

Food and Feeding Habits of *Tilapia guineensis* (1862) in Rumuolumeni Creek, Niger Delta: Implications for Pisciculture

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ABSTRACT The paper investigated the food and feeding habit of a brackish water fish *Tilapia guineensis* in the Rumuolumeni Creek of the Niger Delta, Nigeria. A total of 1,030 fish specimens were collected consisting of 565 juveniles and 465 adults and examined for stomach content. The 'points' and frequency of occurrence methods were used for the gut content analysis. In the 'points' method, a total of 100 points was given to all the stomach content and these points shared among them as the volume of each item was taken. Only stomachs that were more than half filled were used. The points obtained by each food item from all the stomachs observed were summed and then taken as a percentage of the total. The frequency of occurrence method involve recording the total number of guts in which each food item appeared and using this as a percentage of the total number of individuals examined. The results indicate that the juveniles of *Tilapia guineensis* feed mainly on zooplankton while the adult fish depend more on aquatic plants and invertebrates. It is opined that this mode of feeding could give an insight in feed formulation for intensive culture of *Tilapia guineensis*.