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Production of Rabbitfish (*Siganus guttatus)* in Cages Fed With Commercial and Experimental Diets: An Environment –Friendly Archetype

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Abstract

Rabbitfish (*Siganus guttatus*) with a mean weight of 24.43 grams were reared in an environment-friendly archetype floating cages for 90 days at a stocking density of 50 fish per cubic meter. Each cage has a total water volume of 1.5 cubic meter. The fish were fed with commercial (milkfish and Shrimp) and experimental diets. Highest growth was obtained in treatment 2(240.06 g mean body weight) with a total production of 53.6 kilos which was given shrimp feed. Lowest growth was obtained by treatment 1 (214.38 g mean body weight) with a total production of 46.5 kilos. Analysis of variance showed significant difference among treatments. Duncan's Multiple Range Test (DMRT) revealed that treatments 2,3 and 1 are significantly different from each other, while treatment 3 and 1 are significantly similar. Survival rates of all treatments were relatively high(96.44 % - 99.11%). The highest was obtained from treatment 2,followed by treatment 3 and treatment 1 respectively. However, no significant difference was found among treatments. Economic analysis showed that all treatments obtained viable Benefit Cost Ratio (BCR). Highest BCR was obtained by treatment 3 followed by treatment 1 d the lowest was treatment 2. Result of this study revealed that all treatments were feasible. Treatment 3 was the most efficient considering its high production and low production cost.

Regarding the environment-friendly and sustainability, this study featured technology applied to cage construction and feeding management aspects that ensures sustainability of the environment.