

Sawika Kunlapapuk 2010: Feeding Ecology of Bocourti's Catfish (*Pangasius bocourti* Sauvage, 1880) in Mekong River Neighbored to Nong Khai Province, Thailand Master of Science (Fisheries Science), Major Field: Fisheries Science, Department of Fishery Biology. Thesis Advisor: Assistant Professor Thanitha Thapanand - Chaidee, Ph.D. 116 pages.

Feeding ecology of bocourti's catfish (*Pangasius bocourti* Sauvage, 1880) was studied in Mekong River, neighbored to Nong Khai Province during November 2007 to October 2008. Fish was monthly sampled by gillnet, beach seine, dhoom trap and longline. Feeding behavior of bocourti's catfish showed omnivorous trend which challenged as insectivore. A study on feeding morphology indicated that bocourti's catfish is bottom dweller according to the inferior mouth position. The type teeth is cardiform all over the buccal cavity. Gill raker showed the common characteristics between omnivorous and carnivorous feeder. The stomach type is siphonal or U – shape. A study on daily ration showed two peaks of feeding activities. Firstly, during 06:01 – 09:00 AM which was major peak and secondly, during 18:01 – 21:00 PM which was minor peak. The lowest feeding activity was in the afternoon during 12.01 – 15.00 PM.

Results from stomach content analysis could be divided into eight groups namely phytoplankton, plants, oligochate, mollusks, shrimps, crabs, insects and fishes. Insects were the dominant group followed by mollusks, plants and fish, respectively. Index of relative important was varied by fish length and season. Insects were the dominant group in small and sub – adult fish whereas plants were dominant in adult fish. For season variation, bocourti's catfish mainly consumed insects in summer and rainy season while consumed plants in winter. Seasons were the main effects for diet breadth variation ($p < 0.05$) but fish length and sampling station did not show any difference ($p > 0.05$). Interaction effects also showed the non – significant evidence to diet breadth ($p > 0.05$). Diet overlap showed the variation trend of dominant food item from smaller fish to adult fish. Feeding habit of bocourti's catfish was the lowest overlap between winter and summer.

Student's signature

Thesis Advisor's signature