

The effect of stocking density on the growth rates of juvenile African cichlids

Stocking density is one of the main factors that aquaculturists' face, which is the number of fish per unit area in their reared environment. Stocking density in aquaculture can have a significant impact on the growth rates of fishes. The present study aims to evaluate the effects of stocking density on juvenile cichlids. Three stocking densities of 0.4 fish/L, 0.8 fish/L, and 1.6 fish/L were tested in a circulated water system. Cichlid weight and length growth rates decreased with an increase in stocking density. The mean total for weight and length were significantly higher at the low density of 0.4 fish/L ($p=0.027$) compared to the medium and high densities. A significant difference was found between growth rate variations between the densities, which concludes the stocking densities of juvenile cichlids could be 0.4 fish/L in a recirculating water system.