

Experimental study on structure optimization for polyculture of giant freshwater prawn with triangle sail mussel, silver carp and bighead carp

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Abstract: This investigation was designed to find out the best polyculture mode of giant freshwater prawn (*Macrobrachium rosenbergii*, GFP) pond. The culture output, feed coefficient (FC), growth rate, use efficiency of total nitrogen and total phosphorus, and integrated farming effect in land-based enclosures, with different culturing combinations of *M. rosenbergii*, triangle sail mussel (*Hyriopsis cumingii*), silver carp (*Hypophthalmichthys molitrix*) and bighead carp (*Aristichthys nobilis*) were studied. There were six treatments, i.e., GFP monoculture enclosure (G), GFP polyculture enclosure with silver carp and bighead carp (GSB); GFP polyculture enclosure with triangle sail mussel (GH2); and three other GFP polyculture treatments with different proportion of stock density of giant freshwater prawn, silver carp, bighead carp treatment and triangle sail mussel (GSBH1, GSBH2 and GSBH3). Four replicates of enclosure were applied for each treatment. The results indicated that the culture output of giant freshwater prawn ranged from $(14.71 \pm 0.33) \text{ kg}/32 \text{ m}^2$ to $(12.44 \pm 0.60) \text{ kg}/32 \text{ m}^2$ with the highest yield for treatment GSBH1, which was significantly higher than that for treatment G ($P < 0.01$). Growth rate ranged from $(3.80\% \pm 0.23\%)$ to $(4.66\% \pm 0.12\%)$, with the highest growth rate for treatment GSBH1 and the lowest growth rate for treatment G. The mean use efficiency of total nitrogen ranged from (0.92 ± 0.09) to (0.09 ± 1.60) , with the highest for treatment GSB and the lowest for treatment G. The synthetic efficiency index used for assessing integrated farming effect ranged from (0.91 ± 0.02) to (1.25 ± 0.05) , with the lowest for treatment G and the highest for treatment GSB, and with significant difference between treatment G and treatment GH2. In summary, the polyculture treatments obviously improve economic profits and ecological benefits of culture of the giant freshwater prawn compared with monoculture treatment.

Key words: triangle sail mussel; structure optimization; economic profits; ecological benefits; polyculture

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