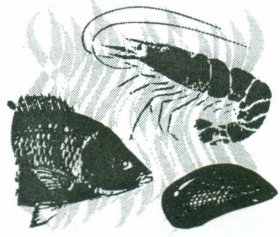


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Resumos / Abstracts

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THE EFFECT OF PHOTOPERIOD AND SEASONAL CHANGES IN THE FOOD INTAKE OF TROPICAL FISH, *Oreochromis niloticus*

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This study was undertaken to investigate the photoperiod influence in the seasonal changes of food intake in the Nile tilapia (*Oreochromis niloticus*), a tropical fish. Sixty-four fishes were used, divided in 2 groups, with 32 animals in each one. One group was studied in the summer and the other group in the winter, both during 30 days. In each season, the fishes were studied in 2 subgroups. The subgroup 14L:10D was submitted to 14 light:10 dark regime and the subgroup 10L:14D was submitted to 10 light:14 dark regime. The fishes were maintained, in number of 4, in glass aquarium with no visual or chemical communication among them. The water temperature was maintained at 25°C. The food intake and protein absorption were determined in 3 subsequent 10 days periods. The food intake and all the other variables were determined at the end of the experimental period as well. It was observed an increase of food intake during the experimental period in the summer in both photoperiods ($p>0.05$). In the winter the difference was not significant to the photoperiod. The mean of 30 days ingestion decreased in the winter but the differences were significant only in the group submitted to 10L:14D photoperiod. The present data suggest that there are seasonal changes in food intake in the tilapia and that the photoperiod is strongly implied in this response.

