

Management and feeding strategies for successful nursery systems

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Intensive Nursery Systems

High biosecurity systems for post-larvae grown at high densities from 2 mg to sizes as large as 3 g, resulting in healthy, strong and uniform juveniles with significant potential for compensatory growth after transfer to the growout system.







Images from T. Samocha



Advantages of Nursery Systems

- Greater control of diet, feed management, and water quality
- Faster growth
- Production of bigger and stronger juveniles with better survival and high potential for compensatory growth
- Indoor rearing systems allow early stocking of PLs during cold seasons to provide an initial advantage in growth



Advantages of Nursery Systems

- Management Strategy for WSSV by maintaining nursery temperatures above 30 ° C during seasons when temperatures in ponds are low
- A more developed immune system
- AHPNS Management Strategy: Allows stocking of large juveniles, with better resistance to AHPNS
- More efficient use of growout ponds by shortening the growout cycle, resulting in more crops per year



Disadvantages of Nursery Systems

- Increased handling of shrimp
- As stocking density goes up and water exchange is decreased, higher organic loading increases risk
- Less tolerant of <u>operator and system failures</u>
- Higher infrastructure, operations cost and labor requirement
 - Requires trained biologists
 - Higher construction costs than conventional pond systems
- Transfer related stress





- Lined ponds covered by plastic greenhouses or roofs suspended by cables.
- > Area: 300 7500 m²
- Shape:
 - Rectangular continuous rotating current around a central baffle
 - Square or round typically with circular flow around a central drain. Facilitates capture and elimination of solid wastes.
- Stocking densities: 500 10,000 PLs / m³
- ➤ Harvest size: 0.3 3 g
- ➤ Harvest biomass: 1 3 kg/m3



Design Criteria

Raceway

- Efficient utilization of space in the greenhouse
- Depending on materials may be expensive to build



Round Tanks

- Central drain facilitates removal of solid wastes
- Inexpensive to build and easy to manage; inefficient space utilization













Water Supply and Treatment

- The water source should be as clean as possible
- Can be pumped into reservoirs for treatment or directly into production systems
- Initial filtration through a sand filter
- Chlorination 20 ppm
- De-chlorination by aeration, thiosulfate or Vitamin C
- Ozonation is optional
- Final filtration 5-50 micron cartridge filter



Equipment

Aeration

- Blowers/tubing, pump/venturi, paddlewheels
- Maintain resuspension of organics

Water circulation

> Airlifts, venturis, paddlewheels, AerO₂

Backup Systems

Sensors, alarms, backup for power failure







Images from T. Samocha



PL Source

PL quality and health is critical

- PL from a genetic selection program
- PL should be free from excludable pathogens
- PL resistant or tolerant to local pathogens
- PL genetically selected for growth, and high survival and yield in the culture environment where they will be grown



OIE Guidelines WSSV

- With no host, WSSV is viable in pond water for at least 3–4 days
- The best life stage for detection is late PL stages, juveniles and adults





Quality Assurance

The farmer should be responsible for carrying out:

- Verification of PL counts
- Determination of the average weight and coefficient of variation of the PLs stocked
- PCR testing for excludable pathogens
- Hatchery source evaluation
- Microscopic observations
- Stress tests



Figure 8. Postlarval blue shrimp (*Penaeus stylirostris*) with vibriosis. Necrosis of several appendages (pleopods and pereiopods) is indicated by melanized foci or tips. A dark oral region is indicative of bacterial colonization of the cuticle of the oesophagus and mouth appendages. Wet-mount; no stain. Magnification 50X. Photo courtesy of DV Lightner, University of Arizona, Aquaculture Pathology Laboratory.



Stocking

- Water should be prepared with a stable bloom before stocking
- Acclimation for temperature and salinity
- Feed should be in the system as the animals are added
- Overfeed 5x the first two days from proven feeding tables
- Feeds used in hatchery should make up at least half of the daily feed requirements of transferred animals for at least the first three days.
- Quantify transport mortality
 - Stock animals on a tray or in a small net cage in tank



Biofloc Technology

In the last 10 years biofloc technology has become commonly used in intensive shrimp culture systems.The technology offers some big advantages:

- Potential for controlling nitrogenous wastes without need for water exchange or external biofilters
- The floc contributes to the nutrition of the shrimp
- Diverse microbial community displaces pathogens
- Maintain oxygen >4ppm and complete resuspension of organic matter



Misconceptions about Bioflocs

- Myth: "Biofloc systems are zero exchange systems"
 Truth: Limited exchange for removal of excess biofloc is required to keep these systems stable
- Myth: "You have to add molasses or sugar to maintain a biofloc"
 - Truth: One can manage biofloc systems with little or no sugar or molasses . Bioflocs maintained with less sugar input are often more stable.



Control of Nitrogenous Wastes

- Nitrogenous wastes are controlled through the managementof bacterial populations in the water.
- > There are two major classes of bacteria:
 - Autotrophic bacteria (nitrifying bacteria): Use inorganic nitrogen (NH4 and NO2) for protein synthesis
 - Heterotrophic bacteria: Use both organic and inorganic sources of nitrogen) to the protein synthesis
- Both exist in the floc; the ratio is determined by the C: N ratio
- Adding molasses or sugar raises the C:N ratio and increases the proportion of heterotrophic bacteria. But this also results in increased oxygen demand, and higher TSS levels.



Establishing a Biofloc

Recommendation of Dr. Samocha:

- Add a probiotic like EZ Bio daily, beginning before the start of the production cycle.
- At the start of the production cycle, add sugar in proportion to the amount of feed added (30%)
- Measure all forms of nitrogen (NH₄-N, NO₂-N, NO₃-N) daily.
 When nitrate appears, gradually begin decreasing the amount of sugar added, eliminating it in about 5-7 days.
- Doing this results in a biofloc composed of both heterotrophic bacteria and autotrophic bacteria – a Mixotrophic System
- Mixotrophic Systems are more stable with lower TSS levels and lower oxygen demand



Carbon Additions

Estimate nitrogen according to feed protein
 Feed CP content (%) 35 40 45 50
 TAN into system (g) 28 32 36 40
 1 kg of 50% CP feed = 40 g of TAN

Determine the proportion of ammonia to be made available to the heterotrophic bacteria

 1 kg of 50% CP feed =- 40 x 0.5 = 20 g TAN

 Assume C:N ratio of 6:1 for assimilation

 20 x 6 = 120 g C



Carbon Additions

 Divide carbon demand by the proportion of carbon in the particular carbon source
 White sugar = 42.1% C
 120 ÷ 0.421 = 285 g sugar per kg feed

Carbon Source	% Carbon
Cellulose (C ₆ H ₁₀ O ₅) or Starches	44.4
Glucose (C ₆ H ₁₂ O ₆)	40.0
Molasses (~50% sucrose- C ₁₂ H ₂₂ O ₁₁)	24 - 37.5



Probiotics

Primary benefits

- Water treatment
 - Digestion of organic material
 - Reduction of ammonia levels
 - Initiation of the biofloc
- Disease control
 - Production of antimicrobial agents
 - Exclusion of pathogens



The Key to Success

The key to intensive nursery success:



Feed Management



Feed Drives the System





Feed Drives the System





Precision Feeding

Precision Feeding Concept:

Provide each Animal with:

- > the exact quantity of feed that it can consume,
- when the animal is ready to consume it,
- the exact nutrition that the animal requires,
- > the correct feed particle sizes and optimum texture,
- In the location where the animal is located

"With the objective to optimize the desired results"



Elements of a Successful Feed Program

> Nutrients

- The feed should contain all the nutrients required by the shrimp, in the required quantities
- Feed physical characteristics
 - Optimal size of particles
 - Water Stability
 - Palatability
- Feeding Methods



Good Nutrition



Success





Diet Formulation

- Specialized ZBI raceway feed formulations
- Pond grower feeds inadequate
- Concentrated balance of essential nutrients
- Palatable, very digestible
- Void of toxins and anti-nutritionals
- Support health
 - Immune system balance
 - Stress management





Feed Physical Characteristics

- Particle size and uniformity depend on shrimp size and uniformity
- Freshness check labels for manufacture dates
- Packaged to retain quality, shelf life and palatability
- Water stability adequate to retain nutrients
- Shape and <u>texture</u> as preferred by shrimp
- Proper storage





Specialized Diets Intensive Nursery Systems

- Grower feeds are not adequate
- Specially formulated diets for raceways
- Concentrated nutritional profile allowing reduced feeding necessary to maintain water quality
- Palatable, highly digestible
- No toxins or antinutritionals
- Vpak[®] is added to support animal health and resistance to diseases
 - A balanced immune system
 - Stress management





Nutritional Immunology - Vpak™

Laboratory WSSV Challenge





Driving a Ferrari on a Dirt Road

cars Cuide How do we improve feeding as we improve feed technologies



Overfeeding

- Overfeeding is a very common mistake with very serious consequences, including:
 - Increases floc and bacteria populations
 - Increases requirements for probiotics
 - Increases oxygen demand, CO₂ production
 - Increases ammonia and nitrite production
 - Sludge accumulation, toxic hydrogen sulfide



Traditional Feed Tables

Traditionally, producers have used feed tables based on the concept of % Biomass/Day:

Feed Amount = Biomass x % Biomass/day

- These tables were developed empirically for a single set of conditions
- They are not based on the biology of shrimp growth
- When conditions change, the feed tables are no longer appropriate

Average	Percent		
Weight (g)	Biomass/Day		
0.002	50.0%		
0.005	46.0%		
0.01	42.0%		
0.02	36.0%		
0.03	30.0%		
0.04	22.4%		
0.05	18.0%		
0.06	17.0%		
0.07	16.5%		
0.08	16.0%		
0.09	15.5%		
0.1	15.5%		
0.2	13.0%		
0.3	12.5%		
0.4	12.0%		
0.5	11.6%		
0.6	11.4%		
0.7	11.0%		
0.8	10.8%		
0.9	10.4%		
1	10.2%		
1.25	9.4%		
1.5	8.8%		
1.75	8.4%		
2	7.8%		
2.25	7.4%		
2.5	7.0%		
2.75	6.4%		
3	6.0%		



Feeding is based on Gains and Expected FCR

A better method of calculating growth rates:

- 1. Develop a typical growth curve for the growing conditions
- 2. Calculate the daily weight gain
- Multiply the expected gain by the Population Estimate and Expected Feed Conversion Factor (FCR)

Feed Quantity = Daily Gain x Population x FCR



Exponential Growth Curve

 During the nursery stage the growth is exponential

 Adjust the feeding on a daily basis





Feeding Table is Based on Expected Growth and FCRs

Day of Culture	Survival %	Estimated Population	Average Weight (g)	Predicted Gain/Day (g)	Predicted Daily FCR	Daily Feed Amt - Dry Wt (kg)
1	100%	500,000	0.003	0.001	0.71	5
2	95%	472,500	0.004	0.001	0.71	5
3	94%	470,000	0.005	0.002	0.72	5
4	94%	467,500	0.007	0.003	0.74	5
5	93%	465,000	0.010	0.006	0.75	5
6	93%	462,500	0.016	0.009	0.76	5
7	92%	460,000	0.025	0.016	0.78	6
8	92%	457,500	0.041	0.021	0.79	8
9	91%	455,000	0.062	0.027	0.80	10
10	91%	452,500	0.089	0.033	0.81	12
11	90%	450,000	0.122	0.039	0.83	15
12	90%	447,500	0.161	0.044	0.84	17
13	89%	445,000	0.205	0.049	0.85	19
14	89%	442,500	0.254	0.054	0.87	21
15	88%	440,000	0.309	0.060	0.88	23
16	88%	437,500	0.369	0.066	0.89	26
17	87%	435,000	0.435	0.072	0.91	28
18	87%	432,500	0.507	0.079	0.91	31
19	86%	430,000	0.585	0.085	0.92	34
20	86%	427,500	0.670	0.092	0.93	37
21	85%	425,000	0.762	0.098	0.95	0



Zeigler Precision Feed Program[©]

- Growth curve based on the system's history and genetics of animals
- The feeding is based on accurate population projections, gains per day, FCR, and temperature
- Includes a mechanism to adjust the feed rate on the basis of average weight samples, population estimates, adjustments to projected growth per day, and temperature.

Zeigler Precision Feed Program[©]

PL Raceway 40-9

850-1200 μm

0.0

PL Raceway 40-9

850-1200 µm

0.00

0.00

0.00

0.00

0.00

0.00

0.00

0 00

0.00

0.00

0.00

PL Raceway 40-9

1.5 mm

0.0

PL Raceway 40-9

1.5 mm

0.00

0.00

0.00

0.00

0.00

0.00

0.00

0.00

PL Raceway 40-9

2.0 mm

0.0

PL Raceway 40-9

2.0 mm



6/20/2016

6/21/2016

20

21

PL 39

PI 40

80.8%

80.0%

24

24

0.7912

0.8763

100%

100%

30

30

0.0

0.0

0.64

0 70

0.0852

0.0895

0.87

0.88

74.2

0.0

0.00

0.00

0

0

0.85

0.86



Feeding Frequency and Distribution

- Continuous feeding is recommended because:
 - Shrimp eat continuously
 - The feed begins to lose nutritional value very quickly after entering the water column due to leaching of nutrients in the water.
 - Feed at least once per hour, 24 hours per day
- Feed equal amounts per feeding
- It is extremely important to distribute feed in a uniform manner to achieve consistent growth rates and low feed conversions.



Zeigler Feed Trial in Super-Intensive System

¹Texas A&M AgriLife Research Mariculture Lab at Flour Bluff, Corpus Christi, Texas





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Summary of the results of a feed trial in two raceways 100 m³ stocked with P. *vannamei* at a density of 540 PL 4-8 / m3.

RW	Yield (kg/m ³)	Av. Wt. (g)	Survival (%)	FCR	(g/wk)
1	3.43	6.77	97.8	0.73	0.75
2	3.29	6.44	94.6	0.76	0.72

- No water exchange
 - Duration:
- 62 days

• Days 0 – 8:

- EZ Artemia 300-500 microns
- Days 0 28: Raceway Plus (50:15)
- Days 29 62: PL Raceway 40-9

Samocha et al. 2015



Sucesso!





