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ORIGINAL ARTICLE

Editorial Article

Manipulating Aquaculture Circadian Biology: A Mounting Science

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Abstract: This article develops an ideology based on which circadian biology involving timing of nutrient delivery to aquaculture is of both physiological and economic importance. Due to differing endocrinological properties during different times of the circadian 24-h period, the same quality and quantity of nutrients may be utilized with different efficiency and fate depending on when during the 24-h phase they are fed and ingested.

Keywords: Aquaculture; Fisheries; Circadian timing; Physiology; Economics

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Science Elaborations and Intuitions

Life is characterized by its circadian nature. Animals including those living in water are greatly responsive to circadian signals. Physiologically, animal endocrinology and metabolism are regulated by environmental cues through synchronizing circadian rhythms of the internal animal and those of the external environment [1]. For instance, glucose tolerance and insulin sensitivity vary in human as a diurnal animal and also in rats as nocturnal animals over the 24-h period. Glucose intolerance relatively but significantly develops as inactivity phase begins, which represents evening and night in human and morning and day-time in rats [2,3].

Timing of food presentation, ingestion, fermentation, metabolism and assimilation has proved significant in manipulating and optimizing farm animals' production and health [4-7]. Aquaculture is entirely different from land life mainly in terms of nutrient and oxygen availability. As a result, different metabolic responses to varying management strategies such as different timing of nutrient delivery would be expected. Due to the extremely high growth rate in today's food-producing aquatic production systems, such responses can be considerably high and of health and economical significance.

Should hormonal responses to altered nutrient delivery to aquaculture systems change, protein synthesis efficiency will change. Thus, it is very likely that modifying circadian rhythms of nutrient consumption and metabolism via altering circadian timing of nutrient delivery to aquaculture systems will help to optimize substrate use efficiency and waste management in marine environments. Ruminant production and human health have already hosted considerable research on discovering such beneficial effects on

metabolism and life quality [8-10].

Aquatic management including freshwater and marine production systems will need to develop innovative technologies to modify timing and frequency of nutrient delivery. This is to discover optimal rhythms of nutrient metabolism that yield the most efficient productive and health responses to altered circadian management approaches.

Implication

Modifying the circadian biology of aquatic production systems including timing and frequency of nutrients' peak availability is a mounting science with potential significant health, food safety and security, and economic implications.

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