

WATER QUALITY CRITERIA UNDER TWO TILAPIEA (*ORECHROMIS  
NILOTICUS*) CULTURE METHODS, SEMI-INTENSIVE EARTHEN  
PONDS AND AN INTENSIVE CIRCULAR METAL TANKS

BY

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ABSTRACT

The present work aimed to study the relative effects of two tilapia (*Oreochromis niloticus*) culture methods, semi-intensive earthen ponds and an intensive circular metal tanks, on water quality. The study was conducted in two commercial fish farms in Egypt: El-Amal Semi-Intensive Fish Farm at Kafr El-Sheikh Governorate and Nawa Intensive Fish Farm at El-Qualuobia Governorate.

The results showed that the water quality under the two culture methods studied was suitable for fish raising and production. The dissolved oxygen ranged between 5.0 to 9.6 ppm. The pH values were always on the alkaline side. Total alkalinity was high (over 190 ppm). Moreover, ammonia concentrations did not exceed 0.41 ppm. These values lie beyond the critical degrees.

However, under intensive method the water quality criteria was better than that of semi-intensive earthen ponds. Thus under semi-intensive earthen ponds the rate of water exchange should be increased.

## INTRODUCTION

Fish are aquatic animals that live and feed within a water environment. so bor For best growth, survival and good yield, rearing environment has to meet the requirements of the fish (Krom *et al.*, 1985 ; Essa *etal.*, 1989). Water temperature, oxygen content, salinity and other environmental factors greatly affect fish growth and production (Alabaster and Lloyd, 1984; Siddiqui *et al.*, 1991; and Abdel-Raheem, 1994). Therefore, good fish culture practice, or system is that which could produce a favorable environment.

In tilapia culture, methods of production may be classified according to their objectives into three categories: extensive, semi-intensive and intensive farming, (Spotts, 1983; and Simon, 1992). The first two are usually practiced in earthen ponds. Intensive systems include culture in artificially constructed water tanks made of wood, plastic, metal, fiberglass, cement etc. with varying shapes and sizes according to the design requirements of the species. Productivity is therefore ultimately dependent upon the skillful manipulation of the system and management operation particularly water quality (Huet, 1972; Balarin and Haller, 1982; Mires, 1983 ; Otubusin, 1987)-

In fish culture, generally, water quality is usually defined as the suitability of water for fish growth and survival, and normally governed by the chemical, physical and biological water parameters. And since these parameters are greatly influenced by the culture methods (Jana and Chakrabarti, 1990 ; Rosa and De Assuncao, 1990; Diana *et al.* , 1991; and Yadava and Garg, 1992), therefore, the present work aimed to study the relative effects of two tilapia culture methods, semi-intensive production ponds and an intensive circular metal tanks, on the chemical and physical parameters of the water of experimental tilapia farms.

## MATERIALS AND METHODS

This study was carried out at two commercial fish farms dealing with tilapia culture (*Oreochromis niloticus*) as follows:

1-El-Amal Farm (fig 1) is a commercial fish farm located at El-Hamol town , kafr-El-Sheikh Governorate. The farm has a total area of 14.7 hectares. The and is spe cialized in raising mono-sex (male) tilapia (Oreochromis niloticus) and grey mullet (Mugil cephalus).

The fish were stocked at a rate of 9,500-11,900 fry tilapia and 1,400 fry mullet (M. cepalus) per hectare. The average body weights of fry tilapia and fry mullet were 0.19 g and 0.10g , respectively. The growing period started from March to November, 1992.

An identical fertilization program was applied weekly to all ponds (Table 1). The dosage were as follows: urea (46% nitrogen) 12 kg/ha , superphosphate (45% phosphorus) 24 kg/ha , and chicken manure 360 kg/ha. In addition artificial feeds (Table 2) containing 34.7%-protein were offered to pond fishes at a rate of 3% of the estimated fish body weight for six days a week throughout the experimental period.

Pond water was renewed when needed, especially in summer to avoid sudden drop in dissolved oxygen. Water exchange rate varied from 10-20% per day.

2-Nawa Intensive Fish Farm: The farm is located 25 km north to Cairo and was constructed with German Technology in 1986. The fish culture systems consisted of eight circular galvanized steel tanks (each 150 m<sup>3</sup> ) with concrete foundations (Fig 1). Submersible pumps were used at 35 m depth to supply water from two wells which delivered 30-50 m<sup>3</sup> water/h . Each tank was provided with irrigation and drainage pipes with control valves .All tanks are drained into a drain canal (by a pump) across the main drain pipe (underground) and connected with the drain collecting room The water was aerated by three blowers, two of 2.2 KW and one of 0.6 KW . Air was distributed in each tank through two airlift devices. The farm is specialized in hatching and raising tilapia to fingerlings. Also, the farm completely depended upon artificial diets containg 27% protein.

Water quality criteria (temperature, dissolved oxygen,pH, Salinity, total alkalinity, and un-ionized ammonia) were recorded bi-weekly at 12:00 h noon, in both farms , according to the methods described by The American Public Health Association , 1965.

The analyses of variable water quality parameters were compared by one-way analyses of variance (ANOVA) for both farms according to Steel and Torrie (1980).

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Of great importance is the adaptation of fish to the water quality environmental conditions. The types and amounts of dissolved gases and suspended solids in the habitat must be non-toxic and harmful to fish (Abu-Tubikl, 1979). Furthermore, optimum conditions should be maintained and the results were as follows:

### 1- Temperature:

Water temperature plays an important role in fish farming industry, since it affects survival, growth, and reproduction as well as other vital activities of fishes (Alabaster and Lloyd, 1984).

At the El-Amal Fish Farm, its values ranged from 25.5-29°C with an average of 27.5°C. The data in Table 4 show significant differences ( $p \leq 0.01$ ) between densities. This may be attributed to water depth and primary productivity in ponds.

At Nawa Intensive Fish Farm (intensive culture method) the average water temperature was 22.6°C (12.3-29°C, range) Table 4.

Generally, water temperature was suitable for tilapia culture. Only at El-Nawa Fish Farm, the decreasing water temperatures during November and December influence tilapia growth rate. Behrends *et al.* (1985) stated that water temperature must be at least 22°C for *O. niloticus* growth and spawning. Other workers reported that tilapia ceased growing significantly at temperatures below 20°C, as the optimal temperature for tilapia culture ranged from 25 to 30°C.

### 2-Salinity:

The Salinity of farms water was measured since it affects growth, survival and reproduction of tilapia species. The results, summarized in Table 4, show that the average value of salinity in water ponds under the semi-intensive method was 3.6 ppt (range 2.7-5.4ppt). These levels are low and have no effect on tilapia (*O. niloticus*)

growth and survival. Oreochromis niloticus could withstand salinities up to 35 ppt and thrive and reproduce at salinities of about 13.5 to 29 ppt (Balarin and Haller, 1982; Essa and Salama, 1994). Chervinski (1961) found that at 50% sea water O. niloticus growth rate showed insignificant differences than that grown in fresh water.

Under the intensive tank method, Salinity values ranged from 0.32 to 0.51 ppt with an average of 0.41 ppt. Moreover, the salinity concentration under the tank culture method was lower than that observed under the semi-intensive earthen ponds culture. This may be attributed to the source of water (water wells.).

### 3- pH

The pH of water under the two culture systems were recorded, since its values indicate the suitability of water quality, as it is a result of the interaction between many substances in the water column and many biological phenomena.

Under the semi-intensive culture method the pH ranged from 6.8-8.4 with an average value of 7.75. The results showed insignificant differences between densities. While under the intensive culture method the pH levels were higher, and ranged from 7.2 to 8.2 with an average value of pH 7.8, (Tables 4 and 5). Swingle (1961) reported that the acid and alkaline death points for fish are about pH 4 and pH 11, respectively. Therefore, it could be concluded that the pH levels under the culture systems studied were very suitable for tilapia culture and the higher pH values recorded in this study might be due to excessive photosynthesis.

The results of pH in this work show also highly significant differences due to months ( $P \leq 0.01$ ) and insignificant differences among densities ( $p > 0.01$ ).

### 4-Total alkalinity:

The total alkalinity under the two culture systems were determined. Under the semi-intensive method its values were 143.1 to 352.1 ppm  $\text{Ca CO}_3$  with an average of 251.3. The results in Table 4 show increased values during July and August. This increase may be explained by the increased photosynthetic activity during that period.

Under the intensive method total alkalinity levels were less than the above semi-intensive method. Total alkalinity values under the intensive method were 190.0-248.6 ppm with an average of 218.6 ppm (Table 5).

Although significant differences were found among months and between stocking densities ( $P \leq 0.01$ ) under the semi-intensive method, the corresponding data under the intensive method were insignificant. Boyd and Walley (1975) reported that in fertilized ponds, total alkalinity values in the range of 20-120 mg/l have little effect on fish production, while ponds with total alkalinity of 200-300 mg/l had better effect on fish production and growth (Boyd, 1982). Thus the present results could be considered more suitable for fish farming.

#### 5-Dissolved oxygen:

Dissolved oxygen is considered as one of the most important environmental factors. It is a limiting factor for success or failure in fish culture. The results summarized in Table 4 and Fig 3 show that its values under the semi-culture method ranged from 5.0 to 9.0 ppm with an average value of 6.9 ppm. The results show highly significant ( $P \leq 0.01$ ) differences among months and between stocking densities. The dissolved oxygen content in earthen ponds depends on pond water temperature, quantity of organic matter, aquatic vegetation or phytoplankton (Huet, 1972), fish biomass (Essa *et al.*, 1988) and a rate of water exchange (Essa *et al.*, 1988).

Under the intensive tank method the results in Table 5 and Fig 4 reveal that, dissolved oxygen ranged between 6.1-9.6 ppm with an average of 7.7 ppm. The oxygen content under the intensive method was higher than that under the semi-intensive method due to the artificial aeration and water exchange.

Generally, the dissolved oxygen content under the two culture methods could be considered reasonable compared to the critical level for oxygen concentration (Zohar *et al.*, 1985). The results also showed high values of oxygen content in both methods occurred during cold seasons. This phenomenon was reported by other workers (Sarig, 1971; George, 1975).

### 6-Un-ionized ammonia (NH<sub>3</sub>)

The accumulation of toxic inhibitory metabolites has become a limiting factor in the process of intensification of ponds (Rimor and Shilo, 1982). Un-ionized ammonia is one of fish poisons. It is a major excretory product of fish. It is also produced by the bacterial ammonification process of organic nitrogenous matter in the pond (Shilo and Rimor, 1982). Ammonia is highly toxic and greatly affect fish growth (Boyd, 1982), and its toxicity increases by other factors as oxygen concentration (Colt and Armstrong, 1979). So, in the present study ammonia concentration was recorded.

Under the semi-intensive method the ammonia levels varied from 0.009 to 0.408 ppm with an average of 0.147 ppm. Moreover, ammonia concentration increased during July and August. This may be attributed to increasing water temperatures (Boyd, 1982; Krom *et al.*, 1985). The results presented in Table 4 and Fig 3 showed also highly significant differences in ammonia concentration among months and densities ( $P \leq 0.01$ ) This might be due to high excretory fish product and other organic matter.

On the other hand, under the intensive tank method the ammonia levels were often less than 0.1 ppm with highly significant differences ( $p \leq 0.01$ ) between months and densities (Table 5 and Fig4). Its levels varied between 0.02 and 0.13 ppm with an average value of 0.087 ppm. This may be attributed to excessive feeding and/or inadequate cleaning of tanks. Ernst *et al.* (1989) found that total ammonia varied from 0.01 to 0.40 ppm in fed sea water pools stocked with florida red tilapia without any harmful effect on fish.

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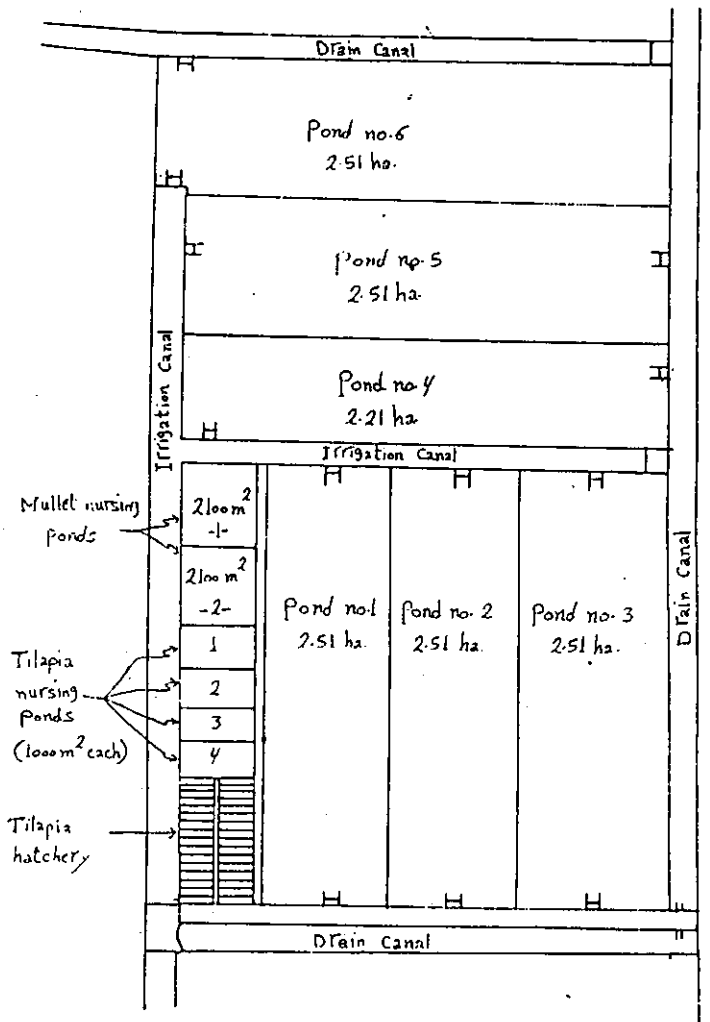


Fig.(1) Diagram for, El-Amal comercial Fish Farm

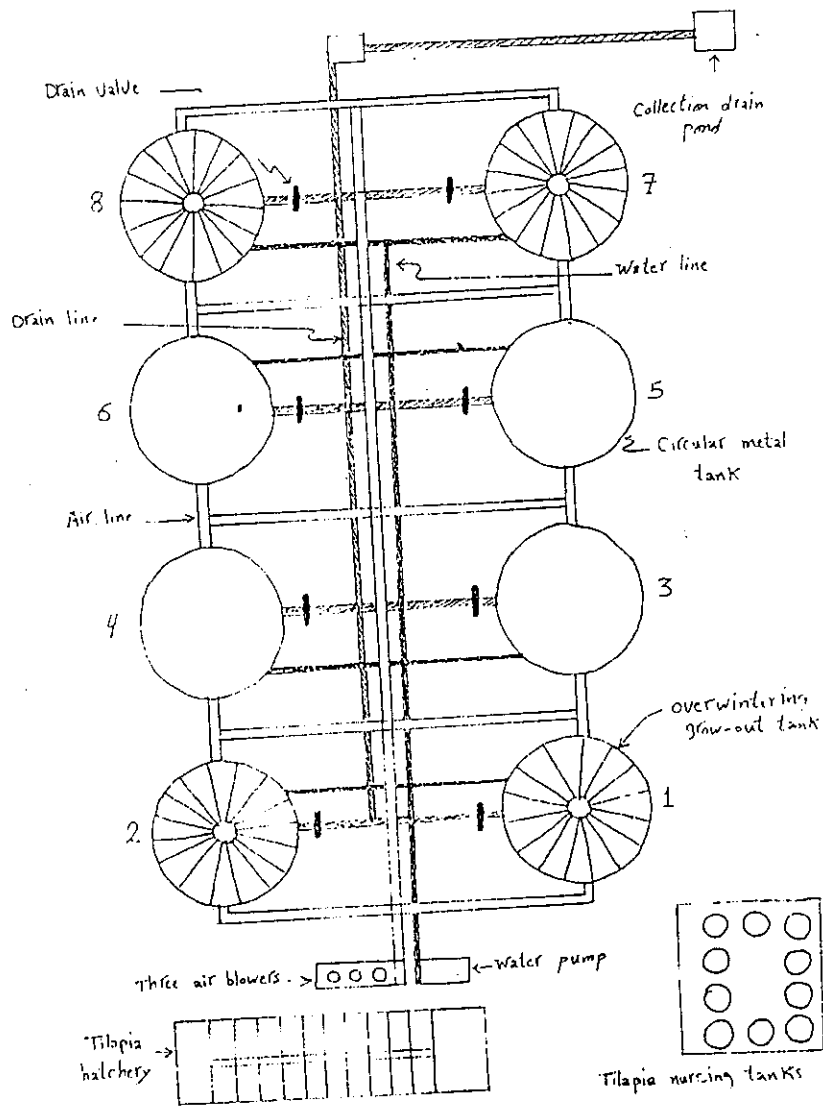


Fig.(2) Diagram for Nawa Intensive Fish Farm.

Table 1. Fertilization and manuring program

| Month     | Weekly Dose of fertilizers (kg) per ha per week |                      |                      | Data of adding fertilizer |
|-----------|---|----------------------|----------------------|---------------------------|
|           | Urea Kg/ha                                      | Superphosphate Kg/ha | Poultry manure Kg/ha |                           |
| May       | -   | -                    | -                    | Started from 15/5/92      |
|           | 12  | 24                   | 360                  |                           |
|           | 12  | 24                   | 360                  |                           |
| June      | 12  | 24                   | 360                  | Applied weekly            |
|           | 12  | 24                   | 360                  |                           |
|           | 12  | 24                   | 360                  |                           |
|           | 12  | 24                   | 360                  |                           |
| July      | -   | 24                   | 360                  | Applied weekly            |
|           | -   | 24                   | 360                  |                           |
|           | -   | 24                   | 360                  |                           |
|           | -   | 24                   | 360                  |                           |
| August    | -   | 24                   | 360                  | Applied Weekly            |
|           | -   | 24                   | 360                  |                           |
|           | -   | 24                   | 360                  |                           |
|           | -   | 24                   | 360                  |                           |
| September | -   | 24                   | 360                  | Ended on 15/9/92          |
|           | -   | 24                   | 360                  |                           |
|           | -   | -                    | -                    |                           |
| Total     | 72  | 384                  | 5,760                |                           |

Table 1: Chemical Composition of diets used for tilapia Culture in earthen ponds at El-Amal Commercial Fish Farm.

| Month     | moisture (%) | Protein (%) | Fat (%) | Fiber (%) |
|-----------|--------------|-------------|---------|-----------|
| July      | 11.73        | 34.73       | 13.97   | 6.19      |
| August    | 10.13        | 24.38       | 13.32   | 5.83      |
| September | 10.92        | 22.47       | 15.4    | 4.62      |
| October   | 9.54         | 23.06       | 14.16   | 5.30      |
| November  | 11.38        | 21.95       | 16.07   | 4.50      |

Table 3: Chemical composition of diets used for tilapia Culture in tanks at Nawa Intensive Fish Farm.

| Culture Stage | Moisture (%) | Protein (%) | Fat (%) | Fiber |
|---------------|--------------|-------------|---------|-------|
| Spawning      | 10.82        | 26.50       | 14.06   | 6.28  |
| Nursing A     | 11.38        | 51.70       | 15.05   | 5.84  |
|               | 8.12         | 28.60       | 14.39   | 6.20  |
| Nursing B     | 11.95        | 29.41       | 15.62   | 5.69  |
| Grow-out      | 11.10        | 26.70       | 15.97   | 6.26  |



Table (4):

Water quality parameters (Mean  $\pm$  Standard error S.E) of the growing ponds under two densities of 13,300 fish/ha (D1) and 10,900 fish/ha (D2) at El-Armal Fish Farm. presented data are averages of four readings each.

| Period (Months) | Temperature (°C) | Salinity (ppt)   | pH              | Total al-<br>kalinity (ppm) | Dissolved<br>Oxygen (ppm) | Un-ionized<br>ammonia (ppm) |
|-----------------|------------------|------------------|-----------------|-----------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------|
| May             | D1               | 26.5 $\pm$ 0.126 | 6.8 $\pm$ 0.005 | 147.3 $\pm$ 4.3             | 5.4 $\pm$ 0.102           | 0.009 $\pm$ 0.00            |
|                 | D2               | 25.5 $\pm$ 0.125 | 6.9 $\pm$ 0.001 | 143.1 $\pm$ 5.6             | 7.1 $\pm$ 0.060           | 0.010 $\pm$ 0.00            |
| June            | X                | 26.0             | 6.9             | 145.3                       | 6.3                       | 0.010                       |
|                 | D1               | 26.8 $\pm$ 0.044 | 3.2 $\pm$ 0.007 | 200.5 $\pm$ 22.3            | 5.0 $\pm$ 0.012           | 0.148 $\pm$ 0.00            |
| July            | D2               | 26.0 $\pm$ 0.006 | 3.6 $\pm$ 0.060 | 187.5 $\pm$ 10.8            | 6.4 $\pm$ 0.096           | 0.073 $\pm$ 0.00            |
|                 | X                | 26.4             | 3.4             | 194.0                       | 5.8                       | 0.110                       |
| August          | D1               | 29.4 $\pm$ 0.034 | 3.5 $\pm$ 0.015 | 327.1 $\pm$ 8.9             | 8.2 $\pm$ 0.093           | 0.408 $\pm$ 0.00            |
|                 | D2               | 28.2 $\pm$ 0.025 | 4.1 $\pm$ 0.044 | 303.6 $\pm$ 39.9            | 9.0 $\pm$ 0.144           | 0.276 $\pm$ 0.00            |
| September       | X                | 28.9             | 3.8             | 315.4                       | 8.6                       | 0.342                       |
|                 | D1               | 29.3 $\pm$ 0.207 | 4.2 $\pm$ 0.034 | 352.1 $\pm$ 1.2             | 7.4 $\pm$ 0.038           | 0.270 $\pm$ 0.00            |
| October         | D2               | 28.2 $\pm$ 0.073 | 5.4 $\pm$ 0.005 | 328 $\pm$ 8.7               | 7.4 $\pm$ 0.014           | 0.080 $\pm$ 0.00            |
|                 | X                | 28.8             | 4.8             | 340.1                       | 7.4                       | 0.175                       |
| Mean+S.E        | D1               | 29.5 $\pm$ 0.172 | 2.7 $\pm$ 0.036 | 232.3 $\pm$ 3.2             | 7.3 $\pm$ 0.034           | 0.234 $\pm$ 0.00            |
|                 | D2               | 28.5 $\pm$ 0.042 | 3.3 $\pm$ 0.011 | 237.5 $\pm$ 2.6             | 7.5 $\pm$ 0.005           | 0.188 $\pm$ 0.00            |
| October         | X                | 29.0             | 3.0             | 234.9                       | 7.4                       | 0.211                       |
|                 | D1               | 27.0 $\pm$ 0.168 | 3.2 $\pm$ 0.000 | 278.3 $\pm$ 10.9            | 6.1 $\pm$ 0.026           | 0.115 $\pm$ 0.00            |
| Mean+S.E        | D2               | 26.0 $\pm$ 0.207 | 3.1 $\pm$ 0.021 | 269.8 $\pm$ 18.9            | 6.4 $\pm$ 0.021           | 0.048 $\pm$ 0.00            |
|                 | X                | 26.5             | 3.2             | 274.0                       | 6.3                       | 0.081                       |
| Mean+S.E        | D1               | 28.1 $\pm$ 0.35  | 3.3 $\pm$ 0.040 | 256.3 $\pm$ 8.5             | 6.6 $\pm$ 0.260           | 0.181 $\pm$ 0.00            |
|                 | D2               | 27.2 $\pm$ 0.32  | 3.9 $\pm$ 0.120 | 242.7 $\pm$ 14.4            | 7.3 $\pm$ 0.140           | 0.113 $\pm$ 0.00            |

Table (5): The water quality parameters (mean  $\pm$  S.E) of the grow-out tanks at three stocking densities at Nawaa, Intensive Fish Farm. presented data are averages of four readings each.

| Period(1)<br>(Months) | Temperature<br>(°C) | Salinity<br>(ppt) | pH              | Total al-<br>kalinity<br>(ppm) | Dissolved<br>Oxygen<br>(ppm) | Un-ionized<br>ammonia<br>(ppm) |                  |
|-----------------------|---------------------|-------------------|-----------------|--------------------------------|------------------------------|--------------------------------|------------------|
| September D1(2)       | D1                  | 25.8 $\pm$ 1.27   | 0.32 $\pm$ 0.00 | 7.5 $\pm$ 0.00                 | 208.0 $\pm$ 110.6            | 7.4 $\pm$ 1.40                 | 0.039 $\pm$ 0.00 |
|                       | D2                  | 25.5 $\pm$ 0.38   | 0.35 $\pm$ 0.00 | 7.4 $\pm$ 0.00                 | 196.1 $\pm$ 291.1            | 8.3 $\pm$ 1.16                 | 0.030 $\pm$ 0.00 |
|                       | D3                  | 26.3 $\pm$ 0.86   | 0.41 $\pm$ 0.00 | 7.4 $\pm$ 0.00                 | 190.0 $\pm$ 443.4            | 7.4 $\pm$ 0.62                 | 0.029 $\pm$ 0.00 |
| October               | D1                  | 23.8 $\pm$ 0.02   | 0.42 $\pm$ 0.00 | 7.5 $\pm$ 0.01                 | 219.3 $\pm$ 88.6             | 7.6 $\pm$ 0.67                 | 0.130 $\pm$ 0.00 |
|                       | D2                  | 23.1 $\pm$ 0.02   | 0.45 $\pm$ 0.00 | 7.3 $\pm$ 0.04                 | 222.9 $\pm$ 2.59             | 7.1 $\pm$ 0.49                 | 0.101 $\pm$ 0.00 |
|                       | D3                  | 23.5 $\pm$ 0.02   | 0.42 $\pm$ 0.00 | 7.2 $\pm$ 0.02                 | 206.7 $\pm$ 354.1            | 6.1 $\pm$ 0.77                 | 0.020 $\pm$ 0.00 |
| November              | D1                  | 21.3 $\pm$ 0.15   | 0.35 $\pm$ 0.02 | 8.1 $\pm$ 0.01                 | 227.3 $\pm$ 55.5             | 9.6 $\pm$ 0.13                 | 0.123 $\pm$ 0.00 |
|                       | D2                  | 20.5 $\pm$ 0.45   | 0.38 $\pm$ 0.00 | 8.1 $\pm$ 0.00                 | 211.7 $\pm$ 4.9              | 9.1 $\pm$ 0.07                 | 0.079 $\pm$ 0.00 |
|                       | D3                  | 20.6 $\pm$ 0.56   | 0.38 $\pm$ 0.00 | 8.0 $\pm$ 0.00                 | 248.6 $\pm$ 5.7              | 8.1 $\pm$ 0.04                 | 0.135 $\pm$ 0.00 |
| December              | D1                  | 12.7 $\pm$ 0.03   | 0.51 $\pm$ 0.00 | 8.2 $\pm$ 0.00                 | 221.4 $\pm$ 6.5              | 8.8 $\pm$ 0.06                 | 0.12 $\pm$ 0.00  |
|                       | D2                  | 12.3 $\pm$ 0.03   | 0.45 $\pm$ 0.00 | 8.1 $\pm$ 0.01                 | 211.9 $\pm$ 8.2              | 8.4 $\pm$ 0.09                 | 0.076 $\pm$ 0.00 |
|                       | D3                  | 12.5 $\pm$ 0.02   | 0.51 $\pm$ 0.00 | 8.1 $\pm$ 0.00                 | 215.9 $\pm$ 6.1              | 7.3 $\pm$ 0.02                 | 0.097 $\pm$ 0.00 |
| Mean                  | D1                  | 20.9 $\pm$ 0.37   | 0.40 $\pm$ 0.00 | 7.8 $\pm$ 0.01                 | 219.0 $\pm$ 65.3             | 8.3 $\pm$ 0.56                 | 0.105 $\pm$ 0.00 |
|                       | D2                  | 20.3 $\pm$ 0.22   | 0.41 $\pm$ 0.00 | 7.7 $\pm$ 0.01                 | 210.6 $\pm$ 76.7             | 8.2 $\pm$ 0.45                 | 0.071 $\pm$ 0.00 |
|                       | D3                  | 20.7 $\pm$ 0.37   | 0.43 $\pm$ 0.00 | 7.7 $\pm$ 0.01                 | 215.3 $\pm$ 202.3            | 7.3 $\pm$ 0.36                 | 0.070 $\pm$ 0.00 |

- (1) All samples were collected during the period at 14:00 to 15:00 p.m.  
 (2) D1, D2 and D3 are stocking densities of 30, 40 and 50 fish/m<sup>2</sup>, respectively.

( 20 )

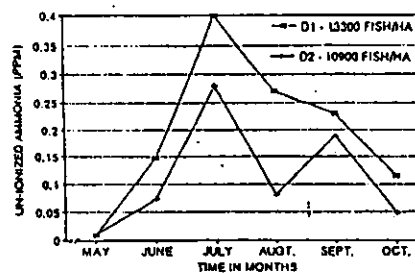
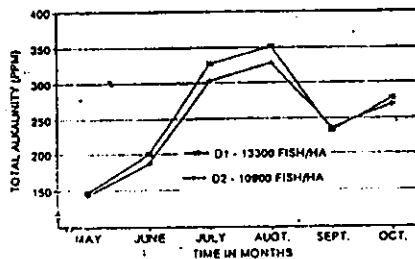
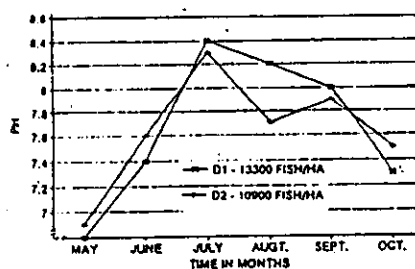
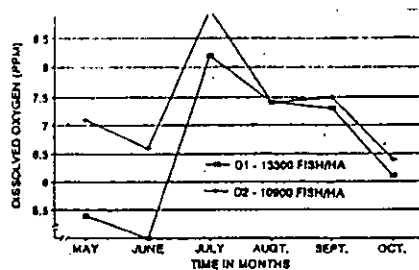


Fig (3): Water dissolved oxygen , pH , total alkalinity and un-ionized ammonia ( $NH_3$ ) in the water column of earthen ponds at two stocking densities during the rearing period .

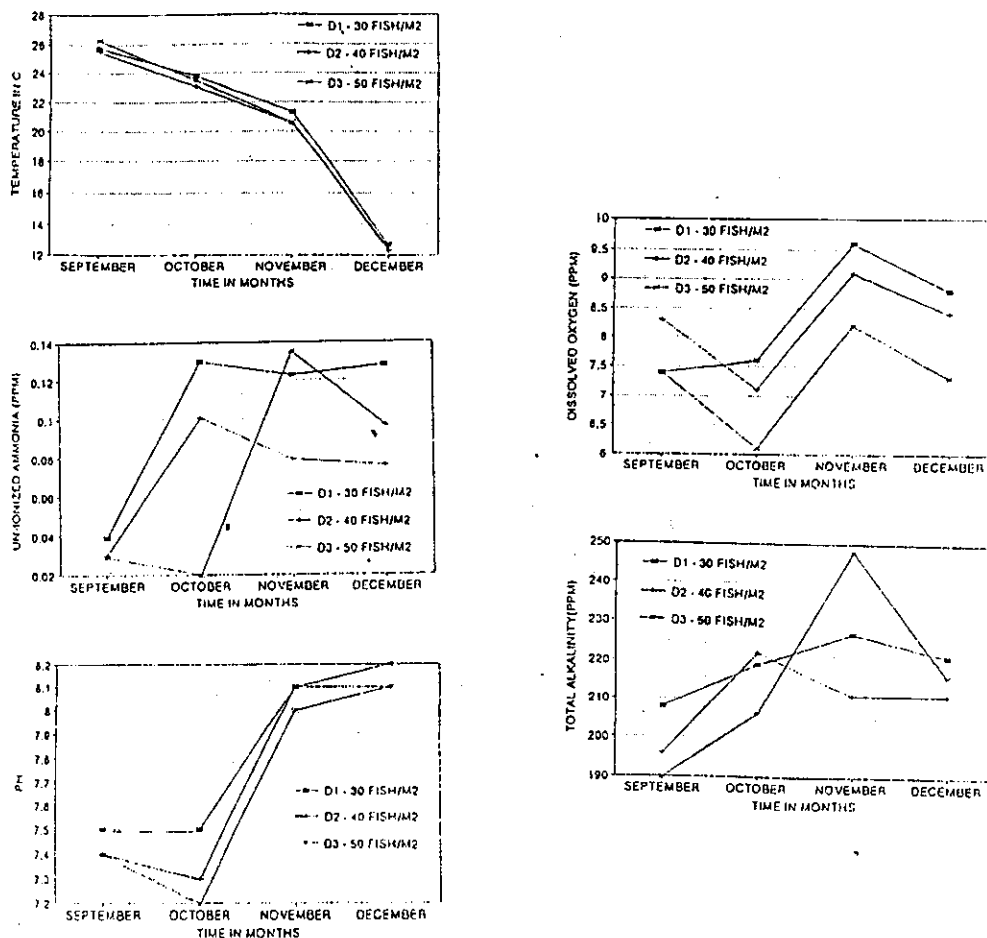


Fig.(4) Water temperature, dissolved oxygen, pH, total alkalinity, and un-ionized ammonia (NH<sub>3</sub>) in the water column of the grow-out tanks at three stocking densities and biomasses during the study period (September-December) at the Nawa Farm.

## أثر الطرق المختلفة للأستزراع السمكى على صفات الماء فى أحواض تربية البلطى النيلية

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عيسى  
د. محمد السيد سلامة

يشمل البحث دراسة بعض التغيرات فى المعايير الطبيعية (درجة الحرارة )  
والكيميائية (كمية الأوكسجين المذاب -درجة الحموضة والقلوية - القلوية الكلية -  
الأمونيا -الملوحة ) لمياه أحاض تربية أسماك البلطى النيلية المرباه تحت نظم  
استزراع مختلفة :الاستزراع المكثف فى تنكات من الصلب المجلفن بمزرعة  
نوى السمكية بمحافظة القليوبية.

ولقد أظهرت النتائج أن الوسط المائى للمزرتين ذو صفات طبيعية وكماوية  
ملائمة للأستزراع السمكى . فبالنسبة لدرجات الحرارة كانت أعلى من ٢٢م فى  
المتوسط ومحتوى الماء من الاكسجين المذاب كان عالياً وانحصر بين ٥-٦ و٩  
جزء فى المليون .

أما درجة الحموضة والقلوية ( pH ) فأنها كانت دائما فى الجانب القلوى فالماء  
فى المزرتين كان ذو قلوية كلية عالية (أكثر من ٩٠ جزء فى المليون ) وهذا  
دليل على زيادة أنتاجيه . اما المحتوى المائى من الامونيا فلم يزد عن ٤١ و٦.  
جزء فى المليون . كل هذه التقديرات كانت بعيدة تماما عن الدرجات الحرجة  
والمؤثرة على نمو ومعيشة الاسماك .

وعموما كانت صفات الماء الكيميائية فى أحواض الستزراع المكثف افضل منها  
فى نظيرها فى الاستزراع النصف مكثف فى احواض تربية فيما عدا فى حالة  
القلوية الكلية التى كانت أعلى قليلا فى الاحواض الترابية نتيجة لزيادة كفاءة  
عملية التمثيل الضوئى .

ولقد أظهرت الدراسة أيضا انه فى حالة الاستزراع النصف مكثف فى احواض  
ترابية ونتيجة لاستخدام اسمدة عضوية وكماوية لابد من زيادة معدلات تغيير  
مياه الاحواض لرفع محتوى الماء من الاكسجين بدرجة تقلل من التأثير الضار  
للأمونيا على معايير النمو والعيشة لاسماك البلطى المرباه خلال هذه الدراسة .

