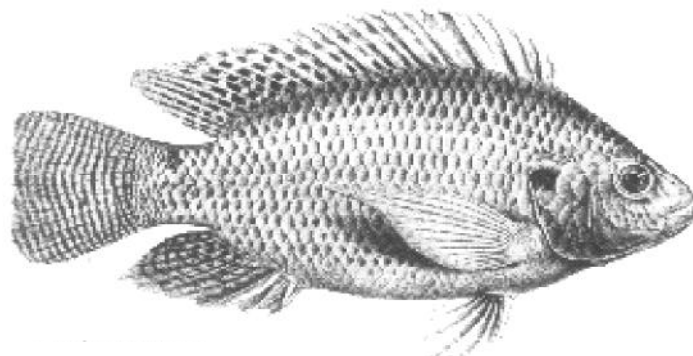


The Leading Edge



Tilapia



Oreochromis niloticus
Drawing from Trewaves, 1983

Common name: Tilapia

Scientific name: *Oreochromis niloticus*, *O. aurea*, *O. mossambicus*, *O. hornorum*

Production potential: Easy except tilapia grow slowly at temperatures lower than 70°F and die when temperatures drop into the 50½°F range

Marketing potential: Potential: High
Size: 1.25-2.0 lbs.
Market: Food

Temperature requirements: Growing: 80-87½°F
Spawning: Greater than 72½°F
Lethal: 55½°F

Feed requirements: Protein: 25-30%
Fat: 6-8%

Spawning requirements: Maternal mouthbrooders, spawn twice a month, 2,500 eggs/lb body weight, eggs hatch in 5 to 7 days. All male hybrids can be produced by crossing female *O. niloticus* and male *O. aurea*. Or by crossing female *O. niloticus* and male *O. hornorum*. Stocking ratios for fingerling production is three females to each male.

Most common production systems: For food fish estimate at 1500-3,000 lbs. per acre. For food fish production in cages stock 8-15 lbs. per cubic food. Stocking densities in recycle systems depends on the quality of the filtration used. However at harvest a goal of from 0.5-1.5 lbs pounds per gallon is desired.

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