



Biofloc Technology: Sustainable Technology for Fish Production

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Abstract

Based on in-situ microorganism generation, biofloc technology is an aquaculture method that is favourable to the environment. The term "biofloc" means the lump of living and dead organic materials, phytoplankton and bacteria that feed on other bacteria that are suspended in water or other bodies of water. Using waste nutrients as fish food is a method of alternative fish farming known as biofloc technology. This analysis focuses on the prerequisites for a biofloc fish farming system, biofloc development, the microbial community, and the significance of microbial interaction in biofloc technology, where phytoplankton and bacterial populations play a more major role in preserving water quality. Between bacteria and algae, there is a complicated relationship. Due to bacteria, Algae can be decomposed into organic nutrients. Along with its ability to distribute bioactive chemicals, biofloc's nutritional value influences the entire aquatic food supply. The control and harmful consequences of nitrogenous chemicals have been covered in this review (such as ammonia, nitrites and nitrates). To create microbial protein from harmful fish waste and other organic debris in the water, Biofloc, or more particularly, cultivated microbes, are added to the water. This lowers costs while also maintaining water quality. Biofloc advantages and disadvantages are also discussed in this review and what improvement can be made to biofloc technology.

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1. INTRODUCTION:

Aquaculture output is typically increasing, which is shown by high level of stocking densities and higher feed inputs. While this can raise output which also created several difficulties, including higher nitrogen loadings and a greater danger of diseases that put farmers at greater risk in addition to the possibility to contaminate or transmit viruses to untreated natural water sources ¹. Recirculating aquaculture systems (RAS) were developed as one method of addressing these issues ². There is a need of vertical and horizontal expansions in aquaculture to fulfil raising population needs of the world. It is impossible to overstate how quickly the aquaculture business is expanding on a global scale given the potential obstacles posed by the environment and the economy. Increased aquaculture production results in enormous amounts of surplus organic contaminants, which have the potential to have both immediate harmful impacts and long-term environmental hazards ³. The biofloc technology (BFT) is a recently developed economical method of growing fish that allows nitrogenous wastes from fish and shellfish as well as leftover feed to be transformed into protein-rich feed called biofloc ⁴. Traditional aquaculture production systems have a number of economic and environmental issues that the BFT system (biofloc technology system) has proven to be able to address.

Aquaculture production must expand and become more intensive as a result of the increasing demand for aquatic food due to the estimated 7 billion people who currently inhabit the planet. The main objective of expanding aquaculture must be to increase production of aquaculture products while utilizing water and land more economically⁵. Fishes cultivated through BFT system are suitable for eating because a good nutritional value is found in Biofloc. The dry weight protein ranges from 25 – 50%, fat ranges 0.5 – 15%. It is a good source of vitamins and minerals, particularly phosphorous. It has an effect similar to probiotics.

2. HISTORY:

In the early 1970s at Ifremer-COP, the Oceanic Center of the Pacific, a French Research Institute for Sea Exploration, where biofloc technology was first discovered⁶. Understanding the success factor for Biofloc fish farming in Pakistan is crucial. Pakistan is one of the less developed nations. Comparatively speaking, the nation has fewer resources for knowledge. As a result, individuals and SMEs strain and toil on their own to develop the relevant skills by regularly exercising and learning this expertise. Therefore, people in Pakistan are able to get the required knowledge from reliable sources, have already implemented Biofloc fish farming utilising Biofloc Technology, and have begun working on it. Ten separate scenarios involving individuals and SMEs that switched from conventional farming to Biofloc fish farming have been examined. ten out of ten people have stated that they are happy and successful with it. For cultivating a wide range of species, such as *Litopenaeus vannamei*, *Litopenaeus stylirostris*, *Penaeus monodon*, and *Fenneropenaeus merguensis*, this type of systems with active microbial suspensions through continuous water circulation system was used⁷. The discoverers of this technique notably Hopher, Schroeder and Wohlfarth (Israel), created the idea of the "Heterotrophic feed chain," and Steve Surfing, who founded Solar Aquafarms in California, a shrimp and fish farm based on active bacterial culture⁸. Under these circumstances, organic wastes that build up in the reservoir decompose and an active microbial community nitrifies or absorbs ammonia—N. The typical external bio filter or high-water exchange devices are replaced by this set of procedures. In this situation, these ponds' bacterial mechanisms act as a mechanism for treating the water to maintain pond quality of the water, and the bacterial protein acts as a feeding addition. Even though Biofloc technology was developed and operates on fairly straightforward principles, farmers did not start to accept this fish culture technology until the 2000s. Avnimelech⁵ noticed that one factor in this reluctance was that the considerable turbidity brought on by the biofloc appeared to challenge the idea that cleaner pond waters are preferable. The eventual acceptance of Biofloc technology was largely a result of factors such as growing water shortages and some wealthy countries putting stronger controls on the quantity of wastewater discharged¹. Today, a lot of research institutions are starting their Biofloc technology efforts, most often in relation to important areas like cultivation maintenance, nutritious food, and Biofloc technology applicable to reproduction, microbiological ecology, bioengineering, and economics⁷.

3. NECESSITY OF BIOFLOC FISH FARMING SYSTEM:

More than billion people worldwide rely on fish as one of the most affordable and nutrient-dense sources of animal protein, which is vitally important in food and nutritional security⁹. Essential amino acids, lipids, vitamins, and minerals are abundant in fish. However, the world's constantly expanding fish-eating population presented many difficulties for researchers and fish producers to meet their expectations. The far more important and restricting elements for currently used aquaculture systems are the accessibility of land and water, as well as the price of fish feed, which makes up sixty percent of the overall production cost. Different aquaculture methods with increased production therefore need less land, water, and money. According to research, approximately fifteen to twenty five percent of the protein in feed is preserved by fish or shrimp in conventional aquaculture, and the remainder is flushed out primarily as ammonium, however protein consumption in a biofloc system can be enhanced up to 45 percent¹⁰. According to Da Silva et al. (2013), studies have shown that this mechanism assimilates food nutrients more effectively.

4. BIOFLOC DEVELOPMENT:

Biological polymers are needed to create the biofloc because they hold the various parts together and create a matrix that encloses the cells. This matrix serves as a substrate, gives the bacteria easy access to nutrients, and shields them from their predators¹¹. In order to achieve the formation of heterotrophic bacteria found in the biofloc, the carbon/nitrogen (C: N) relation in the water reservoir must be adjusted. This is done by providing a food with less protein and one carbohydrate, including molasses, in adequate levels to integrate

one unit of nitrogen, 20 units of carbon are required. The microorganisms in the culture can use the nitrogen that is not consumed to create microbial protein rather than hazardous chemicals, which aids in the direction of hazardous inorganic nitrogen, leftover food, and the remaining phytoplankton production¹². As soon as this rate is sufficient, bacteria that are growing inside the microsystem begin to use potentially harmful substances like organic carbon, ammoniac nitrogen, nitrates, nitrites, and phosphates as energy sources, oxidizing them so that algae, fungi, other bacteria, and filtering microbes can also use them¹³. The microorganisms in the culture can use the nitrogen that is not consumed to create microbial protein rather than hazardous chemicals, which aids in the direction of hazardous inorganic nitrogen, leftover food, and the remaining phytoplankton production¹². In biofloc technology the role of microbial community to improve water quality and fish yield in fresh water indoor and outdoor pond Aquaculture (**Fig .1**).

In systems with little to no water exchange (such as intensive care systems), heterotrophic ammonia-assimilating and chemoautotrophic nitrifying bacteria are principally in charge of preserving water quality¹⁴. The color change from green to brown occurs as the culture progresses through the transition from a predominantly algae-dominated to a bacterial biofloc-dominated system¹³. Phytoplankton, bacteria, and aggregations of live and dead organic particles make up the developed microbial communities¹⁵.

Proteobacterium, *Bacillus amyloliquefaciens* specie and actinobacterium are the three most prevalent bacterial species found in bio floc. Other smaller bacterial species exist as well, including Cytophaga and Roseobacter species¹⁶. Heterotrophic bacterial population uses organic nitrogenous waste as well as ammonia to generate unicellular microbial protein¹⁷. Bio floc, which have several benefits for the culture, form in the ponds when fish are raised in high densities without water exchange. It has been hypothesized that the diversified microbial community in biofloc dominated systems is thought to increase competition with potentially harmful bacteria, such as vibrios, and lesson issues with non-excludable pathogens¹⁸. The type of culture system, light, and salinity are a few of the variables that affect how the bacteria in Biofloc are arranged¹⁹.

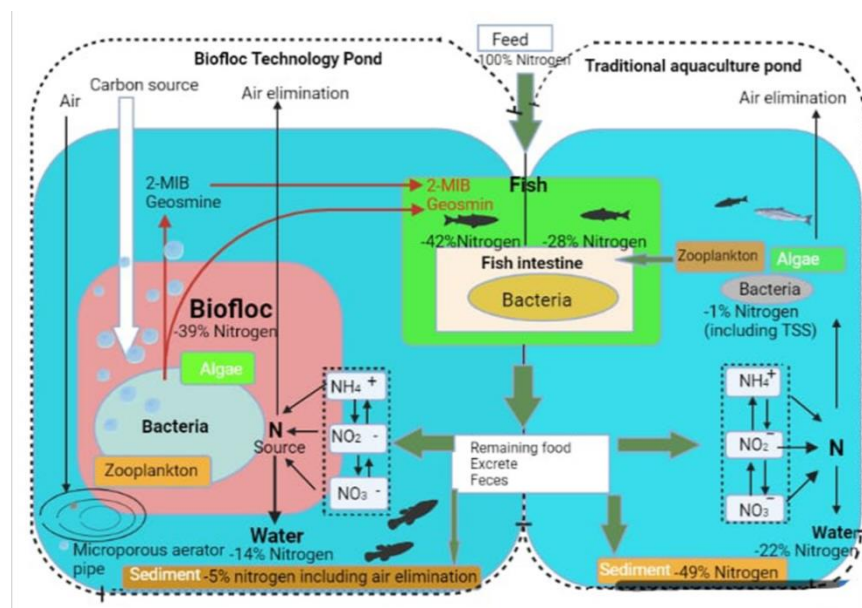


Figure 1 Biofloc Technology in fish pond.

5. ROLE OF MICROBIAL INTERACTION IN BIOFLOC TECHNOLOGY

BFT is also known as suspended growth systems¹⁵, autotrophic-heterotrophic systems without exchange²⁰, activated sludge or suspended bacteria-based systems²¹, single cell protein production system¹³, and microbial floc system²². However, BFT is attempting to protect water quality by utilizing bacteria in fish farming systems²³. The main goal of this system is to eliminate nitrogenous waste while promoting the growth of bacteria by increasing carbon/nitrogen ratio, mostly by adding an organic carbon source. Microorganisms associated with biofloc have three major roles: maintaining water quality, providing nutrients to cultivated aquatic species, and create probiotic properties.

6. ALGAE-BACTERIA INTERACTIONS IN BFT

Complex interactions are present between the various types of microorganisms (complementary or competitive) in BFT, and algae and bacteria in the system play a variety of stimulatory and inhibitory roles²⁴. In the water the productivity of bacteria is increased, for instance, might be caused by higher primary productivity. This will enable heterotrophs to use the organic carbon by converting simple sugars into complex polysaccharides that algae may release. Algae are also short-lived organisms, and when they perish, more organic carbon becomes available for faster heterotrophic reproduction¹⁵. Minerals, vitamins, and other bioactive compounds that can promote the growth of phytoplankton and are present in organic debris are decomposed by bacteria. Bacteria and microalgae may be inhibited by antagonistic growth compounds such as anatoxin, microcystin, and hemagglutinin²⁴. There may be some influence on nitrogen removal from the major microbial groups. This is because nitrifying bacteria only change the hazardous nitrogen metabolites into less toxic nitrate-N, while phytoplankton and heterotrophic bacteria are able to remove nitrogen from the system²⁵. It is realistic to expect that a mature biofloc will serve a complementary role in removing nutrients from the culture medium after it has achieved equilibrium among the diverse microbial community. However, less hazardous nitrate may still be present in bacteria or filamentous bacteria in nitrification-dominated settings⁴. This happens as a result of filamentous bacteria that accumulate nitrate-N and release it when dissolved oxygen levels are low²⁶. **Table 1** compares systems controlled by bacteria and alga.

Table 1: compares systems controlled by bacteria and algae

Character	Algal system	Bacterial system
Source of energy	Solar energy	Mostly organic matter
Occurrence	Low organic matter concentration ponds. Density of algae rises with nutrients readily available up to restriction of light	Dominant in pond having high concentration of organic matter, usually limited in ponds with little to no water exchange.
Sensitivity to environment-related factors	Light is necessary (activity is declined on overcast days).	Do not require light. Therefore able to adopt in variety of conditions.
Oxygen impact	Day time production of oxygen and night time consumption of it.	Only oxygen consumption is present.
Suitable activities	Primary production includes oxygen and organic matter. Uptake of ammonia	Decay of organic matter. Nitrification. Protein production by microbes.
Regulation of inorganic nitrogen	Primary production drives uptake of nitrogen. 0.7g NH ₄ ⁺ /m ² /day is the maximum capacity	The carbon nitrogen ratio in organic matter affects nitrogen uptake. Practically capacity is appeared to be unlimited.
Possible capacity	Daily primary production is typically not more than 4 g O ₂ /m ²	Limited because of constant rate of degradation and concentration of substrate.

Source: ⁶⁹ Aquaculture Society

7. MICROBE AGGREGATION IN THE FLOC AND VARIABLES INFLUENCING FLOC FORMATION:

When a chemical coagulant is added to water, it facilitates the joining of the particles, resulting in larger aggregates that are simpler to separate. This process is known as flocculation. In addition to being frequently employed in water treatment facilities, the technique can also be used when processing samples for monitoring applications. A complex process involving numerous physical, chemical, and biological events is called microbial flocculation. Bacteria create extracellular polymeric substances (EPS), which are made up of polysaccharides, proteins, humic materials, and nucleic acids. A matrix is made of lipids and acids. Several other factors could also be behind this flocculation, such as: B. Dehydration through proton translocation²⁷, cation bridging and steric interactions. Variations in size and quality improve accessibility in an organism's

life cycle. The main factors that affect floc formation are temperature, organic carbon source, mixing intensity, dissolved oxygen concentration, hydrogen ion concentration, and organic load rate (Floc volume index, floc size, communal representatives, nutritional aspects, etc.). All other dependent parameters are given much less weight than mixing intensities. For flocculation, extremely turbulent mixing that is kept in suspension is required. The unsuspended, settling microbial floc that create an anaerobic zone in the water produce toxic metabolites such as hydrogen sulphide, methane, ammonia, and other gases ²⁸.

8. NUTRITIONAL VALUE OF BIOFLOC

A complete aquatic food source, biofloc deliver bioactive compounds and has a nutritional dynamic ²⁹. Because of this, it's crucial to examine the factors affecting the nutritional value of biofloc, including their capacity to consume and digest microbial protein and their density in water ¹⁵. Red tilapia *Oreochromis niloticus*, mussel *Perna viridis*, and shrimp *Litopenaeus vannamei* all perform better in floc with particle sizes of > 100 and 48 µm because of their higher nutritional value and nitrogen recovery ³⁰. They also found that the highest concentrations of protein and fat were found in particles larger than 100 µm, whereas the most important amino acids were found in floc less than 48 µm in size.

Aquatic animals create a complex food chain that they use in the presence of biofloc and artificial diet, which is natural food supplemented with a designed diet. This is linked to improving aquatic species' growth performance in the biofloc system. Khanjani, Sajjadi ³¹ looked into how BFT affected feed conversion ratio (FCR) and discovered that clean water and BFT treatments had FCR values of 1.52 and 1.2-1.29, respectively. He also Compared to clear water treatment (1.52 for FCR and 66.81% for feed efficiency), the presence of biofloc can cause FCR to decrease (1.20-1.29), and feed efficiency to increase (78.61-84.26%). **Table 2** also lists the nutritional benefits of biofloc, from several studies.

Table 2: Different study record of Nutritional value of biofloc.

Crude protein (%)	Carbohydrate (%)	Lipid (%)	Crude fibre (%)	Ash (%)	Reference
13.50	–	0.35	7.43	61.40	⁷⁰
35.00	–	5.00	6.00	5.00	⁷¹
35.20	–	2.40	–	15.30	⁷²
26.91	–	2.05	–	32.04	³¹
31.70	–	3.06	–	28.23	⁷³
30.04	24.50	0.60	–	–	⁷⁴
20.50	20.00	0.50	-	-	⁷⁴
21.60	16.00	0.50			⁷⁴
13.97	16.99	–	0.33	48.46	⁷⁵
66.03	–	3.00	0.87	6.46	⁷⁶
67.98	–	3.67	1.08	6.48	⁷⁶
35.78	31.73	16.32	–	10.17	⁷⁷
29-34	–	6.5-90	7.00	7.80-10.80	⁷⁸
28.70	–	2.30	–	43.00	⁷⁹
32.74	–	–	6.62	22.34	⁸⁰
38.00	----	3.00	6.00	12.00	⁸¹

21.30-32.10	-----	1.60-2.80	----	43.40-61.40	⁸²
33.40-37.60	17.10-25.50	0.40-0.50	----	-----	⁸³

9. NITROGENOUS COMPOUNDS IN BIOFLOC:

The presence of nitrogen and its derivatives, commonly known as nitrogenous compounds, play a significant role in maintaining water quality in aquaculture, particularly when following the biofloc technique. Therefore, assessing the water quality in aquaculture requires careful consideration of nitrogen, especially ammonia and nitrite. One innovative aquaculture production method, known as biofloc technology (BFT), has been introduced to address the longstanding problem of nitrogen toxicity in the industry. By regulating the carbon to nitrogen ratio (C/N), BFT facilitates the conversion of hazardous nitrogenous compounds into microbial protein, which can serve as an additional source of nutrition for the aquaculture species.²⁸

Aquaculture species rely on nitrogen for various physiological functions, including the composition of tissues, fluids, and compounds such as proteins, nucleic acids, nitrogenous bases, pigments, and adenosine phosphates. The most common soluble forms of nitrogen found in aquaculture water are ammonia, nitrates, and nitrites. In biofloc systems, it's important to recognize that ammonia can exist in two different forms: unionized (ammonia, NH₃) and ionized (ammonium, NH₄⁺). To monitor water quality in aquaculture, total ammonia nitrogen can be estimated by examining the levels of nitrite-nitrogen (NO₂ - N), ammonium-nitrogen (NH₄⁺ - N), nitrate-nitrogen (NO₃ - N), and ammonia nitrogen (NH₃- N), as these terms are widely used to describe the various forms of nitrogen present in the water.¹⁴

10. TOXIC EFFECT OF NITROGEN COMPOUNDS:

10.1. Ammonia

The primary waste product produced by aquatic organisms is non-ionized ammonia (NH₃)³². According to a gradient from a higher blood ammonia concentration to a lower blood ammonia concentration, normal ammonia excretion happens through the gills through diffusion as NH₃. The liver typically has the highest concentrations of ammonia, followed by skeletal muscle, kidneys, and the liver. The ionized form of ammonia is not hazardous to most aquatic organisms; however, the ammoniac form is extremely toxic. Total Ammonia Nitrogen (TAN) pertains to the two nitrogen forms that are linked to excretion in aquatic species. The rate of each molecule (NH₃ or NH₄⁺) depends on the pH of the medium in which it is present, whether it is in the blood or water. Consequently, an alkaline pH would lead to a lower proportion of NH₄⁺ and a higher concentration of NH₃, while an acidic pH would result in the highest concentration of NH₃.³³

Indications of intoxication in aquaculture species include the darkening of the eyes and body, frequent jerky movements, convulsions, spiral movements, and difficulty breathing. Systems that involve high-density culture with limited or no water exchange and a protein-rich diet can rapidly elevate TAN concentration and reduce the diffusion of ammonia through the gills due to the decreased gradients between the water and blood.³³ When facilitated diffusion is unable to remove ammonia, an excretion mechanism is activated that involves the use of ATPases in the exchange of sodium ions (Na⁺) and ionised ammonia (NH₄⁺), which takes energy.³⁴ This process maintains the Total Ammonia Nitrogen balance both inside and outside of the fish, thereby reducing the toxicity of NH₃. **Table 3** illustrates the lethal concentration of ammonia for various aquaculture species in different physicochemical water conditions.

10.2 Nitrite and nitrate

The pH and chlorine concentration (Cl⁻) have impact on nitrite toxicity³⁵. Acidic pH levels (about 5.5) are less tolerant of low quantities of nitrite than are higher pH values³⁶. This may be because nitrous acid (HNO₂) is formed under these circumstances³⁷.

The following effects are associated with nitrite toxicity³⁸.

- i) Competition with the entry of Cl⁻ to the branchial exchange cells and the activation of the potassium ion (K⁺) exit within skeletal muscle cells and erythrocytes, leading to a loss of intracellular and extracellular potassium levels,
- ii) Impairment of Na⁺ absorption in the gill exchange cells,
- iii) Reduction in oxygen levels,
- iv) Conversion of haemoglobin to methaemoglobin, which is incapable of carrying oxygen through the blood,
- v) Increase in heart rate,
- vi) Thyroxine (also known as T4) is a crucial component of your endocrine system. It controls a number of things, including your body temperature, mood, and metabolism. Inhibition of T4 hormone production, causing the kidney to retain water, and
- vii) Changes in the excretion levels of urea and ammonia. Table 4 presents the lethal concentration of nitrite for various aquaculture species under specific physicochemical water conditions.

Nitrite causes a variety of physiological changes in aquatic organisms, including:

According to studies, an organism's susceptibility to these substances can depend on its species³⁸ size or developmental stage, temperature³⁹ salt, and pH³³. The toxic concentration of ammonia and nitrite varies greatly, as seen in **Tables 3 and 4**. The toxicity of nitrite can be influenced by the proportion of calcium ions to chloride ions in water as well as other ionic components of water³⁶.

<i>Litopenaeus vannamei</i> (King prawn)	22.0±2.4 mm	63.72/3.05 ^A 66.68/3.03 ^A 67.75/2.98 ^A	25 15	25	pH 8.15 Dissolved oxygen 6.12±0.60 mg/l	⁸⁷			
		40.98/2.90 ^B 49.03/2.66 ^B 54.04/2.88 ^B	37 17 26 39						
		32.75/2.59 ^C 43.77/2.01 ^C 45.03/5.82 ^C	14 27 38						
		24.79/1.80 ^D 35.80/1.87 ^D 39.94/2.00 ^D	17 24 39						
	<i>Fidicinoides pauliensis</i> (Paulo shrimp)	Egg stage	6.25 ^A	28			25	pH 7.71-8.24	⁸⁸
		Naupliis	122.3 ^A 45.80 ^B 29.59 ^C						
		Zoeae	23.93 ^A 14.93 ^B 11.94 ^C 9.99 ^D						
		Myses	75.07 ^A 41.80 ^B 32.85 ^C 21.98 ^D						
		Postlarvae	24.19 ^A 8.59 ^B 5.65 ^C 5.49 ^D 1.87 ^A 3.11 ^B 0.25 ^C 38.92 ^D						
		Juvenile 5.45±0.4 g	1.67 ^A 0.55 ^B 6.57 ^C 2.49 ^D						
Adult 31.43±1.3 g									
<i>Fidicinoides carpio</i> (European carp)	570±0.00g	123/45.5 ^A	Null	19-22	pH 7.1-7.5 Dissolved oxygen 7-8 mg/l	⁸⁹			

Table 4: Determine the Lethal concentration of nitrite in the warm water species of aquaculture.

Species	W/L	Lethal concentration of Nitrite (mg/l)	Mortality (%)	Salinity (%)	WC	Author

<i>Penaeus monodon</i>	5.07 ± 2.4 g / 91.6 ± 9.0 mm	220 ^A 198 ^A 177 ^A	53	25	Potential hydrogen 7.57 Temperature 24.50 C° Alkalinity 1.60 mg/l Hardness 3180 mg/l Calcium carbonate	86
<i>Penaeus monodon</i>	0.77 ± 0.16 g/38.4 ± 2.12 mm	219.85 ^A 185.83 ^B 88.94 ^C 54.96 ^D	52	24	Potential Hydrogen 7.9 Temperature 28 C° Dissolved Oxygen 5.9-6.6 mg/l Alkalinity 83 mg/l Calcium carbonate Hardness 3300 mg/l Calcium carbonate	38
<i>Prochilodus.madalenae</i>	0.4-6.6 gram	4.2 ^D 133 ^D 223 ^D	25	Null	Potential Hydrogen 7.4-7.6 Temperature 27 C° Alkalinity 24-27.6 mg/l Calcium carbonate Hardness 21-26 mg/l Calcium carbonate Chloride 6-9 mg/l	90
<i>Litopenaeus vannamei</i>	4.34 ± 1.42 gram / 56.89 ± 9.66 millimeter	188.9 ^A 275.1 ^A 526.2 ^A 144.2 ^B 245.0 ^B 425.9 ^B 92.76 ^C 224.98 ^C 376.0 ^C 76.58 ^D 178.39 ^D 321.79 ^D	51	16 28 36 18 23 39 17 29 34 18 29 32	Potential Hydrogen 8.12 Temperature C° Dissolved Oxygen 6.8-0.2 mg/l	87
<i>Piaractus brachypomus</i>	39.9 ± 0.19 gram	5 ^B 7 ^B 18 ^B 35 ^B	26 48 14 58	0.45 ± 0.906	Potential Hydrogen 5.27 ± 0.94 Temperature 28 C° Dissolved Oxygen 7.7 ± 0.2 mg/l	91
<i>Brycon amazonicus</i>	69.1 ± 13.9 gram	0.6 ^D	50	0.05 ± 0.006	Potential Hydrogen 5.7 ± 0.04 Temperature 24 C° Dissolved Oxygen 7.7 ± 0.2 mg/l	91

11. MANAGEMENT OF NITROGENOUS COMPOUNDS IN BFT:

In biofloc technology systems, microorganisms like algae, autotrophic bacteria, and heterotrophic bacteria reuse nitrogenous compounds arising from residual feed and metabolism products (tilapia or shrimp). The nitrifying bacteria (autotrophic bacteria) can nitrate (convert hazardous ammonia to less hazardous nitrates) in an aerobic environment. Two types of autotrophic bacteria, chemolithoautotrophic bacteria (an autotrophic microorganism that obtains energy by oxidizing inorganic compounds) and ammonia-oxidizing archaea (AOA), carry out the nitrification process by oxidizing ammonia to nitrite⁴⁰ via hydroxylamine. The second and final stage of nitrification is achieved by nitrite-oxidizing bacteria after ammonia oxidizing bacteria (AOB) have finished the initial step (NOB). This particular bacterial group is in charge of converting nitrite to nitrates, a form of nitrogen that is usually safe for fish to consume up to a concentration of hundred milligram /Liter⁴¹. In the field of aquaculture, DC. Sigeer's research has introduced an alternative technique to remove and regulate nitrogen from water called denitrification, which converts nitrates to gaseous molecular nitrogen (N₂). Unlike autotrophic bacteria, heterotrophic bacteria are responsible for this process,

which immobilizes nitrogen compounds and converts them into protein that serves as a secondary feed source for the culture organism. Previous studies have primarily focused on heterotrophic ammonia removal from biofloc systems due to their advantageous operations and their ability to outperform harmful bacteria in the system. Another method of eliminating ammonia that is underutilized is the dissimilatory reduction of nitrite to ammonia and its conversion to nitrogen gas, a process that some bacteria directly degrade during nitrification.⁴²

12. TYPES OF CARBON SOURCE IN BIOFLOC TECHNOLOGY:

Carbon is a particularly important nutrient for biofloc effectiveness because it is used as food sources for the bacteria that are important in biofloc (or zero-water-exchange) farming.

Categorization based on chemical composition:

12.1 Carbohydrates:

For the majority of heterotrophic bacteria, carbohydrates may be the most plentiful organic carbon source. Typical carbohydrates include glucose, sucrose, starches, molasses, and cellulose⁴³. Due to their high cost, organic carbon sources such as dextrose and glucose ($C_6H_{12}O_6$) may be commercially impractical⁴⁴. Sucrose ($C_{12}H_{22}O_{11}$), which is naturally present in the majority of plants and is widely available in markets, has proven effective at facilitating bacterial digestion of NH_4-N ⁴³. In Biofloc technology systems, there are additional varieties of complex carbohydrates, including as starch, molasses, and cellulose. A naturally occurring, high-nutrient carbohydrate is starch ($C_6H_{10}O_5$).

12.2 Organic acid and alcohols:

The production of biodiesel results in the creation of glycerol ($C_3H_8O_3$), which can serve as a substitute carbon source for industrial bioprocesses due to its high degree of reduction potential. Additionally, glycerol has been shown to facilitate the production of nutrient-rich biofloc⁴⁵. Denitrifying bacterial cultures can directly use acetic acid through a straightforward bio-degradation pathway to produce acetyl-CoA⁴⁶ (acetyl coenzyme A). Sodium acetate (CH_3COONa) has been used as a readily degradable source of carbon for biofloc technology systems in several studies.⁴⁵

12.3 Biodegradable polymers:

The release of dissolved organic carbon (DOC) by biologically degradable polymers (BDPs) is facilitated by microbial enzymes⁴⁶. Other organic sources of carbon such as polyhydroxyalkanoate (PHA), poly(3-hydroxybutyrate) (PHB), polycaprolactone (PCL), and polybutylene succinate have been utilized to modify denitrifying conditions or processes⁴⁷. Utilizing BDPs as organic carbon sources has the primary benefit of lowering the possibility of overdose or scarcity with minimal control. PHAs are polyesters made from distinct hydroxyalkanoates that are produced by different microorganisms⁴⁸. PHB is made up of tiny ($C_4H_6O_2$) monomer units that are synthesized by bacteria as an energy storage molecule, particularly in low-nutrient environments⁴⁹. **Table 5** shows the effect of different carbon sources on cultured organism in biofloc and their impact on biofloc characteristic

12.4 Impacts of different carbon sources on the efficiency of the BFT system

It has been discovered that carbonaceous substrates in BFT systems have a variety of effects on BFT systems, including bacterial populations, water quality, culture organisms, and biofloc characteristics. These impacts might result from items that have degraded the effectiveness of maintaining the C/N ratio, or other unidentified variables. The mechanism causing these effects has not yet been the subject of any study. The impacts of carbon sources on the aforementioned components are covered in more detail in the following subsections.

13. BACTERIAL COMMUNITY

To promote the growth and activity of heterotrophic bacteria that assimilate inorganic N into their biomass, we alter the carbon-nitrogen ratio. Water quality is maintained by BFT aquaculture⁴. This results in the formation of communities of microorganisms, such as algae, bacteria and protozoa, which are found in detritus and other organic particles⁵⁰. Despite the fact that heterotrophic bacteria are stimulated to grow by

carbon sources, these sources have different effects on bacterial communities⁵¹. For instance, they may have an impact on the quantity, diversity, and relative abundance of bacteria.

13.1 Bacterial counts

Microbial communities in biofloc aggregates are responsible in eliminating water exchange and producing microbial proteins that can be used as supplemented feed. Because they change the metabolism of bacteria in BFT systems, carbonaceous substrates can change the quantity or population of bacteria⁵¹. Different bacterial types can affect bacterial populations as a carbon source, especially autotrophic bacteria and some heterotrophic bacteria gain energy from organic molecules²⁸. Compare this mechanism to how organic carbon molecules affect chemosynthetic nitrifying bacteria, which acquire their energy from inorganic sources¹⁴. As a result, carbon-supplemented systems have larger bacterial biomass than carbon-deficient ones. The specific bacterial communities that prevail in BFT systems need to be identified through studies⁵².

13.2 Relative abundance

Despite the fact that only heterotrophic biofloc systems are expected, chemo-autotrophic bacterial population activities have been seen⁵³. Therefore, populations of these two types of bacteria can both find the best conditions for development in BFT systems. The carbon-nitrogen ratio in the culture water, the type of carbon source employed or the number of suspended particles could all be the contributing factor of this phenomenon.⁵² To promote the growth of heterotrophic bacteria in BFT system, glycerol and glucose has been used⁵⁰. In addition dextrose and molasses (highly soluble carbonaceous substrates), have been reported to significantly support heterotrophic bacterial populations in BFT²². In BFT systems, phytoplankton communities can be impacted by the carbon supply in addition to bacterial communities⁵⁴. In BFT treatments employing treacle as an organic soluble carbon source, chlorophyll a was also seen to accumulate more, indicating an abundance of the microalgal population in the system. Because these phytoplankton are

Table 5: Organic Carbon sources, additional strategies, effects on culture organism, water quality and bio-floc characteristics

Ratio of Nitrogen and Carbon	Supplemental plans	Cultured Organisms	Impact on growth	Impact on quality of water	Impact on characteristics of biofloc	Reference
To start up, 4.33 kilogram of food put in every vessel. During the substantial period no other fertilizer was added	Depended on feed's input carbon concentration, additional carbon source was not added	<i>Litopenaeus vannamei</i> (Whiteleg shrimp)	With a mean value of 71+- 8% the rate of survival was same for all therapies. The different feed used do not had considerable differences in Food conversion ratio. While in groups with solids food conversion ratio was lower.	Despite no additional carbon being introduced. For shrimp water parameters did not build up to harmful standards. pH somewhat decreased, however NaHCO ₃ was used to restore it.	In this study, proximate composition of floc was not determined. However, growth performance of shrimp was better due to controlling floc level (Total suspended solid and VSS).	92
Wheat, gramme, rice, corn, millet, Maida, molasses and multigranular flour all have carbon nitrogen ratio greater than fifteen	According to the derivation of Avni Melech (1999), which is 0.465 feed, carbon sources were put in.	<i>Litopenaeus.vannamei</i> (Whiteleg shrimp)	Growth indices such as; Average Daily Gain For millet, molasses and multigranular treatment Food Conversion Ratio, Sustainable Growth Rate, Survival, and ADW were similar. In general, millet and multigranular therapies had low death rates. In these therapy groups, it was also shown that immunological markers like SOD, Mn Super oxide dismutase, and BGBP had increased levels.	The predominant oxidation products of Total ammonia nitrogen and nitrites were nitrates, and in the Carbon supplemental groups the quantities of Nitrogen subsequently decreased. It kept the quality of water indicators within the orbit that is ideal for growth of shrimp	There was high protein quality in molasses, millet and multigranule treatments flocs because limiting amino acids (arginine, methionine and lysine) were identified.	51
wheat flour, corn flour, sugar, twelve ratio one	In order to establish the proper Carbon nitrogen ratio for heterotrophic bacterial growth, one gram per hundred Litre of carbon source was given. In particular, 2.7g of sugar, and 3.5g of corn flour, 3.7g of wheat flour were included.	<i>Oreochromis niloticus</i> (Nile Tilapia)	The sugar group had the largest fish weight among the carbon treatments. The final Food Conversion ratio was in the range of 1.28 to 1.51, and significant variations between the various carbon source treatments were found. Overall, the sugar and corn flour groups both showed same zoo technical qualities.	For total ammonia nitrogen (0.15, 0.30, 0.33mg/l, respectively) and levels of nitrates, there was no considerable difference between the wheat flour, corn flour, and sugar treatments.	Total suspended solid collected more when wheat flour was added with Carbon recorded the highest levels (226.6 mg/l). But neither the estimated conformation nor any additional floc features were mentioned.	93

Molasses, corn flour, wheat bran carbon nitrogen ratio greater than sixteen	Different combinations of sources of carbon had evaluated, but 60 % molasses + 20 % maize flour + 20 % wheat bran proved to be the greatest addition for shrimp growth.	<i>Litopenaeus.vannamei</i> (Whiteleg shrimp)	In the biofloc treatments. food conversion ratio and survival rate was same.In relation of the combination of various C source , the group that consisted of 60 percent molasses, 20 % maize flour, and 20 % wheat bran showed the highest growth efficiency.	Water quality was maintained within acceptable range by all carbon groups to grow shrimp with the irregularity in pH that because of carbon source inclusion decreased rarely to non- optimal levels.	There was effect of Carbon source on protein content of biofloc (23.95–32.32%) and lipid content of flocs (2.92–5.33%). From all carbon treatments activities of protease, amylase, cellulose and lipase were recorded in flocs.	94
Molasses, put in every 4th day, ten ratio one to twenty ratio one	On the basis of protein content of the feed carbon nitrogen ratio were determined. Till the end of the experiment carbon was put in with an interval of four day.	Youngs of <i>Oreochromis niloticus</i> (Nile Tilapia)	The lifespan of young of tilapia was same though carbon nitrogen ratios were not similar in biofloc treatments. But greater because molasses had put in as extra carbon source. In some biofloc therapies employing molasses as the carbon source, growth responding measures like gain in weight, total biomass,gain in weight per day, and final weight were at their maximum.	The oxygen levels dropped (3.2-1-1.5 mg/l) in an early experiment where molasses was added to the pulse (>0.12 gram/l). As a result, the levels of total Nitrogen, ammonia, nitrates, and nitrites in the water were kept at a level suitable for tilapia. While, the inclusion of molasses caused the pH to drop more gradually.	Flock concentration was highest in the treatment with Nitrogen Carbon ratio 1:20 employing which determined by molasses inclusion. Without molasses addition, it was 200%higer in magnitude than the control.	93
Sucrose is just employed during the initial phase or floc formulation phase	During the onset phase, fifteen grams of sugar were supplied if the ammonia concentration was 1.5 mg per liter or greater.	<i>Litopenaeus.vannamei</i> (Whiteleg shrimp)	In the biofloc technology treatment life span of shrimp was greatest (86.2 T 1.7%) than other groups. , In biofloc technology group Food conversion ratio (1.1 T 0.1) and specific growth rate(1.4 T 0.1%) were superior than non-biofloc technology treatment.	Turbidness was greater in BFT treatment (15.1 T 5.7 NTU). As compared to non biofloc technology Total ammonia nitrogen,nitrogen dioxide and nitrate concentrations were higher (1.5 T 0.8, 9.2 T 4.5 and 21.4 T 8.8mg L-1,accordingly)in the Biofoic technology group. This may be because sucrose was only applied during onset.	In Biofloc technology treatment higher N isotope level tell that the flocs act as additional protein source for the shrimp. Hence, there as great nutritive value of bioflocs.	95
No additional carbon	In the BFT group, in situ carbon flocs were used as the only carbon source; and there was no additional source of carbon.	<i>Litopenaeus vannamei</i> (Whiteleg shrimp)	Without any additional carbon source, the Rular advisory service group (1.8 T 0.1) outperformed the biofloc technology group (1.5 T 0.1) in terms of growth indices like total biomass, harvest weight, and Food conversion ratio. The ultimate average weight of	In Biofloc technology treatment minimum rate of ammonia was detected than rular advisory service However, pH decreased in biofloc technology than rular advisory service. In Biofloc technology group Turbidity, nitrite and nitrate were higher than rular advisory service.	Since C13 was higher in the biofloc technology than the Rular advisory service, flocs were used as the carbon source. According to isotope analyses, bioflocs gave shrimp roughly eighteen % and sixty % of their carbon and sixteen % of their nitrogen	92

			shrimp treated with Rular advisory service was greater than that of shrimp treated with Biofloc technology			
In the first four weeks, molasses utilised. When Total ammonia nitrogen exceeded 0.6 mg/l, 15:1 sugar cane molasses was utilised.	Molasses was added according to input nitrogen that is anytime total ammonia nitrogen surpassed 0.6mg/molasses included to regulate nitrogen. Anytime total ammonia nitrogen surpassed one mg per liter carbon source was added for the maintenance of carbon nitrogen ratio.	Youngs of <i>Litopenaeus vannamei</i> (Whiteleg shrimp)	The shrimp acquired a specific growth ratio of 6.9 % daily and total biomass was 2.17 T 0.05g with food conversion ratio of 0.87 T 0.08	Nitrogen compounds, phosphorus and phosphate continuously collected. In total inorganic Nitrogen, nitrate reached up to 80%.	Less food conversion ratio tells that the flocs were highly nutritive for shrimp	96
sugarcane molasses fifteen ratio one	Every time carbon source was put in total ammonia nitrogen surpass one mili gram L-1 to maintain carbon nitrogen ratio	<i>Lipopenaeus vannamei</i> (White shrimp)	All treatment the shrimp survival was greater than ninety-five %. Although, among treatment with distinct floc sizes end values for weight, biomass, and weight increase vary importantly with the exception of one fifty and three hundred micre meter floc size group	Throughout the trial, ammonia level fluctuated between 5 and 0mg/l. After day 13, nitrate fluctuated up to the study's conclusion. By the end of the research, nitrate levels had reached 15 mgL ⁻¹ .	Sizes of floc (such as 50,150, and 300 um) had little impact on the nitrification process.	40
Molasses 6gCVS1g total ammonia nitrogen, carbon and nitrogen 15:1	Every time carbon source was put in total ammonia nitrogen mass 0.8 mgL-1 or higher. Avnimelech served as the basis for the induction (1999).	<i>Lipopenaeus vannamei</i> (Whiteleg shrimp)	In biofloc technology groups the elevated biomass and yield rating was set down make use of Na2CO3 and the pH-correcting agents CA(OH)2. The final biomass run to 630.0 T 61.1 and 615.7 T 93 g, sequentially. In addition, for two groups the yield rates were 2.3 T 0.1 and 2.2 T 0.1 kg m-3, sequentially.	In the group with no carbonate administration total ammonia nitrogen levels differ commonly. Regardless of the alkalinity manipulation the NO2 content was maintained below 25.7 mg/l that was within shrimp acceptable levels.	All treatment had microbial floc mass beyond those necessary for shrimp production, which were subsequently brought under control eliminating some floc and total suspended solids.	97

Molasses 20 g C VS 1 g total ammonia nitrogen	Every time molasses was put in total ammonia nitrogen surpass one milli gram L-1 and based their deliberation Avnimelech (1999)	Children of <i>Litopenaeus vannamei</i> (White leg shrimp)	Shrimp survival rates were higher in lower floc levels than in higher levels. However, across all floc treatments, the average weight growth and end weight were comparable.	Then higher floc level groups (400-600 and 800-1000mg/l), lower floc level groups had higher PH (7.8).	The amount of biofloc has an impact on the protein amount of floc. Then higher floc level group (20.2% and 18.6%, consequently), lower floc mass had higher CP (28%).	98
Sucrose Carbon nitrogen 15:16 g C VS 1 g total ammonia nitrogen	According to Avnimelech (1999) and Ebeling <i>et al.</i> (2006), daily additions of sucrose required six grammes of carbon to transform just one gramme of total ammonia nitrogen.	Children of <i>Litopenaeus vannamei</i> (White leg shrimp)	The pH 8.1 (14 51g) group had a higher final weight than the pH 7.6 (13.76g) group. PH 8.1 had a higher survival rate (87.5%) than pH 7.6(80.8%) than the control (71.7 %). Food conversion ratio was lower and did not change across the pH-adjusted (7.6 and 8.1) groups, but it did in the biofloc technology control group that did not get a pH adjustment. Shrimp phagocytic activity and tetra hydrocannabinol levels were higher in the pH 8.1 and 7.6 groups compared to the control group, that was considerably less.	The group with a high pH (8.1) had more alkalinity. The pH (8.1) group had a lower total ammonia nitrogen concentration (0.25mg/l). NO2 in the pH (8.1) group was considerably less than in the pH 7.6 group and the control group(9.08mg/l).	In contrast to the control, the pH 7.6 and pH 8.1 groups had increased Poly-β-hydroxybutyrate (PHB) concentration in the flocs. However, all groups' flocs had identical amounts of carbohydrates and carotenoids.	44
Rice bran carbon nitrogen 15:1 and wheat milling by-product	Two hours after feeding daily adding up of carbon inception	<i>Oreochromis niloticus</i> (Nile tilapia)	In biofloc treatment fish growth production was greater than clear water group. Especially, in the group where the carbon source was wheat grinding by products weight gain, feed conversion ratio etc were higher in biofloc group. Globulin, albumin, total humoral innate immunity and protein parameters (such as lysozyme) were non-specific immunological variables that were noticeably elevated.	Dissolved oxygen, temperature and salinity did not affect by carbon source. Although, total ammonia nitrogen, nitrogen dioxide and nitrate were affected by different carbon source importantly. In biofloc treatment nitrogen level was greater than clear water group	Floc size was high in the group employing wheat milling by-product as C source.	99

Glucose Carbon and nitrogen ten, fifteen and twenty	Every third day Glucose (40% C) was put on the based on the amount of protein in food. 15.6g of glucose to 10g must be present in the meal.	<i>Oreochromis niloticus</i> (Nile tilapia)	In C/N 10 and 15 group the growth production of tilapia was greater than carbon and nitrogen 20 group. In carbon and nitrogen 10 and 15. Trypsin and lipase, as well as immunological indicators like lysozyme and alkaline phosphatase, were also measured greater than carbon and nitrogen 20	In carbon and nitrogen 20 group NO ₂ levels were lower than the carbon and carbon nitrogen 15 groups. In all groups total nitrogen ammonia vary generally.	The colours of flocs were affected by carbon and nitrogen ratio. The browner flocs intensity was correlate with increasing carbon and nitrogen ratio.	57
Tapioca starch 16:1	Every day adding up of tapioca starch according to input N from food	<i>Oreochromis niloticus</i> (Nile tilapia)	Average daily growth rate was greater compared to the control (1 day); the tapioca treatment was (1-4 day). In addition, the tapioca treatment (ninety-six %) survival rate was higher as compared to control.	In carbon group, total nitrogen oxides and ammonia nitrogen assembled at steady rates than the control. This suggested the formation of nitrification slow up by adding carbon	Increased floc concentration and carbon and the amount of nitrogen in the floc by addition of tapioca than the control treatment	23
Sodium acetate	According to Gao et al (2012). 's technique C inception was calculated as follows: 0.465* feed* food protein content.	<i>Oreochromis niloticus</i> (Nile tilapia)	In Biofloc Technology treatment fish weight/ individual was twenty-two % higher than recirculating aquaculture system treatment from Biofloc technology treatment the particular growth rate and total weight in fish were, sequentially, one twenty-eight % and one hundred twelve % greater than recirculating aquaculture treatment. Feed conversion ratio was eighteen % lower in biofloc technology than recirculating aquaculture system.	Biofloc Technology data elevated mean levels of total ammonia nitrogen (60 T 0.45mg/l) and NO ₂ (119T2.0.1mgL-1) as compared to the recirculating aquaculture system. In biofloc technology NO growth was not notice	The biofloc technology flocs' impurified protein concentration was 30.90T9.04 %, which was appropriate for tilapia nutrition.	100
After feeding glucose was put in, polyhydroxy butyrate and precaudal length carbon Nitrogen of 16.84	After feeding 46.5 % of tarate glucose added, Poly hydroxy butyrate and precaudal length was supplemented with carbon by placing twenty gram of the particles in	<i>Oreochromis niloticus</i> (Nile tilapia)	Fish from the biofloc system have greater all superoxide dismutase task than recirculatory aquaculture system ultimate biofuel had same in the Precaudal treatment and poly hydroxy	During steady condition NO ₃ concentrations and total ammonia nitrogen in aquaculture were below three mg L ⁻¹ and 0.8mgL ⁻¹ , respectively. Ongoing nitrification, In all group's total ammonia nitrogen in aquaculture and	CP (crude protein) content of floc was same and varied from 31 to 39% for poly hydroxy butyrate and Precaudal length treatment. Further, Crude protein did not dissimilar between glucose procedure and poly hydroxy butyrate	45

	eight polyethylene containers, which were then hung in the tank		butyrate (37.93 kilogram m ⁻³) and same between glucose ministrations (44.1 kgm ⁻³) and poly hydroxy butyrate	Nitrification and assimilation of NO ₃ was observed.		
There were two categories of carbon source additions; through the initial weeks (INI) only molasses was used every day sugarcane molasses supplements (CONT),12:1	Molasse was added daily to the system in the treatment	Juveniles of <i>Litopenaeus vannamei</i> (whiteleg shrimp)	The surviving estimate of krill in Initial weeks was greater (76.9 T 6.7%) than in the CONT group (57.0 T 8.6%). Also, Food conversion ratio was lower in the Initial weeks group (1.5 T 0.1) than CONT group (2.4T0.0). Final biomass in Initial weeks (1.8 T 0.3 kg m ⁻³) was considerably greater and less in the CONT group (0.8 T 0.0 kg m ⁻³)	Both treatments, with carbon nitrogen proportion of 6.41 T and 7.5 T 1.6, subsequently, had less carbon nitrogen proportion at quasi static. Additionally, all two classes had less biological oxygen demand: total suspended solid proportions. Compared to the CONTROL group sludge buildup was more steady in initial group. Values of Total ammonia nitrogen in aquaculture, NO ₂ , NO ₃ , temperature and oxygen were same in both classes	Total suspended solids accumulated greater among group CONT (i.e., 0.25-kilogram kilogram ^{-one of given feed}) than group initial weeks The Total suspended solids accumulation in initial weeks group was 0.16-kilogram kilogram ^{-one of feed}	101
Mature bioflocs used No supplemental carbon was used	Mature biofloc with already established nitrification condition and which was also in stage of mixotrophy or chemotrophy was used. Thus, no supplemental carbon was put in	<i>Litopenaeus vannamei</i> (whiteleg shrimp)	lesser weight gainis resulted when less protein feed (24.3) % wass added in biofloc treatment, final weight values and specific growth rate than biofloc groups fed with high protein content feed (i.e.,30.3%,32.9% and 36.7%)	Levels of pH (7.48–8.56), Dissolved oxygen (4.7 to 6.3mgL ⁻¹), T (27.9–30.2°C) and salinity (20–21%) were suitable for shrimp culture in all biofloc treatment. Same as, Total ammonia nitrogen in aquaculture, phosphate (3.36–4.91 mg L ⁻¹), NO ₂ (0.05–0.31mgL ⁻¹) and NO ₃ (7.4–79.9 mg L ⁻¹) were within the bearable restriction for krill	Biofloc volume and Total suspended solids was high and showed considerable difference on day 14 of the experiment resulting in beginning the elimination of some flocs.	102

<p>glycerol, sucrose and molasses Carbon nitrogen 22:1</p>	<p>Daily every kind of carbon source was put in for two times between the feeding time to maintain C-N ratio of 22:1 in heterotrophic based tanks.</p>	<p><i>Litopenaeus vannamei</i> (whiteleg shrimp)</p>	<p>In all groups, surviving estimate for krill same along carbon supplements (sucrose, molasses and glycerol) with values of 53.2% 21.6% and 49.2%, respectively, except that the values for molasses and source groups differ considerably GR (growth rate) by week was 0.7-0.1g for CA0.3-0.2g for molasses treatment, 0.7 T 0.0 g for sucrose treatment and 0.6 g for glycerol treatment.</p>	<p>In the heterotrophic classes (H), as compared to chemoautotrophic based group (0.2mg/l), total ammonia Nitrogen was higher (0.3-1.1mg/l). NO₂-level did not differ in all treatments (0.2-1.5mg/l). NO₃-levels was considerably higher (9.08mg/l) in Chemo autotrophic group compared to Heterotrophic group (0-1.4mg/l). Basicity was greater in heterotrophic group (276-352mg/l) than the chemoautotrophic group (169mg/l).</p>	<p>Particular features of flocs were not reported. although, during latter stages of experiment, a noticeable increase in solids was recorded in the glycerol and sucrose procedures. Variability in settleable solids was relatively greater; although there were no considerable differences noticed in groups.</p>	<p>103</p>
<p>Starch Wheat, feed in 20:1 (carbohydrates /Total ammonia nitrogen</p>	<p>On the basis of Avni Melech starch Wheat was put in according to sixty % of the feed added</p>	<p>Mixed sex <i>Oreochromis niloticus</i> (Nile tilapia)</p>	<p>Fish welfare indicators such as blood haemoglobin concentration, fin condition, serum hydro cortisone, within a stone throw configurations, gill histology were unaffected by the treatments (thirty five % feed, twenty four % cater for and control category). In Biofloc technology reservoirs, net fish manufacturing amounted to forty-five % more than in the control group</p>	<p>In the biofloc groups wide fluctuations in alkalinity was noticed (eight –two hundred fifty mg L⁻¹). although, steadiness in the degree of all basicity (eighteen –twenty-seven mgL⁻¹) in the command without carbon supplements was noticed. Total ammonia nitrogen in aquaculture, NO₂ and NO₃ wide variability in biofloc technology categories as compared the con</p>	<p>In all biofloc technology groups nutritional parameters of floc were same. In biofloc technology group Flocs constituted twenty-seven – twenty-eight % polyunsaturated fatty acids and twenty-eight –twenty-nine % mono unsaturated fatty acids.</p>	<p>81</p>
<p>Tapioca starch and Plant cellulose Carbon nitrogen scale. 13.0–14.7</p>	<p>Every day adding carbon inception 0.6 gram/g of totted cater for twice.</p>	<p><i>Pelteabagrus vachelli</i></p>	<p>As compared to other treatments in tapioca starch Weight gain ratio showed considerably greater value (94.47 %). Specific growth rate was considerably greater in Tapioca starch (1.58 T 0.20 %) and short in the command category (1.19 T 0.20 %). in other ways Food conversion ratio exhibit same rate in</p>	<p>In carbon supplemented group Total ammonia nitrogen in aquaculture was generally lower (i.e., 2.4, 1.8 and 2.2 mg/l), subsequently, for Tapioca starch and plant cellulose VS that of control (3.6 mg Liter^{-one}). NO₂—stayed below 1.5 milligram L⁻¹till the ending. Dissolved oxygen carbon was considerably greater among Tapioca starch (sixteen</p>	<p>In carbon Supplemented groups and the control biofloc volume didn't differ. Total suspended solids were greater in biofloc technology groups (90.1 T 30.3 mg L⁻¹) than the control (51.9 T 22.6 mg L⁻¹). In plant cellulose treatments sludge volume index (SVI) was greater (PC was 51.7 and TS+PC was 53.2mgL⁻¹) than the control group (34.6 mg)</p>	<p>60</p>

			entirely procedures (2.02–3.11) encompasses the command category	milligram Liter–one) as compared to supplemental categories in order of Tapioca starch > Tapioca starch and plant cellulose > Plant cellulose > Control		
Molasses	<p>Molasses was put in to the Biofloc technology reserviores at any moment Total ammonia nitrogen in aquaculture surpass 0.5 miligram Liter–one.</p> <p>Ebeling et al (2006) and Avnimelech(2009) states that molasses was put in formed on the computation of six gram carbon for every one gram total ammonia nitrogen</p>	<p><i>Litopenaeus vannamei</i> (<i>Whiteleg shrimp</i>)</p>	<p>When compared to the regulated classes with zero % enhancement, the krill ultimate weight was greater in the biofloc cultivate (twenty-five %, fifty %, seventy % and hundred %: i.e., 8.01 to 8.42 gram) classes (7.37g)</p> <p>In all treatments surviving estimate didn’t considerably dissimilar and vary from 90.93–99.06% than the the regulatd categories (1.52) Food conversion ratio was considerably less in the biofloc-supplemented categories (0.84 to 1.23)</p>	<p>Total ammonia nitrogen concentration was considerably lessin the biofloc- supplemented categories (vary from 0.0001–1.5 miligram Liter–one) than observed in regulated categories.NO— 2concentration was considerablygreateramong Regulated categories (10.11 miligram Liter–one) than biofloc-supplemented classes (0.54–1.85 miligram Liter–one)</p>	<p>Total suspended solids concentrations were same in all treatments (three hundred eighty-three –six hundred sixty-three mg/l) except the hundred % biofloc enriched group which was considerably greater in Total suspended solids (714mgL–1). Levels of Settle able solids were considerably greater in the biofloc-enriched groups (12.51–16.20 mg L–1) than the control (8.48 mg L–1). Levels of settleable solids were considerably greater in biofloc enriched-groups (12.51-16.20mg/l) as compared to control group (8.48mg/l).</p>	104

communities are numerous, the resulting biofloc may include larger concentrations of crude lipids and fatty acids, improving their nutritional value ⁵⁵.

13.2 Water quality

By manipulating C/N, it is possible to maintain ideal water quality for target culture species when employing carbonaceous substrates in BFT systems. But maintaining a healthy C/N ratio is known to be important for a number of processes, such as the growth of nutrient-rich biofloc, a decrease in the concentration of total ammonium nitrogen (TAN), and perhaps even an improvement in water quality ⁵¹. Variants in the C/N ratio N influences the competition between autotrophic and heterotrophic bacterial communities through supplied carbon substrates and thereby affects water quality⁵¹. In BFT systems, carbon substrates like glucose, glycerol, acetate, molasses, and starch are frequently employed to regulate the carbon-nitrogen ¹⁷.

13.3 Dissolved inorganic nitrogen:

TAN (total ammonia nitrogen) control at low concentrations or quantities that are less hazardous to the farmed organism is the main problem in aquaculture practise ⁵⁶. Because of this, TAN is kept at safe levels in biofloc aquaculture systems using carbonaceous substrates. TAN levels in BFT systems are impacted by carbon source effects and addition techniques. For instance, maintained total ammonia nitrogen at safe level (0.096-0.02) for the growth of shrimp by utilising molasses. Similar to this, ⁵⁷ observed positive outcomes when sugarcane treacle was utilised to keep TAN levels appropriate for shrimp development. When comparing the efficiency of sugarcane and soybean molasses as a carbon source in BFT, identical TAN levels were found in another study ⁵⁸.

13.4 Carbon source's impact on TSS or floc volume

Due to impact of C addition on the flocculation process in BFT aquaculture systems, TSS or higher floc levels has been seen in biofloc system⁵⁹. It has been discovered that nutrient dynamics, processes, and routes in BFT systems are affected by flake volume (FV) or TSS (Luo et al. 2019). The carbon source does not significantly alter floc volume, as shown by Deng, Chen ⁶⁰; nevertheless, a significant effect was seen for TSS concentration (Table 5). Compared to the release rates of other types of carbon sources, some carbon sources may discharge carbon more slowly (BDP) (e.g., glucose, sucrose, glycerol). Consequently, depending on the type of carbon chosen, this phenomenon may alter either the TSS concentration or floc volume. Several reports have been written about this aspect of BFT aquaculture systems.

13.5 Effect on Cultured organisms

The important impact of various carbon sources on culture organism performance, including growth, welfare, immunological state, and health of aquaculture species, has been shown by BFT investigations ⁶¹.

14. APPLICATIONS OF BIOFLOC

In Pakistan, biofloc fish farming is one of the most lucrative and successful industries. In addition to meeting its own local need for various fish species for consumption, Pakistan is also able to fulfil orders from overseas.

- ❖ The technique used to improve water quality in aquaculture by balancing the carbon-nitrogen ratio in the system is called biofloc. Biofloc technology can improve aquaculture systems by achieving a balance between carbon and nitrogen through photosynthesis and nitrification, as indicated by the following citation. ⁴.
- ❖ The bacterial biofloc system heavily relies on bacteria, and actinobacteria are particularly significant as they promote biofloc formation and offer additional advantages by safeguarding fish against pathogens. ⁵⁷.
- ❖ The Biofloc system is used as dietary stimulants. Common carp grow faster and have higher levels of digestive enzyme activity when biofloc are included in the diet at BFT 75%. *Penaeus monodon* also grow faster and have higher levels of digestive enzyme activity when biofloc is added to shrimp feed at 4% ⁶².

- ❖ Biofloc have recently been proposed as a potential novel disease treatment strategy with a natural probiotic impact, in contrast to conventional approaches like antibiotic, antifungal, and external application of probiotics and prebiotics⁷.
- ❖ When a bacterial cell dies or lyses in a culture system, PHB is degraded by the activity of extracellular PHB depolymerase enzymes, which are widely found in microbes.
- ❖ In recirculating aquaculture systems, biofloc is a key source of food (RAS). RAS is a cutting-edge aquaculture technique that could be applied to enhance production strategies for fish farming in a biosecurity environment²⁹.
- ❖ Biofloc is a protein-rich feed that occurs naturally and is alive, produced by the conversion of leftover feed and excrement in an aquaculture system under the influence of micron solar radiation, as indicated by the source.⁶³
- ❖ A combined BFT and RAS system would more efficiently convert excess feed for fast-growing farm animals into microbial biomass, which the animals could then consume as food, reducing water pollution.⁶⁴
- ❖ Biofloc is a secure and integrated aquaculture system that allows for intensive aeration, higher stocking densities, and organic input with little to no water exchange. It also involves intensive mixing and provides an additional source of feed for some species suitable for these conditions.²⁸
- ❖ The Implications of BFT for Disease and Health Management is the most significant application. Bacterial cell-to-cell communication, known as quorum sensing, has been hypothesised to be an efficient substitute for managing pathogenic microorganisms in aquaculture. A potential method for employing biofloc to prevent harmful organisms in BFT is quorum sensing.⁶⁵
- ❖ The immune system of fish and shrimp is strengthened in the presence of biofloc and there is less incidence of diseases in biofloc systems⁴.
- ❖ Biofloc production also plays an important role in a bioreactor that can treat wastewater from aquaculture facilities and convert dissolved nutrients into single-cell protein⁶⁶.

15. ADVANTAGES OF BIOFLOC:

The biofloc technology (BFT) has several advantages over disadvantages and other contemporary fish farming methods, making it an eco-friendly culture technique that does not require the draining of water after culture. One of its main benefits is its ability to reduce environmental impact, optimize the use of land and water, and maintain appropriate water quality with minimal water usage and exchange within the rearing ponds. Additionally, BFT produces protein-rich biofloc, which serves as an additional feed for aquatic organisms, further enhancing its effectiveness compared to other systems. Additionally, according to⁶⁷, Biofloc technology has several advantages over conventional aquaculture systems. It provides a clean and secure environment for aquatic organisms by decreasing wastewater pollution and reducing the possibility of disease transmission. Compared to conventional culture systems, BFT is more cost-effective and can improve the growth and survival rates of fish. It also reduces the need for protein-rich feed, resulting in more cost-effective production of cultured animals. Biofloc is an inexpensive and sufficient source of nutrition that can be used as a substitute for capturing and marketing cheap food fish and waste fish for fishmeal. In summary, BFT offers significant benefits, including improved water quality, increased biosecurity, lower production costs, and a sustainable alternative to traditional feed sources.⁶³

16. DISADVANTAGES:

There are various flaws in the biofloc system, such as the immediate necessity of ventilation and fast water velocity, which leads to higher energy costs for aeration. Additionally, some drawbacks have been noted for Bluefin tuna, including a risk for pollution due to nitrate buildup, a shortened reaction time caused by dissolved oxygen uptake in the water, and a faster breathing rate. As well as the need for a beginning period and alkalinity additives. Additionally, for systems exposed to sunlight, the performance of biofloc technology may be erratic and depending on seasonal variations in the day time⁶³. Finally, biofloc technology has relatively regular maintenance requirements, which can occasionally be prohibitively expensive⁶⁸.

17. FUTURE DIRECTIONS:

Major issues include a lack of water supplies, an increase in seafood consumption, and a lack of land for expanding aquaculture activities. One of the key solutions to meet the rising demand for animal protein is extensive aquaculture. The application of biofloc technology can meet the demands for sustainable development and the advancement of environmentally friendly aquaculture. Aquatic supplementing demands are met by biofloc, which can also serve as a suitable replacement for fish meal in the diet of aquatic animals. The biofloc production system offers advantages such as decreased feed intake, decreased water interchange, increased biosecurity, decreased disease risk, increased growth and survival, and thus increased productivity and output. Additionally, the usage of organic foods has grown in the same cultural region while industrial foods have declined, reducing the environmental effects of sewage. Additionally, little is known about the impact of environmental conditions, microbiological mechanisms engaged in the process, and water quality on the biofloc, which calls for further research. The use of biofloc technology to recover nitrogen from the culture system is thought to have a number of advantages in addition to a 10–20% estimated feed yield⁴.

18. CONCLUSION

Aquaculture production is increasing every day along with the advantage of higher productivity; it has some problems with increased nitrogen content and more chance of disease. The Biofloc system became necessary due to the increasing demand for fish worldwide. The requirement of an ecological aquaculture system can be achieved with biofloc. The microbial community plays a major role in biofloc technology. Biofloc has essential nutritional value. Nitrites act on aquatic organisms and causes physiological damage such as ion imbalance, Na^+ absorption in gills changes cells, promotes haemoglobin oxidation to methaemoglobin, inhibits hormone synthesis. In BFT, nitrogenous compounds are recycled by microorganisms and their removal from aquaculture is done by denitrification. In addition, biofloc technology includes different types of carbon sources: carbohydrates, organic acids and alcohol, a biodegradable polymer. Different carbonaceous substrates have a large effect on BFT. It has an important role in maintaining water quality for target culture species.

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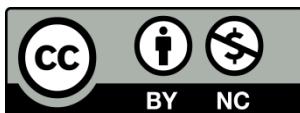
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