



General Survey on Feeding Habits of Fresh Water Fish in Haryana

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Research Paper—Zoology

Fish are the aquatic animals which are studied under the heading of Nektons. They feed upon all type of food including phytoplankton, zooplanktons as well as nektons of smaller than their size either belonging to same species or other. Most of the culture able fish are omnivorous. Schaperclaus (1933). But the specificity in respect of selection of food is found in fresh water fish as well as marine forms. It is due to their habits and ecological area in which they live. The fresh water fish of Haryana are found either in river Yamuna as well as fresh water lakes like Karan Lake at Karnal, Badkhal Lake at Faridabad, Sukhana Lake at Chandigarh and in river Ghagar. Beside this the fresh water fish in Haryana are in abundance in Paddy fields from district Panchkula to District Rohtak and canal irrigated area of Jhajjar and Bhiwani districts. The fresh water fish cultivated in these districts are indigenous species and well adapted to food habits either in some areas artificial food is also provided by the fish farmer in order to over come the shortage of food where the population of fish in an area exceed to a particular limit.

Material and Method: General survey on various fish culture sites was carried on in order to know the food habits and availability of food for fresh water fish in Haryana. The type of food found in gut of various fish in different fisheries was studied. The fisheries visited during the survey were taken into consideration from various districts of Haryana as: Ambala, Jind, Kaithal, Sonapat, Panipat, Rohtak and Bhiwani. Criteria taken into consideration was the type of food as

1. Main food : It is the food which is called natural food also and fish consume it under favourable conditions and grow well.

Similarly the second type of food taken into consideration was

2. Occasional food, it is the food which is also liked and consumed when available for fish. Similarly the third type of food taken in to consideration was

3. emergency food, it is the food when preferred food is not available.

Similarly the basic food, Secondary food and obligatory food (Nikol skii 1963) were taken into consideration. On the basis of the food and Niche the fish of these areas were divided in to three categories Das and Miitra (1955) as follows:

1. Surface feeders: The fish feeding on planktons at the surface.

2. Column feeders: The fish feeding in the mid water of water body. These were either herbivorous, carnivorous or omnivorous.

3. Bottom feeders: The fish feeding at bottom of water body. These were either detritious feeders, mud or grass feeders.

in general twelve different species of fish found as main types were taken into consideration which are cultivated as fresh water fish in above mentioned districts of Haryana. The fish grown in village ponds were of main food dependent type due to frequent visit of farmyard animals. But the fish grown in artificial fisheries were on occasional and emergency food dependent also.

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Results: the results obtained during the survey are tabulated along with conclusion of feeding habit of specific fish .

Sr.No.	Name	Food	Feeding Habits
1	<i>Catla catla</i>	1.Fingerlings-Water flees, algae, and vegetable debries.2.Adult-Algae, some plants, Rotifers,insects etc.	Surface feeder. Planktophagus.
2	<i>Chana striatus</i>	Fry- Water flees, insects, fish fry and fingerlings.Fingerlings-Zooplankton, larvae of dipterans and fry. Adult- Small fish, tadpoles etc.	Carnivorous mainly
3	<i>Cirrhina mrigala</i>	Fingerlings- algae, detritus, mud, vegetable debris.Adult- detritus, mud, vegetable debris.	Herbivorous
4	<i>Cirrhinus reba</i>	Fingerlings-Algae, decaying plants, Animal matter, mud.Adult-Phytoplanktones decaying leaves.	Herbivorous
5	<i>Clarias batarachus</i>	Fingerlings-Insects, Crustaceans debries.Adult-Crustacians, small fish and decaying organic matter.	Omnivorous
6	<i>Cyprinus carpio</i>	Fingerlings- Larvae of crustaceans Adult-Cyclopus, Euglena, Volvox.	Voraciously Omnivorous.
7	<i>Labio rohita</i>	Fingerlings-Plants and vegetable debris Adult- decaying higher plants.	Herbivorous
8	<i>Labio calbasu</i>	Fingerlings- Plants and vegetable debris.Adult-decaying higher plants, mud.	Herbivorous
9	<i>Labio fimbriatus</i>	Adult-Several species of Algae as Bacillariophyseae,Chlorophyseae,etc.	Herbivorous bottomfeeder.
10	<i>Labio bata</i>	Fingerlings&Adult-Feed on Algae, Mud, Vegetable debries and detritus.	Herbivorous bottom feeder.
11	<i>Labio kontius</i>	Fingerlings-Filamentous algae, insects and mud.Adult-Remains of insects, decaying leaves and mud.	Marginal and bottom feeder.
12	<i>Labio goniis</i>	Fingerlings-Algae,Vegetable debris and detritus.Adult-Plants of microscopic size, mud.	Bottom Column Feeder.

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