

**THE INFLUENCE OF DAILY FEEDING FREQUENCY
ON GROWTH AND FEED CONSUMPTION OF
RAINBOW TROUT FINGERLINGS
(*ONCORHYNCHUS MYKISS*) REARED AT 18.5-22.5°C**

Nadir Başçınar¹, Ibrahim Okumus¹, Nimet Selda Başçınar² and Hacer Emiral Sağlam¹

¹ *KTU Faculty of Marine Sciences, Dept. of Fisheries, TR-61530 Trabzon, Turkey*

² *Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs, Central Fisheries Research Institute, Sana, Trabzon, Turkey*

(Received 24.9.00, Accepted 7.6.01)

Abstract

Feed consumption, growth and feed conversion ratios were studied in rainbow trout (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*) juveniles (mean weight 9.0 ± 3.1 g) fed two, three or four times daily and reared at 18.5-22.5°C. The fish reached final mean weights of 26.8-31.6 g over the 40-day trial and growth rates (SGR) ranged 2.57-3.01% per day. Fish fed four times a day had a significantly higher SGR and final mean weight than those fed two or three times each day. Similarly, the condition factors of the groups fed three or four times a day were higher than that fed twice ($p < 0.01$). Daily feed consumption rates (3.1-3.7% of the body weight) increased significantly with increasing feeding frequency ($p < 0.05$), while differences in feed conversion ratios (1.06-1.16) were significant only between the groups fed two and three times ($p < 0.01$). At water temperatures of 18.5-22.5°C, rainbow trout juveniles fed four times a day grow faster than those fed two or three times.