Short Communication

Effects of intermittent feeding regimes on growth performance and economic benefits of Amur catfish

Gladys Mwaka Holeh

ABSTRACT: A study was conducted to determine the growth performance and economic viability of culturing Amur Catfish (Silurus asotus) using four different feeding regimes: Every-day feeding (EDF), Every two-days feeding (ETDF), Tertian feeding (TF) and Quartan feeding (QF) for 65 days. Twenty fingerlings of sizes between 2-3 grams each were randomly distributed in 12 glass aquaria and assigned to each of the feeding regime in triplicates. Fish were fed on commercial feed (Woosung feed) containing 50% crude protein. Highest specific growth rates (SGR) (5.15 ±0.06%) was recorded in EDF with significance differences in all treatments (P 0.05). Feed conversion ratio (FCR) was significantly lower in TF (P 0.05) while survival rate ranged from 83.33% to 96.67% and was not significantly different among the treatments (P > 0.05). The length-weight relationship (LWR) analysis indicated that the regression slope b values were not significantly different (P > 0.05) among the treatments. Partial enterprise budget analysis of S. asotus using different feeding regimes indicated that net returns above total costs were significantly higher in EDF (P 0.05). This shows that every day feeding to satiation is the best feeding regime to be adopted for economic benefits of rearing Amur catfish.

Kenya Marine & Fisheries Research Institute, Kenya