

Acknowledgements

There comes a time in any such thesis when one is permitted, albeit for a brief moment, to adopt the sort of frivolous tone which might arguably be suited to a broader spectrum of the scientific literature, if only to make its consumption more bearable. I would therefore like to extend the official dedication of this work in the appropriate fashion at this point, before the censors start messing around with the subsequent sections, and list in more detail all those people who made this work possible in one way or another. If anyone subsequently mentioned has any doubt as to the sincerity of my acknowledgement, I can only say that they ought to know me better than that!

As is customary in such a work, I would at this point like to thank Prof. Dr. Klaus Becker for placing such a large amount of faith in an overaged drop-out with a track record as colourful as mine and accepting me as his Ph.D. student. Further thanks go to Dr. Ulfert Focken for the direct supervision of this effort and for laying the groundwork for the write-up with his comments to all the publications prepared from it. I am, however, sure that they would have stumbled across a quite different candidate if Prof. Dr. Walter Nellen, in keeping with the common departmental policy, had channelled my application and CV into that familiar round object on the floor instead of passing it on to them. As the list of referees shows, his contribution to this work has been acknowledged by giving him the dubious pleasure of reading it before it is inflicted on the general public.

Since the experimental basis of this work was conducted in a faraway country, many miles from Hohenheim, the post of direct supervisor had to be delegated to some unfortunate senior scientist at the host institution and this task was fulfilled more than admirably by Dr. Corazon Santiago. She was assisted in this respect by Angelito Gonzal whose inside information and contacts proved invaluable in organizing the sampling at commercial fish farms. I will never forget the patience with which they both assisted me repeatedly on those many occasions when I got past the defences of their office fortress at times when they had undoubtedly more useful things of their own to get done. Of those people at SEAFDEC who endured my persistent whining and requests for information (even after I had returned to Germany, forcing me to resort to terror by e-mail), a special mention goes to Malou and Emil Aralar and Susan Baldia.

As is often the case in such projects, the amount of work involved was far too great for one person to master so I delegated some of the work, usually of the more tedious type, to the vast army of lab slaves hired out from Cora, Lito and Malou. Two of these characters were of sufficient help during the frequent 24-hour fish murdering sessions that they attained co-author status, namely Wally Afuang and Manny Laron. Others who deserve special mention are Maria Geronilla for preparing fish for body composition analysis, sparing me from a task unworthy of any person with a fully functioning nose (sorry, Maria!), Florence Jarder for the further processing, Rene Arcilia for counting plankton and "Professor" Totoy Reyes *et al.* for cleaning and labelling filmcases as hi-tech vials for the fish stomach contents.

A project doing so much for population control in Laguna de Bay fishpens and -cages would not have been possible without the wholehearted cooperation of those people who normally make a living growing fish for a more conventional form of ultimate consumption. I would therefore like to thank Messrs. Joseng Montevillas, Chris Manlapaz, Tiboy Reyes and Boyet Flores for permitting stock reductions of more or less drastic proportions at their aquaculture operations. I should also mention those members of their staff who were kept awake for most of the night by our sampling antics, sometimes taking an active part in the massacre, but I never got to know them by name so that they have to share a general acknowledgement.

Three years in the Philippines is a long time and would be impossible to survive without new friends or a decent TV programme schedule. In the absence of the latter, I was forced to strain the patience of many of those around me. Particular thanks goes to Lito for introducing me to the more interesting parts of Manila - including some pretty entertaining ones! - Emma Alinas and her family for treating me as one of their own, the same applying to Lito's family, and to my colleagues Myrna Kock and Martina Bocci for inviting me to all that pasta and (in Myrna's case) fighting over who gets to read the weekly German newspaper first. I could also count on the support of all those people in Tigbauan whenever I escaped to the "glorious south" for a dip in the sea and other diversions, most notably Kai Kühlmann, Andreas Groth and Christian Lückstädt.

Back in Germany, the completion of this work extended over a rather longer time span than most professors like to put up with. Irrespective of the defensibility of the reasons for this, I would also like to acknowledge those people who made life more bearable, thereby no doubt contributing towards extending the completion of this work still further! First and foremost are the members of the Landsmannschaft Württembergia, particularly Klaus Matheis, Frank Graf, Aljoscha Grimm and Matthias Höfer. My colleagues in Hohenheim also deserve thanks, especially George Francis for taking more than the average amount of stick. Another name which crops up in this section is that of Lito who followed me to Germany, officially to do his M.Sc. at Hohenheim but more likely to get his own back on me for what I did to him and all the others in the Philippines. He deserves a special mention here for without his efforts, I would never have met my dear wife Nahid (never mind how hard George tried to get me hitched!). Although she arrived only rather recently on the scene, I would like to thank her very much for the special support she gave me in the terminal stages of this thesis. My family, particularly my mother, also supported me throughout the work, helping me sort out other disasters and keeping me informed of what was going on in Germany when I was in the Philippines, as did my father for the first year of my stay in Southeast Asia. Had he not died tragically at that stage, I am sure that his support would also have extended throughout my time there.

No project gets off the ground without at least some funds and, although I didn't have to fight for it personally, I would like to thank the European Union for coughing up the cash for the major part of the overall Laguna de Bay project, thereby enabling Prof. Becker to hire me and set the ball in motion. Finally, an acknowledgement to the countless cups of tea that fuelled the making of this work and without which I would have spent a major part of my time fighting off the *delirium tremens* and dehydrating in the tropics.

Table of Contents

Acknowledgements.....	i
Table of Contents.....	iii
List of Abbreviations.....	vi
List of Figures.....	ix
List of Tables.....	xii

<u>I Introduction</u>	1
-----------------------------	---

<u>II Literature Review</u>	5
-----------------------------------	---

<u>A. Study Site Description</u>	5
1. Origins & Hydrology.....	5
2. Macrofauna of Laguna de Bay.....	7
3. Macroflora of Laguna de Bay.....	8
4. Growth Rates of Cultured Fish in Laguna de Bay.....	8
5. Major Uses of Laguna de Bay.....	9
<u>B. Fish Growth & Condition</u>	11
1. Growth.....	11
2. Condition.....	13
<u>C. Stomach Content Modelling to Estimate Fish Daily Ration</u>	15
1. General Principles.....	15
2. Bajkov Model.....	15
3. Elliott-Persson Model.....	17
4. Sainsbury/MAXIMS Model.....	18
5. Olson-Mullen Model.....	23
<u>D. Biology of Milkfish, <i>Chanos chanos</i> (Forsskål 1775)</u>	24
1. Distribution & Environmental Tolerance.....	24
2. Growth & Culture Methods.....	25
3. Feeding Ecology & Food Spectrum.....	27
4. Digestive Tract Anatomy.....	29
<u>E. Biology of Nile Tilapia, <i>Oreochromis niloticus</i> (L. 1758)</u>	30
1. Distribution & Environmental Tolerance.....	30
2. Growth & Culture Methods.....	31
3. Feeding Ecology & Food Spectrum.....	32
4. Digestive Tract Anatomy.....	33
<u>F. Natural Food of Filter-feeding Fish</u>	34
1. General.....	34
2. Phytoplankton.....	35

3. Zooplankton.....	36
4. Detritus.....	37
<u>III Materials & Methods.....</u>	<u>39</u>
<u>A. Sampling of Milkfish & Nile Tilapia at Commercial Setups.....</u>	<u>39</u>
1. Monthly Changes in Phytoplankton Biomass & Composition.....	39
2. Milkfish.....	40
a) General Sampling Procedure.....	40
b) Growth Rates.....	41
c) Condition.....	43
d) Body Composition.....	43
e) Food Composition.....	44
f) Feeding Periodicity & Daily Ration.....	44
3. Nile Tilapia.....	45
a) General Sampling Procedure.....	45
b) Growth Rates.....	46
c) Condition.....	47
d) Body Composition.....	47
e) Food Composition.....	47
f) Feeding Periodicity & Daily Ration.....	47
<u>B. Tilapia Growth & Water Quality Study.....</u>	<u>49</u>
1. Water Quality Sampling.....	49
a) General Sampling Procedure & Secchi Depth.....	49
b) Chlorophyll-a.....	50
c) Particulate Organic & Inorganic Matter.....	50
d) Zooplankton.....	50
2. Tilapia Growth Rates.....	51
<u>IV Results.....</u>	<u>52</u>
<u>A. Sampling of Milkfish & Nile Tilapia at Commercial Setups.....</u>	<u>52</u>
1. Monthly Changes in Phytoplankton Biomass & Composition.....	52
2. Milkfish.....	54
a) Growth Rates.....	54
b) Condition.....	55
c) Body Composition.....	55
d) Food Composition.....	56
e) Feeding Periodicity & Daily Ration.....	59
2. Nile Tilapia.....	60
a) Condition.....	60
b) Body Composition.....	63
c) Food Composition.....	64
d) Feeding Periodicity & Daily Ration.....	66

<u>B. Tilapia Growth & Water Quality Study</u>	76
1. Water Quality Sampling.....	76
a) Secchi Depth.....	76
b) Chlorophyll-a.....	76
c) Particulate Organic & Inorganic Matter.....	80
d) Zooplankton.....	80
2. Tilapia.....	82
a) Growth Rates.....	82
b) Condition.....	82
c) Mortality.....	85
3. Calculation of Relative Proportions of Detritus & Phytoplankton from Chlorophyll-a and Particulate Matter.....	86
<u>V Discussion</u>	90
<u>A. Milkfish</u>	90
1. Sampling.....	90
2. Growth, Condition & Body Composition.....	90
3. Daily Ration.....	91
4. Food Composition.....	92
<u>B. Nile Tilapia</u>	94
1. Growth, Condition & Body Composition.....	94
2. Daily Ration.....	95
3. Food Composition.....	97
<u>C. Comparison between the 1970s & the Present</u>	99
<u>D. Water Quality Sampling</u>	101
1. General.....	101
2. Limitation of Suspended Matter Composition on Fish Growth.....	102
<u>VI Conclusions</u>	104
<u>VII Summary</u>	107
<u>VIII Kurzfassung</u>	111
<u>IX Bibliography</u>	115
Appendix 1 - SAS®-routines for Milkfish.....	130
Appendix 2 - SAS®-routines for Nile Tilapia.....	134
Appendix 3 - Calculation of Confidence Limits to the Daily Ration.....	142

List of Abbreviations

SI Units

%	percent
‰	per thousand
μm	micrometre
°C	degrees Centigrade
C°	Centigrade degrees (difference between two temperatures)
cm	centimetre
g	gramme
h	hour
ha	hectare
km	kilometre
km ²	square kilometre
l	litre
m	metre
m ²	square metre
min	minute
ml	millilitre
mm	millimetre
mm Hg	millimetres of mercury (gas pressure)
nm	nanometre
kg	kilogramme
t	tonne
y	year

Mathematical terms

∞	infinity
ANOVA	analysis of variance
<i>b</i>	regression coefficient
CC	correlation coefficient
Cov	covariance
df	degrees of freedom
<i>e</i>	Euler's number, base of the <i>logarithmus naturalis</i>
ln	natural logarithm
<i>p</i>	probability level
<i>r</i>	correlation coefficient
<i>r</i> ²	coefficient of determination (regression)
SE _{<i>b</i>}	standard error of the regression coefficient <i>b</i>
SSR	sum of squared residuals
St. Dev.	standard deviation
Var	variance


General

° 'E	degrees and minutes eastern longitude
° 'N	degrees and minutes northern latitude
° 'S	degrees and minutes southern latitude
° 'W	degrees and minutes western longitude
% BME	Percent Body Mass Equivalent
β	power quotient for stomach content S
A	Average Stomach Contents over analytical period (Bajkov model)
AlcWC	Alcohol preserved Weight of the Stomach Contents
AlcWI	Alcohol preserved Weight of the Intestinal Tract
App.	Appendix
B	condition factor after Jones <i>et al.</i> (1999)
B'	condition factor after Richter <i>et al.</i> (2000)
C_t	food consumption over time t (Elliott-Persson model)
cf.	compare (from latin <i>confer</i>)
Chl-a	Chlorophyll-a
cont.	continued
D	Food Consumption over 24 hour period (Bajkov model)
E	Instantaneous Stomach Evacuation Rate
e.g.	for example (from latin <i>exempli gratia</i>)
Eqn.	Equation
<i>et al.</i>	and coworkers (from latin <i>et alii</i> : and others)
Fig.	Figure
$f_i(t)$	mathematical evacuation function of food type i (Olson-Mullen model)
FrWC	Fresh Weight of the Stomach Contents
FrWI	Fresh Weight of the Intestinal Tract
g	Growth Rate
G_0	Initial Growth Rate
gC	gramme Carbon
GW	Gutted Body Weight
H	Body Height
ICLARM	International Council for Living Aquatic Resource Management
i.e.	that is to say (from latin <i>id est</i>)
J_1	Ingestion Rate
J_2	Instantaneous Ingestion Rate
k	rate constant
K	condition factor after Fulton (1911)
K'	condition factor after Ricker (1975)
kJ	kilojoule
L	Body Length
L.	Linnaeus
LLDA	Laguna Lake Development Authority
MGA	Manufacturer's Guaranteed Analysis
MGR	Metabolic Growth Rate
$M(i)_{\text{avg}}$	Average Weight of items of food type i when ingested (Olson-Mullen model)
n	number of hours taken to evacuate stomach fully (Bajkov model)
NFE	Nitrogen-free Extract

NHCS	Napindan Hydraulic Control Structure
P_c	critical oxygen partial pressure (for fish)
pers. comm.	personal communication
PIOM	Particulate Inorganic Matter
POM	Particulate Organic Matter
PVC	Polyvinylchloride
R_d	Daily Ration
S	Stomach Contents
S_∞	Actual (asymptotic) Maximum Stomach Contents at which ingestion equals evacuation
S_{avg}	Average Stomach Contents over analytical period
S_f	Stomach Contents at the start of a non-feeding phase
S_m	Theoretical Maximum Stomach Contents at which ingestion is zero
S_r	Residual Stomach Contents at the start of a feeding phase
S_t	Stomach Contents at time t
SEAFDEC AQD	Aquaculture Department, Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center
SGR	Specific Growth Rate
SL	Standard Body Length
SOGREAH	Société Grenobloise d'Etudes et d'Applications Hydrauliques
SR	Spectrophotometric Reading
t	Time
t_0	Initial Time
$T(i)_{avg}$	Average Time Interval between ingestion of individual items of food type i (Olson-Mullen model)
T_f	Time at start of a non-feeding phase in MAXIMS model
T_r	Time at start of a feeding phase in MAXIMS model
Tab.	Table
TW	Total Body Weight
V	Volume of Water Sample (spectrophotometry)
v	Volume of Extractant (spectrophotometry)
W	Body Weight
W_0	Initial Body Weight
W_t	Body Weight at time t
$W(i)_{avg}$	Average Weight of food type i in the stomach over a sampling period (Olson-Mullen model)

List of Figures

Figure 1.	Map of Laguna de Bay and its watershed, showing the landmarks most important to this project (diagram by courtesy of the University of Hamburg)	6
Figure 2.	Idealized curves for the four MAXIMS Models 1.1, 1.2, 2.1 and 2.2. Models 1.1 and 2.1 with constant feeding rate, Models 1.2 and 2.2 with feeding rate inversely dependent on stomach fullness, all models with simple exponential stomach evacuation.	22
Figure 3.	Map of Laguna de Bay and its watershed, showing the SEAFDEC water quality monitoring stations and the location of the fishpens and -cages at which fish sampling was carried out. SEAFDEC Stations: W (West Bay), P (Fishpen), C (Central Bay) and S (South Bay). Fish sampling sites: T: fishcages used for all tilapia samplings; M1: fishpen used for June and August 1995 milkfish samplings; M2: fishpen used for October 1996 and February and April 1997 milkfish samplings; M3: fishpen used for June and August 1997 samplings. Diagram by courtesy of the University of Hamburg	40
Figure 4.	Schematic representation of the procedure by which milkfish and Nile tilapia and their stomach contents were analysed.	42
Figure 5.	Phytoplankton biomass in a fishpen (Station P), in West Bay (Station W), South Bay (Station S) and Central Bay (Station C) from may 1995 to September 1997 inclusive. No sampling at station C throughout 1996 and 1997 or at Station P in August 1997). Common legend shown at Station C. Note different Y-axis scales. Data taken from SEAFDEC (1996, 1997, 1998)	53
Figure 6.	Stomach content composition of milkfish sampled throughout the project. Phytoplankton species not specifically listed were present only at trace level and have been grouped into the category <i>Coscinodiscus</i> . Note different Y-axis scales. (a) October 1996 (b) February 1997 (c) April 1997 (d) June 1997 (e) August 1997	57-58
Figure 7.	Mean observed stomach contents \pm standard deviations (○) and MAXIMS curves (—) for milkfish sampled throughout the project. Note different Y-axis scales. (a) October 1996 (b) February 1997 (c) April 1997 (d) June 1997 (e) August 1997	61-62

Figure 8.	Stomach content composition of Nile tilapia sampled throughout the project. Phytoplankton species not specifically listed were present only at trace level and have been grouped into the category <i>Coscinodiscus</i> . Note different Y-axis scales. (a) May 1995 - large fish (b) May 1995 - small fish (c) August 1995 (d) March 1996 (e) May 1996 (f) July 1996 (g) September 1996 - supplemented fish (h) September 1996 - unsupplemented fish (i) January 1997 - supplemented fish (j) January 1997 - unsupplemented fish	67-70
Figure 9.	Mean observed stomach contents \pm standard deviations (\bigcirc) and MAXIMS curves (—) for Nile tilapia sampled throughout the project. Note different Y-axis scales. (a) May 1995 - large fish (b) May 1995 - small fish (c) August 1995 (d) March 1996 (e) May 1996 (f) July 1996 (g) September 1996 - supplemented fish (h) January 1997 - supplemented fish (i) January 1997 - unsupplemented fish.  denotes supplemental feed given at that time of day	71-73
Figure 10.	Secchi depth between March and November 1997, showing the three-phase pattern demarcated by the arrival of saltwater intrusion and the start of the monsoon winds	79
Figure 11.	Chlorophyll-a concentrations in three size fractions between March and November 1997. Secchi depth is included to demarcate the three study phases (see text)	79
Figure 12.	Concentration of total suspended solids in the three size fractions (a) and of particulate organic and inorganic matter in the small (b), middle (c) and large (d) size fractions between March and November 1997. Secchi depth is included in each case to demarcate the three study phases (see text)	81
Figure 13.	Zooplankton numbers and biomass between March and November 1997. Secchi depth is included to demarcate the three study phases (see text)	83
Figure 14.	Body mass of Nile tilapia (Mean \pm St. Dev. of four cages) between March and November 1997. Secchi depth is included to demarcate the three study phases (see text)	84
Figure 15.	Metabolic Growth Rates (MGR; Mean \pm St. Dev. of four cages) of Nile tilapia between March and November 1997. Secchi Depth is included to demarcate the three study phases (see text)	84
Figure 16.	Condition factors K of Nile tilapia between March and November 1997. Secchi Depth is included to demarcate the three study phases (see text)	85
Figure 17.	Survival of Nile tilapia in four different experimental cages between March and November 1997	86

- Figure 18. Relationship between Chlorophyll-a and Particulate Organic Matter (POM) in the middle size fraction (15-50 μ m) in Phase 2 (11.5.-2.8.1997) and Phases 1 (26.3.-10.5.1997) and 3 (3.8.-26.11.1997) of the water quality study period (March-November 1997). Geometric mean regression line is included for comparison 87
- Figure 19. Estimated composition of Particulate Organic Matter (POM) in the three size fractions on the basis of the geometric mean regression between Chlorophyll-a and POM in the middle size fraction over the water quality study period (March-November 1997). Secchi depth is included to demarcate the three study phases (see text) 89

List of Tables

Table 1.	Specific (SGR) and Metabolic (MGR) Growth Rates of milkfish, <i>Chanos chanos</i> , recorded by various authors in laboratory experiments to test different types of food and/or feeding levels or for fish held under conditions typical of extensive and semi-intensive culture.	26
Table 2.	Details of milkfish sampling dates, fishpen code (cf. Fig. 2), number of fish collected and standard lengths (SL), total (TW) and gutted (GW) weights (Mean \pm Standard Deviation) of the fish sampled throughout the project	54
Table 3.	Specific Growth Rates, SGR, and Metabolic Growth Rates, MGR of milkfish between those sampling occasions when fish were collected from the same fishpen	55
Table 4.	Mean condition factors and body composition (wet matter basis) of milkfish sampled throughout the project. Condition factors with different superscripts differ at $p < 0.05$	56
Table 5.	MAXIMS parameters (F_b , F_s , J_1 , E), the daily ration calculated from them (R_d) and the ingestion rate and daily ration converted to metabolic basis ($\text{g kg}^{-0.8} \text{ day}^{-1}$) for milkfish sampled between October 1996 and August 1997. Standard errors are given in brackets. Parameter estimates and daily rations with different superscripts differ at $p < 0.05$	60
Table 6.	Details of Nile tilapia sampling dates, number of fish collected and standard lengths (SL), total (TW) and gutted (GW) weights (Mean \pm Standard Deviation) of the fish sampled throughout the project	63
Table 7.	Mean condition factors and body composition (wet matter basis) of Nile tilapia sampled throughout the project. Condition factors with different superscripts differ at $p < 0.05$	64
Table 8.	Proximate composition of the supplemental feed (Robina Starfeeds, Universal Robina Corporation) given to Nile tilapia in August 1995, September 1996 and January 1997. Manufacturer's guaranteed analysis (MGA; minimum values for protein and lipid, maximum values for all other components) is included for the sake of comparison	65
Table 9.	MAXIMS parameters (F_b , F_s , J_1 , E) and the daily ration calculated from them (R_d) for Nile tilapia sampled throughout the project. Standard errors are given in brackets. Instantaneous evacuation rates and daily rations with different superscripts differ at $p < 0.05$. No MAXIMS analysis possible for September 1996 unfed fish. SF denotes that supplemental feed was given	77-78

Table 10.	MAXIMS Model 1.1 results (\pm St. Dev.) for wild tilapia in various East African Rift Valley lakes. Data for Lake George from Moriarty & Moriarty (1973), for Lake Rudolf from Harbott (1975) and for Lake Awasa from Getachew (1989)	98
Table 11.	Growth rates of milkfish calculated for fish from twelve fishpens in 1974 and three pens in 1976 (respective sources: Delmendo 1974, LLDA 1978). Data for LLDA Fishpen II also split into two time periods for comparison	100