IV. TERMINATION REPORTS

A. EFFECT OF NUTRITION ON BODY COMPOSITION AND SUBSEQUENT STORAGE QUALITY OF FARM-RAISED CHANNEL CATFISH

Termination Report
For the Period
May 2, 1989 to December 31, 1992

FUNDING LEVEL:

Year 1	\$275,000
Vear 2	\$275,000
Vear 3	\$275,000
Total	\$825,000

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PROJECT OBJECTIVES:

- 1. Determine effects of diet composition and feeding strategies (energy, protein and type and amount of lipid) on yield, dressing percentage, body fat, subsequent frozen storage quality and profitability of catfish grown to 0.5-1.0 kg (1-2 lb) sizes under conditions that reflect management practices used by most of the catfish industry.
- 2. Determine effects of finisher diets or alternative feeding rates and schedules on yield, dressing percentage, body fat, subsequent frozen storage quality and profitability of catfish grown to 0.5-1.0 kg (1-2 lb) sizes under conditions that reflect management practices used by most of the catfish industry.
- 3. Determine effects of diet supplements on chemistry and sensory qualities of fat in fish flesh and stability of fish during subsequent frozen storage.
- 4. Develop procedures for disseminating these findings to appropriate clientele groups.

ANTICIPATED BENEFITS:

The research conducted in this project showed that varying protein and/or energy in practical catfish feeds can influence fat in the fish, but this does not significantly affect frozen keeping quality of the processed fish. The research also showed effects of various protein levels in catfish feeds on pond production under various feeding strategies which fish farmers can use to make economic decisions on feeds. The study showed that fish size has much more effect on body fat content than diet, and large fish have a great amount of fat on the outside of the muscle which if removed during skinning will reduce autoxidation of the frozen flesh. Increasing dietary vitamin E will reduce autoxidation of the fish muscle in low temperature storage.

PROGRESS:

OBJECTIVE 1

Reducing protein in practical feeds to 24 to 26% (and thereby increasing energy/protein ratio) did not cause a reduction in growth but caused a slight increase in body fat, but this change in fat did not affect frozen keeping quality.

OBJECTIVE 2

Raising or lowering the protein content of finishing feeds (fed the last 4 weeks of grow-out period) did not affect growth or body composition of the fish.

OBJECTIVE 3

Vitamin E fed at four times the dietary requirement protected the lipids in catfish muscle from autoxidation during abused (high temperature) frozen storage conditions. Adding various commercial antioxidants, lysine and carnitine, to the diet did not affect autoxidation of muscle lipids during storage.

OBJECTIVE 4

An extension fact sheet, "Channel Catfish Production--Impacts of Diet Composition and Feeding Practices" (SRAC #187) has been prepared which describes major findings of this project in practical language. Many publications in technical and trade journals have been prepared and are listed at the end of this report (pages 9-12).

IMPACTS:

Results from this project have indicated to the catfish industry that protein, or protein/energy ratio, in catfish feeds can be decreased without reducing fish production and with no effect on frozen storage quality of the processed fish. This has allowed the protein percentage to be reduced in commercial feed from 32 to 28% which lowers the cost approximately \$10 per ton. In 1992, many farmers changed to the lower protein feed. One large feed mill reported that 30% of the feed manufactured in 1992 was 28% protein as compared to less than 10% the previous year.

The study demonstrated to processors that large catfish have a thick layer of fat on the surface of the muscle and that removing this will enhance frozen storage quality. Processors have adjusted skinning machines to remove this layer of fat from the fish.

This funding has initiated research in various areas of catfish nutrition and processing at several institutions which has been continued with other funding. An example is the University of Georgia, Food Science Department, which was not previously involved in catfish research but has 16 publications on processing (listed below) from this project and is continuing research in this area.

PUBLICATIONS:

Bai, S. C. and D. M. Gatlin, III. 1993. Dietary vitamin E concentration and duration of feeding affect tissue-tocopherol concentrations of channel catfish (*Ictalurus punctatus*). Aquaculture 113:129-135.

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different protein levels and sources on channel catfish, (Ictalurus punctatus) (Rafinesque). Aquaculture Fish Mgmt. In press.

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Erickson, M. C. 1991. Frozen storage stability of two channel catfish strains. Annual Meeting of Institute of Food Technologists. June 2-5, Dallas, Texas. Abstract. p. 145.

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striped bass and hybrid striped bass to oxidation during frozen storage. 88th Annual Meeting Southern Association of Agric. Scientists, Food Science and Human Nutrition Section, Feb. 3-6, Fort Worth, Texas. Abstract. pp. 14-15.

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Gatlin, D. M., III, S. C. Bai, and M. C. Erickson. 1992. Effects of dietary vitamin E and synthetic antioxidants on composition and storage quality of channel catfish, (Ictalurus punctatus). Aquaculture 106: In press.

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Huang, Y. W., C. K. Leung, M. A. Harrison, and K. W. Gates. 1992. Fate of *Listeria monocytogenes* and *Aeromonas hydrophila* on catfish fillets cooked in a microwave oven. Abstract. Annual Meeting Institute of Food Technologists. June 20-24, New Orleans, La.

Huang, Y. W., P. E. Koehler, R. R. Eitenmiller, and D. A. Lillard. 1992. Effects of film overwrapping, vacuum packaging and vacuum skin packaging on psychrotrophic counts and chemical changes on iced channel catfish. J. Food Processing & Preservation. 16:205-213.

Huang, Y. W. and C. K. Leung. 1992. Microbiological assessment of channel catfish grown in cage and pond culture. J. Food Microbiology. In press.

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Huang, Y. W., P. E. Koehler, R. R. Eitenmiller, and D. A. Lillard. 1991. Effect of packaging on storage quality of iced catfish. Proc. Tropical and Subtropical Fisheries Tech. Conf. of the Americas. University of Florida, Gainesville, Fl. pp. 362-368.

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and further processing and packaging conditions. M.S. Thesis. University of Georgia, Athens, GA.

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Stowell, S. L. and D. M. Gatlin, III. 1992. Effects of dietary pantethine and lipid levels on growth and body composition of channel catfish, (*Ictalurus punctatus*). Aquaculture 108:177-188.

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Webster, C. D., J. H. Tidwell, L. S. Goodgame, J. A. Clark, and D. H. Yancy. 1992. Effects of protein level and feeding frequency on growth and body composition of third year channel catfish reared in ponds. Abstracts of Annual meeting of the World Aquaculture Society, Orlando, Florida, p. 229.

Zidack, W., U. Hatch, R. T. Lovell, and Menghe Li. 1992. Economics of feeding different percentages of protein at restricted and satiation rates in channel catfish production: A case study analysis of experimental results. J. World Aqua. Soc. Submitted for publication.

B. HARVESTING, LOADING AND GRADING SYSTEMS FOR CULTURED FRESHWATER FINFISHES AND CRUSTACEANS

Termination Report For the Period May 2, 1989 to April 30, 1993

FUNDING LEVEL:

Year 1	\$125,000
Year 2	\$125,000
Year 3	\$125,000
Total	\$375,000

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