity reading of station 'A' ranges from 0.19m – 0.3m while station 'B' ranges from 0. 22m –0 37m. The last parameter, which is pH concentration, in both stations 8.2 was observed this is an indication that the pH was constant. According to some literature review all the water parameters figures obtained were good for fish culture.*

## SOURCES OF WATER AND FERTILIZERS USED FOR AQUACULTURE IN NIGERIA

Recent diagnostic survey of aquacultural systems in Nigeria shows that water used by aquaculturists in Nigeria is obtained from the following sources as indicated on Table 1. These waters have various types of qualities, which will affect fish production and fish health. The collection of the first rainfall in the year for aquacultural purposes may contain a high percentage of carbonic acid and suspended solids, water from borehole may contain poisonous gases and heavy metals, tap water may contain a high concentration of chlorine that may be injurious to brood stock and their fries, while water from lakes and reservoirs may contain high concentration of floating and suspended algae and/or gases that will have adverse effects on the fish production. It is therefore necessary to monitor the quality of these waters before being used for fish culture and when they are being used for culture purposes because these culture systems are fertilized in order to obtain the required fish production.

The results from the recent diagnostic survey also identified the types of fertilizers and supplementary feed that are being used in aquacultural system in this country. Table 2. Although these fertilizers and feed improve the production in the culture systems there are situations where excess or wrong use of these fertilizers and feed have adverse effects on the quality of the culture water such as eutrophication, and its turbid effect on water transparency and disturbance in absorption of oxygen by the culture medium, decomposition and production of poisonous gases such as carbon dioxide, hydrogen sulphide and methane. A notable observation was made during the recent National Diagnostics survey in the South – West zone where pond in Poultry integrated fish culture system received excess poultry waste to the extent that the pond surface was covered with algal scum which had once resulted in mass fish deaths in these ponds. It is therefore necessary to monitor the water quality of the culture medium for the objective indicated above.

### **WATER QUALITY FACTORS**

Water quality factors can be classified into Physical, chemical and Biological. The factors under each of these classifications are so many but in this presentation I will concentrate on the major factors in each group of classification for this discussion. These are:

- (i) Physical factors such as water temperature, suspended solids, turbidity and dissolved gases such as oxygen, carbon dioxide and ammonia.
- (ii) Chemical factors such as pH, total dissolved solids or conductivity, organic and inorganic fertilizers and pesticides.
- (iii) Biological factors such as bacteria, especially the faecal coliforms, plankton eutrophication and parasites.

The methods for assessing these factors will be treated during the practical session but at this point in this lecture is necessary to highlight the limiting levels of these factors that are favourable for successful aquacultural production as indicated on Table 3. If however a fish farmer overshoots any of these limits it may be necessary to apply the following precautions to restore the water quality of the culture medium to a favourable level.

### **PRECAUTIONS FOR BETTER WATER QUALITY**

**WATER TEMPERATURE:** Try to retain water temperature between 27-32°C for fish eggs to hatch within 24-48 hours and also for fry, fingerlings and bloodstock to feel healthy.

**TURBIDITY:** avoid using turbid water for fish farming. Turbidity as a result of fine clay particles or algal blooms should be avoided. Turbidity from clay particles can be removed by storing the turbid water in a tank, apply alum and allow particles to settle over 24 hours then use the clear water for fish farming. Algal blooms can be avoided by applying recommended dosage of fertilizer (60kg/ha at bi-weekly intervals for inorganic fertilizer and 225 to 567kg/ha for organic fertilizer) to culture medium, by filtering water supply, contain the bloom or applying 0.1 to 0.5mg/l copper sulphate to the bloom water in a tank to control the bloom and the clear water can be used for fish culture. This rate is applicable for total alkalinity up to 50mg/l but concentrations higher than this may require 1.0gm/l copper sulphate or more.

### **TRANSPARENCY**

High turbidity resulting from clay particles or algal blooms reduces water transparency and diffusion of oxygen into the culture medium at the air/water interphase. Low turbidity with

high water transparency should be encouraged as indicated on Table 3.

**DISSOLVED OXYGEN AND B.O.D** Eutrophication and its effect high oxygen demand and disturbance in the diffusion of air into the culture medium from the atmosphere should be avoided. Over fertilization of pond with organic and inorganic fertilizer could result in decomposition of excess fertilizers and production of poisonous gases such as  $\text{CO}_2$ ,  $\text{H}_2\text{S}$ , and  $\text{NH}_3$  etc. The increase in the concentration of these gases will reduce the dissolved oxygen content of the culture medium and increase the Biological Oxygen demand (B.O.D) of the medium. Thus dissolved oxygen content is inversely related to B.O.D.

**PH:** High pH levels in the alkaline range and low pH levels in the acidic range as indicated in Table 3 should be avoided in the culture medium. At low pH level, application of lime ( $\text{CaSO}_4$ ) or alum ( $\text{AlSO}_4$ ) can be applied to bring down the pH from high alkaline level to an acceptable level.

**DISSOLVED SOLIDS:** This is the concentration of nutrients in the culture medium and it should be monitored more specially its effect on phytoplankton blooms and aquatic macrophysics especially the resultant effect on oxygen depletion, decomposition and B.O.D. Similar monitoring needs to be carried out on total phosphate and nitrate contents of the culture medium for the same reasons.

**PESTICIDES:** Pollution of aquacultural systems through the use of pesticides should be prevented by applying the following precautions.

- (i) Avoid sitting fish ponds in areas with residual pesticides or herbicides in the soil
- (ii) Avoid locating fish farms in agricultural farms where these chemicals are routinely and intensively used.
- (iii) In situations where these chemicals have to be used, direct drainage of runoff into the fish farms must be avoided by rechanelization of the runoff water.
- (iv) Crops planted on embankment of fish ponds must not be sprayed.
- (v) Application of these chemicals in the vicinity of fishponds must be delayed until the wind is blowing away from the fishpond.

**FAECAL COLIFORM BACTERIA:** Eutrophication and decomposition of large quantity of organic matter in the culture medium, which could result in large quantity of coliform bacteria in the culture medium, should be avoided in order to reduce incidence of bacterial infections and fish disease.

**CONCLUSION:** High quality water with the necessary water quality parameters in the recommended levels are some of the major factors that will promote successful fish farming.

**Table 1: Sources of water used for aquaculture in Nigeria.**

- a) Rainfall
- b) Rivers, streams

- c) Lakes and Reservoirs
- d) Boreholes and wells
- e) Tap water
- f) Spring water
- g) Run-off
- h) Mining padlock

**Table 2:Types of fertilizers and supplementary feed used in aquacultural systems in Nigeria**

- a) Fertilizer: Organic
  - (i) Cow dung
  - (ii) Poultry manure
  - (iii) Pig Manure
 Inorganic
  - i) N.P.K.
  - ii) Ammonia
  - iii) Urea
  - iv) Super phosphate
  
- b) Supplementary feed:
  - i) Pelleted feed
  - ii) Mill sweeping
  - iii) Rice bran
  - iv) Maize bran
  - v) Wheat offals
  - vi) Brewery waste
  - vii) Kitchen waste
  - viii) Palm kernel cake
  - ix) Blood meal
  - x) Crayfish dust
  - xi) Cassava peel
  - xii) Soya bean
  - xiii) Growers mash
  - xiv) Chunked boiled dead chicken

	CULTURE) 100-90 70 69-50 EXC GOOD MED	89-	49-25 BAD	24-0 VERY BAD	
Water Temperature	25 – 32oC ±0.75	to	0-24.90c ±5.0 to ±8.5	as above	For tropical fish culture
Temperature	±0.75		34-75	as above	
Turbidity in JTU	±3.0			75	
Secchi disc transparency	0-3 3.14		34-76	0- 30cm	(When plankton bloom causes turbidity).
Dissolved oxygen % Saturation)	15-35 60cm 60cm and above	30 -		Below 5.0mg/Lit 33-0 above	
B.O.D <sub>5</sub> mg/l			34-54 6-12.5	12.5 above	
PH units	12-5mg/lit		5-5.7	4.9-0	
Total solids mg/l	54-67		376-500	above	
Total phosphate (ms PO <sub>4</sub> ) mg/l	80-120 68-79		0.61-2.4	500 above	
Nitrate (as NO <sub>3</sub> ) mg/l	54-67 0-1.5		10.1-35	2.41 above	
Pesticides	1.5-3.5 3.5-6			35 Greater than 0.1mg/l	
Faecal coliforms 100ml.	6.8-7.5 6/4-6.7 3.5-6 0-22 0-225 226-375 0-0.2 0.21-0.3 0.31-0.6 0-2 2.1-7.5 7.6-10 Less than 0.1mg/l (100ppb)		(100ppb) 600-500	above 500	
	1-1.8 1.8-9 9-60				

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