

# The Influence of Substitution of Dietary Fish Oil with Different Vegetable Oils on Performance and Fatty Acid Composition of Brown Trout, *Salmo trutta*

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#### Abstract

Brown trout *Salmo trutta* (~1 g) were fed four casein-gelatin based diets with different lipid resources for 6 weeks. The sources of dietary lipid were menhaden oil (MO diet), hazelnut oil (HO diet), a blend of linseed oil and soybean oil (1:1) (LO+SO diet), and soybean lecithin (LE diet). Feeding trial was conducted in a recirculating water system at 13±0.2°C. Fish fed LO+SO diet demonstrated the highest growth performance while those fed HO diet had the lowest growth rate (P<0.05). The fatty acid profiles of fish reflected the fatty acid composition of the diets. High level of docosahexaenoic acid (22:6n-3, DHA) in whole body lipids of fish fed LO+SO diet corresponded with the high level of linolenic acid (18:3n-3, LNA) in the lipids of this diet. Fish fed LE diet which was rich in linoleic acid (18:2n-6, LA) had the highest level of arachidonic acid (20:4n-6, ARA) in their body. The results suggest that the efficiency of elongation and desaturation of C18 fatty acids depends on the dietary lipid source and brown trout has capacity to transform LA and LNA to ARA and DHA, respectively. Growth depletion in fish fed HO diet might be caused by essential fatty acid deficiency.

#### Keywords: Brown trout, Salmo trutta, lipids, fatty acids, growth.

Balık Yağı Yerine Kullanılan Farklı Diyetsel Bitkisel Yağların Kahverengi Alabalık (*Salmo trutta*) Yavrularında Büyüme ve Yağ Asidi Kompozisyonuna Etkisi

#### Özet

Mevcut çalışmada yaklaşık 1 g ağırlığındaki kahverengi alabalık yavruları 6 hafta süre ile kazein-jelâtin tabanlı yemlerle beslenmiştir. Yemlerde yağ kaynağı olarak balık (ringa) yağı (MO diyeti), findık yağı (HO diyeti), soya yağı-keten tohumu yağı karışımı (1:1) (LO+SO diyeti) ve soya lesitini (LE diyeti) kullanılmıştır. Kapalı devre su sisteminde yürütülen çalışma boyunca sıcaklık 13±0,2°C olarak gerçekleşmiştir. Çalışma sonunda LO+SO yemi ile beslenen balıklar diğer yemlerle beslenen balıklara göre önemli derecede yüksek büyüme performansı göstermiştir (P<0,05). En düşük büyüme HO yemi ile beslenen balıklarda görülmüştür. Tüm vücuda ait toplam yağların nötral ve polar lipit fraksiyonlarının yağ asidi içerikleri yemlerin yağ asidi içeriklerini yansıtmıştır. Yüksek düzeyde linolenik asit (18:3n-3, LNA) içeriğine sahip LO+SO diyeti ile beslenen balıkların vücudunda, dokozahekzaenoik asit (22:6n-3, DHA) miktarında artış görülmüştür. Benzer şekilde en yüksek araşidonik asit (20:4n-6, ARA) içeriği, 18:2n-6 (linolenik asit, LA) bakımından zengin olan LE diyeti ile beslenen balıklarda görülmüştür. Mevcut çalışmanın sonuçları, kahverengi alabalıkta yemlerdeki yağ kaynağına bağlı olarak LA ve LNA in sırasıyla ARA ve DHA e dönüştürebildiğini göstermektedir. Fındık yağı ile beslenen balıklardaki düşük büyümenin esansiyel yağ asidi eksikliğinden kaynaklandığı düşünülmektedir.

Anahtar Kelimeler: Kahverengi alabalık, Salmo trutta, yağlar, yağ asitleri, büyüme.

#### Introduction

It is generally accepted that aquaculture is the fastest growing food production sector in the world. The growth in this sector has maintained a steady annual increase of 9.2% since 1970, while capture fisheries and terrestrial farmed meat sectors have grown only 1.4% and 2.8%, respectively, in the same

period (FAO, 2010). The rapid growth rate of aquaculture calls for a corresponding increase in the supply of feed sources (Tacon and Metian, 2008). Aquafeeds, especially those produced for Salmonids and other carnivorous species, are largely dependent on a limited quantity of wild pelagic fish to provide fish oil for commercial production. Fish oil used in aquaculture feeds constitutes 81% of the total fish oil

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production, and Salmonid species demand the greatest share of resources, using 66.4% of the total amount of fish oil used in aquaculture (Pike, 2005). The fact that production of fish oil is nearing full capacity while the demand required for aquafeeds continues to increase, has led to substantially higher costs for commercial growers. Hence, finding alternative lipid resources for Salmonid feed production is critical to the survival of the industry (Ng *et al.*, 2007).

Dietary lipids are essential to the growth and development of fish. They are used as a source of energy, and provide essential fatty acids that are vital for normal growth, reproduction, metabolic functions and general well being. Lipids are a part of the biomembrane structure, and they provide fat soluble vitamins (precursors for eicosanoids, hormones and vitamin E) and act as enzyme cofactors (Turchini et al., 2009). Like other vertebrates, fish require n-3 and n-6 polyunsaturated fatty acids (PUFA) at certain concentrations. Biologically active forms of essential fatty acids are arachidonic acid (ARA; 20:4n-6) eicosapentaenoic acid (EPA; 20:5n-3), and docosahexaenoic acid (DHA; 22:6n-3). These fatty acids can be synthesized from their precursors linoleic acid (LA; 18:2n-6) and linolenic acid (LNA; 18:3n-3) in freshwater fish, while marine fish appear limited in their capacity to perform this bioconversion. Therefore, vegetable oils rich in LA and LNA seem to be promising candidates to replace fish oil in aquafeeds for freshwater fish (Sargent et al., 1995).

Studies have demonstrated that plant oils can be substituted for fish oil without any compromising effect on growth performance of freshwater fish such as sunshine bass Morone chrysops × M. saxatilis (Wonnacott et al., 2004) and largemouth bass Micropterus salmoides (Subhadra et al., 2006). However, in some freshwater fish such as African catfish Clarias gariepinus (Hoffman and Prinsloo, 1995; Ng et al., 2003), hybrid tilapia Oreochromis niloticus × O. aureus (Huang et al., 1998; Ng et al., 2001) and South American catfish Pseudoplatystoma fasciatum (Arslan et al., 2008), growth depletion was observed when they were fed diets based on fish oil. Nevertheless, important changes in fatty acid composition in favor of n-6 fatty acids (Ng et al., 2003; Arslan et al., 2008) and lipid accumulation (Caballero et al., 2003) were evident when vegetable oil was substituted in place of fish oil. Studies focused on fish oil replacement are limited in brown trout. Arzel et al. (1994) did not find significant changes in growth of brown trout when replacing fish oil based diets with corn oil based diet, although significant changes were observed in the fatty acid profiles of muscle and liver lipids. In another study, the partial replacement of fish oil with different vegetable oils and animal fats showed no significant impact on growth performance. However, fish fed a diet that combined vegetable oils and animal fat had significantly higher lipid accumulation in their bodies. DHA accumulation remained high regardless of the dietary lipid sources (Turchini et al., 2003).

Brown trout is a highly regarded species in Turkey and there has been great interest in utilizing the species in commercial aquaculture in recent years. In Turkey, the local market value of this species is approximately four fold the value of rainbow trout, even though the growth rate of brown trout is relatively low compared to the growth rate of rainbow trout. For this reason, brown trout can be considered an important species in efforts to increase diversity in Turkish aquaculture production. In this study, we substituted fish oil (menhaden oil) with different vegetable oils in the diets of brown trout to observe changes in the growth performance and final fatty acid composition of whole body. To the best of our knowledge, the present study is the fist to use hazelnut oil in aquafeeds. Turkey is dominating world total hazelnut production with an annual amount of 500,000 ton (TUIK, 2011). Hence, hazelnut oil can be considered an alternative dietary lipid row material for aquafeeds in Turkey.

#### **Materials and Methods**

#### **Experimental Diets**

Four experimental casein-gelatin based diets were formulated to be isonitrogenous (65%) and isolipidic (15%), but contain different sources of lipids (Table 1). The first diet contained menhaden oil (MO)and provided 20-22C long-chain polyunsaturated fatty acids (LC-PUFA) as well as their precursors. The second diet, composed of hazelnut oil (HO), was characterized by high levels of oleic acid (18:1; OA). The third diet, supplemented with linseed oil and soybean oil (LO+SO), was designed to provide moderate amounts of LA and LNA, but no LC-PUFA. The fourth diet, supplemented with soy-refined lecithin (LE). contained high levels of LA (Table 2). Menhaden oil, soybean oil, linseed oil and soy-refined lecithin were purchased from MP Biomedicals (Aurora, OH, USA). Hazelnut oil was donated by Ordu Yağ Sanavii Ltd. Sti. (Ordu, Turkey). Oils were added to the diets gradually mixing the other ingredients. Diets were prepared with a laboratory pelleting machine after 35-40 g of distilled water was added into 100 g mixture of ingredients, and freeze-dried. Diets were crushed to the approximate size of 0.7-2 mm and kept at -20°C until used.

#### Fish, Facilities and Sampling

Juvenile brown trout, with an initial individual weight of  $1.09\pm0.01$  g (mean±SD), were distributed randomly in three replicate 50 L glass aquaria with a total of 30 fish per tank. Each tank received one of the four dietary profiles referenced above. Water was supplied from a well at a rate of 1 L/min, and a semi-recirculation system with partial sedimentation and

		D	iets	
	МО	НО	SO+LO	LE
Ingredients				
Casein (vitamin-free)	40.0	40.0	40.0	40.0
Gelatin	8.0	8.0	8.0	8.0
Dextrin <sup>a</sup>	6.25	6.25	6.25	6.51
CPSP <sup>b</sup>	5.0	5.0	5.0	5.0
Wheat meal	14.0	14.0	14.0	14.0
Menhaden oil	15.0	-	-	-
Hazelnut oil	-	15.0	-	-
Soybean oil	-	-	7.5	-
Linseed oil	-	-	7.5	-
Soy-refined lecithin	-	-	-	15.0
Vitamin mixture <sup>c</sup>	4.0	4.0	4.0	4.0
Mineral mixture <sup>d</sup>	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0
Ascorbic acid <sup>e</sup>	0.05	0.05	0.05	0.05
CMC <sup>f</sup>	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0
L-arginine	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.42
L-methionine	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.34
L-lysine	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.68
Choline chloride	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0
Proximate composition				
Crude protein	65.8	64.9	65.7	64.6
Crude lipid	15.7	15.6	15.4	15.6
Ash	5.4	5.5	5.4	5.4
Moisture	7.5	9.2	8.9	8.3

Table 1. Composition (%) of the four experimental diets fed to brown trout

<sup>a</sup> Water soluble 80%

<sup>b</sup> Concentrate of fish soluble protein (CPSP 90: crude protein, 82-84% WW; crude lipid, 9-13% WW), Sopropêche S.A., Boulogne-sur-mer, France. <sup>c</sup> Trouw Nutrition Premix (Ankara, Turkey), composition per g of the vitamin mixture: vitamin A, 2645.50 IU; vitamin D<sub>3</sub>, 220.46 IU; vitamin E, 44.09 IU; Vitamin B<sub>12</sub>, 13  $\Box$ g; riboflavin, 13.23 mg; niacin, 61.73 mg; D-pantothenic acid, 22.05 mg; menadione, 1.32 mg; folic acid, 1.76 mg; pyridoxine, 4.42 mg; thiamin, 7.95 mg; D-biotin, 0.31 mg. <sup>d</sup> Bernhart Tomarelli salt mixture (ICN Pharmaceuticals, Costa Mesa, CA), composition (g/100 g): calcium carbonate, 2.1; calcium phosphate dibasic,

<sup>d</sup> Bernhart Tomarelli salt mixture (ICN Pharmaceuticals, Costa Mesa, CA), composition (g/100 g): calcium carbonate, 2.1; calcium phosphate dibasic, 73.5; citric acid, 0.227; cupric citrate, 0.046; ferric citrate (16 to 17% Fe), 0.558; magnesium oxide, 2.5; manganese citrate, 0.835; potassium iodide, 0.001; potassium phosphate dibasic, 8.1; potassium oxide, 6.8; sodium chloride, 3.06; sodium phosphate, 2.14; and zinc citrate, 0.133. Five milligrams of Se in the form of sodium selenite was added per kilogram of the salt mixture.

<sup>e</sup> Phosphitan C (Mg-L-ascorbyl-2-phospahte), Sigma, Germany.

<sup>f</sup>Carboximetilecellulose

biofiltration was used to maintain stable conditions. Each aquarium was equipped with continuous aeration and the water temperature was 13.0±0.2°C (mean±SD, range 12.5-13.5). Fish were fed four times daily at a readjusted-restricted rate (5% body weight/day) for six weeks, with intermittent biomass measurements taken every two weeks. Feeding rate was re-adjusted every three days for each aquarium using projected weight increases based on feed conversion efficiency. Mortality was recorded every day during the trial. Aquaria were cleaned and feces discarded by siphoning daily. At the conclusion of the six-week feeding trial, survival, percentage of weight gain (WG=(final weight-initial weight)×100/initial weight), specific growth rate (SGR=[loge final weight-loge initial weight]×100/duration of the experiment in days), and feed conversion ratio (FCR=feed consumed/weight gain) were calculated. Prior to the onset of the study, 10 brown trout were sacrificed, weighed and stored at -80°C for proximate analysis. At the six-week conclusion, two fish from each aquarium were sampled for lipid and fatty acids and two additional fish from each aquarium were sampled and stored at -80°C for proximate analysis.

#### **Proximate Analysis**

Whole-body lipids were extracted according to procedures pioneered by Folch *et al.* (1957). Other proximate analysis of diets and fish were performed according to the standard methods of AOAC (1985): dry matter after drying in an oven at 105°C until constant weight, crude protein (N x 6.25) by Kjeldhal method after acid digestion, ash content by incineration in a muffle furnace at 600°C for 12 h, and mineral by microwave digestion with HNO<sub>3</sub> followed by Inductively Coupled Plasma (ICP) emission spectrometry.

### Lipid and Fatty Acid Analysis

Dietary and whole-body lipids were extracted according to the procedure of Folch *et al.* (1957). After extraction, whole body lipids were separated into polar (phospholipids) and neutral (mostly triglycerides) lipids using Sep-Pak silica cartridges (Waters, Milford, MA, USA). The mobile phases were chloroform and methanol for neutral and phospholipids, respectively (Juaneda and Rocquelin,

E-#		D	Diets	
Fatty acids -	МО	НО	LO+SO	LE
14:0	7.3	0.2	0.4	0.8
16:0	19.7	5.6	8.4	18.7
16:1 (n-7 and n-9)	13.6	0.3	0.3	0.5
18:0	3.9	2.5	4.3	3.9
18:1 (n-7 and n-9)	12.7	76.4	21.7	14.2
18:2n-6	3.3	12.5	32.9	55.6
18:3n-6	0.3	nd	0.2	nd
18:3n-3	1.8	1.1	29.4	5.2
18:4n-3	2.3	nd	nd	nd
20:0	0.3	0.1	0.3	nd
20:1n-9	1.5	0.4	0.5	nd
20:2n-6	0.2	nd	0.1	nd
20:3n-6	0.3	nd	nd	nd
20:4n-6	1.4	nd	0.1	0.4
20:4n-3	1.4	nd	nd	nd
20:5n-3	12.3	0.3	0.6	0.3
22:0	0.4	0.2	0.2	nd
22:5n-3	3.2	nd	0.1	nd
22:6n-3	14.1	0.4	0.5	0.4
∑Saturated	31.6	8.6	13.6	23.4
$\overline{\Sigma}$ Monounsaturated	27.8	77.1	22.5	14.7
$\Sigma$ Polyunsaturated	40.6	14.3	63.9	61.9
$\sum_{n=3}^{\infty}$	35.1	1.8	30.6	5.9
$\overline{\Sigma}$ n-6	5.5	12.5	33.3	56.0
n-3/n-6	6.4	0.1	0.9	0.1

Table 2. Fatty acid composition (% of total fatty acids) of experimental diets

1985). Fatty acid methyl esters (FAME) were prepared according to protocols established by Metcalfe and Schmitz (1961) and analyzed as described earlier in the text (Czesny and Dabrowski, 1998). The FAMEs obtained were determined by gas chromatography (Agilent 6890 N), equipped with a flame ionization oven and fitted with a DB 23 capillary column (60 m, 0.25 mm i.d. and 0.25 µm) ejector. The detector temperature program was set at 190°C for 35 minutes, and then increased at a rate of 30°C/minute up to 220°C, where the temperature was maintained for five minutes. Carrier gas was hydrogen (2ml/min and split ratio was 30:1). The individual fatty acids were identified by comparing their retention times to that of a standard mix of fatty acids (Supelco 37 component FAME mix), and quantification of the individual fatty acids was made against a C19:0 internal standard from Sigma (USA). Fatty acids were expressed as percent of total identified FAME.

#### **Statistical Analysis**

Results were expressed as mean $\pm$ SD (*n*=3). Each experimental unit (aquarium) was considered a replicate. For the fatty acids, two fish per aquarium were analyzed, and the average values were used for each experimental unit. Data were subjected to analysis of variance (ANOVA) and subsequent comparison of Means by Duncan's multiple range test. Percentage data were arcsin transformed prior to statistical analysis. Differences were considered statistically significant at P<0.05.

#### Results

# Proximate and Fatty Acid Composition of the **Experimental Diets**

Proximate compositions of the experimental diets are presented in Table 1. Fatty acid composition of the diets reflected the fatty acid content of the dietary lipid sources (Table 2). The MO diet contained high levels of EPA and DHA. The HO diet was characterized by high amounts of OA with low levels of all other fatty acids. The LO+SO diet had approximately the same amount of LA and LNA, which were the main fatty acids in this diet. The LE diet was rich in LA.

#### **Growth Performance**

Dietary treatments significantly influenced growth performance of juvenile brown trout (P<0.05). Fish fed LO+SO diet exhibited the highest growth performance, while HO fed fish demonstrated the poorest growth. Fish that were fed MO and LE diets demonstrated similar growth rates (Table 3). Fish fed the LO+SO diet had significantly higher feed conversion ratio (FCR) than those fed MO and HO diets (P<0.05). Survival was not influenced by the dietary treatments and maintained a consistency of 86.0±11.5%.

nd: not determined.

#### **Proximate Composition of Fish**

The proximate composition of brown trout showed no significant changes regardless of the dietary treatment and different lipid sources. The only exception was for ash content, which was shown to be highest in fish fed the LE diet and lowest in fish fed the HO diet (P<0.05) (Table 4).

#### **Fatty Acid Composition of Fish**

Fatty acid composition of the neutral and phospholipids fractions of whole body lipids reflected the fatty acid composition of the diets (Table 5 and 6).

With respect to neutral lipids, all the individual fatty acids were significantly influenced by the dietary treatments (P<0.05) except 22:0. The concentration of saturated fatty acids (SFA) was significantly higher in fish receiving the MO diet than in those receiving any of the other three diets. Fish fed the HO diet had the lowest SFA content. Monounsaturated fatty acid level was between 2 and 2.5 times higher in fish fed the HO diet which was composed mostly of OA. Polyunsaturated fatty acids were higher in fish fed the LO+SO and LE diets than those fed the others. The main contributors of PUFAs were n-6 fatty acids (especially LA) in the LE diet fed fish, whereas n-3 and n-6 contributions were close in fish fed the LO+SO diet (Table 5). OA was the most abundant fatty acid in fish fed the MO and the HO diets, while LA was the predominant fatty acid of the fish fed the LO+SO and the LE diets. The amount of LNA in fish fed the LO+SO diet was significantly greater (between fivefold and thirtyfold) than those on the other experimental diets. Fish fed the MO diet demonstrated significantly higher levels of EPA and DHA than those in all the other groups.

With respect to phospholipids, dietary lipid sources significantly influenced the fatty acid composition of fish (P<0.05). DHA was the most abundant fatty acids in all experimental groups except for those fed the HO diet, where OA was the predominant fatty acid. The amount of saturated fatty acids was lowest and the level of monounsaturated fatty acids was highest in fish fed the HO diet. The main contributor of saturated fatty acids was palmitic acid (16:0) in all cases, regardless of dietary treatments, with higher amounts reflected in fish fed the MO and LE diets. The contents of polyunsaturated fatty acids were similar in fish fed the MO, the LO+SO and the LE diets, with the values significantly higher than those on the HO diet. The ratio of n-3 fatty acids to n-6 fatty acids was highest in fish fed the MO diet and lowest in those fed the HO and the LE diets. Fish fed the LE diet had significantly higher amounts of ARA than those of the other experimental groups. Fish on the MO diet had the highest DHA level among all treatments. In comparison to the other groups, the HO fed fish had significantly higher amount of OA and the fish on the LE diets showed significantly higher levels of LA.

#### Discussion

In the present study, brown trout demonstrated better growth performance when compared to observations previously reported for this species (Arzel *et al.*, 1994; Pirhonen and Forsman, 1998; Johnsson *et al.*, 2000; Regost *et al.*, 2001; Turchini *et al.*, 2003). However, smaller fish in size were used in the present study. It was evident that dietary lipids from plant resources, with the exception of hazelnut

**Table 3.** Growth performance and survival of brown trout juveniles fed diets with different dietary lipid resources for 6 weeks. Means with different superscript letters in a row are significantly different (P<0.05)

Growth parameters	Experimental diets			
	MO	НО	LO+SO	LE
Final weight ±g)	3.1±0.1 <sup>b</sup>	2.8±0.1 <sup>c</sup>	3.5±0.0 <sup>a</sup>	3.1±0.1 <sup>b</sup>
Weight gain $\pm \%$ ) <sup>1</sup>	$285.9 \pm 7.2^{b}$	255.8±9.2°	317.2±4.1 <sup>a</sup>	$284.7 \pm 7.4^{b}$
$SGR \pm \%)^2$	2.3±0.1 <sup>b</sup>	2.1±0.1 <sup>c</sup>	$2.6\pm0.0^{a}$	2.3±0.1 <sup>b</sup>
FCR <sup>3</sup>	$1.2\pm0.1^{b}$	$1.2 \pm 0.1^{b}$	1.3±0.1 <sup>a</sup>	1.3±0.1 <sup>ab</sup>
Survival ±%)	82.7±12.9	90.7±6.1	76.6±13.9	94.7±4.6

<sup>1</sup>Weight gain =  $[\pm final weight - initial weight) \ge 100$  / initial weight

<sup>2</sup>Specific growth rate  $\pm$ SGR) = [ $\pm$ log<sub>e</sub> final weight – log<sub>e</sub> initial weight) x 100] / duration of the experiment in days <sup>3</sup>Feed conversion ratio  $\pm$ FCR) = feed consumed / weight gain

**Table 4.** Proximate composition of brown trout juveniles fed diets with different dietary lipid resources for 6 weeks. Means with different superscript letters in a row are significantly different (P<0.05)

Proximate composition –	Experimental diets			
	MO	НО	LO+SO	LE
Moisture	67.6±0.5	67.6±0.3	67.8±0.4	68.5±0.1
Crude protein	23.6±1.3	24.8±0.1	24.8±0.5	24.5±2.4
Crude lipid	5.7±1.5	5.1±0.1	$4.8 \pm 1.0$	3.9±0.4
Ash	2.1±0.1 <sup>ab</sup>	1.9±0.1 <sup>b</sup>	2.1±0.1 <sup>ab</sup>	2.4±0.3 <sup>a</sup>

**Table 5.** Fatty acid composition (% of total fatty acids) of neutral lipids of whole-body brown trout juveniles fed diets with different dietary lipid resources for 6 weeks. Means with different superscript letters in a row are significantly different (P<0.05)

Fatty agids		Die	ts	
Fatty acids	МО	HO	LO+SO	LE
14:0	6.61±0.38 <sup>a</sup>	$1.03 \pm 0.11^{b}$	1.13±0.36 <sup>b</sup>	1.45±0.26 <sup>b</sup>
16:0	$17.44{\pm}1.10^{a}$	7.60±0.27 <sup>c</sup>	$9.91 \pm 1.00^{b}$	16.99±0.56 <sup>a</sup>
16:1 (n-7 and n-9)	$11.06 \pm 1.11^{a}$	$1.59 \pm 0.27^{b}$	$1.61 \pm 0.60^{b}$	$1.98 \pm 0.34^{b}$
18:0	2.93±2.22 <sup>b</sup>	$2.72 \pm 0.02^{b}$	4.43±0.12a <sup>b</sup>	5.47±0.13 <sup>a</sup>
18:1 (n-7 and n-9)	21.36±2.09°	69.74±1.32 <sup>a</sup>	25.49±1.43 <sup>b</sup>	20.10±0.63°
18:2n-6	$4.61 \pm 1.12^{d}$	8.33±0.69 <sup>c</sup>	26.74±2.65 <sup>b</sup>	33.69±1.72 <sup>a</sup>
18:3n-6	$0.28 \pm 0.01^{\circ}$	0.71±0.14 <sup>b</sup>	$0.79 \pm 0.08^{b}$	$2.01\pm0.18^{a}$
18:3n-3	$1.42 \pm 0.21^{bc}$	$0.50 \pm 0.09^{\circ}$	15.91±2.11 <sup>a</sup>	3.18±1.51 <sup>b</sup>
18:4n-3	$1.70\pm0.07^{b}$	$0.16 \pm 0.01^{d}$	$2.58{\pm}0.22^{a}$	0.90±0.15 <sup>c</sup>
20:0	$0.42 \pm 0.03^{a}$	$0.14{\pm}0.00^{b}$	0.13±0.09 <sup>b</sup>	$0.14{\pm}0.07^{b}$
20:1n-9	$2.25 \pm 0.36^{b}$	$3.36{\pm}0.76^{a}$	$1.39 \pm 0.19^{b}$	$1.54{\pm}0.28^{b}$
20:2n-6	$0.42 \pm 0.11^{d}$	$0.60 \pm 0.05^{\circ}$	1.21±0.03 <sup>b</sup>	2.23±0.13 <sup>a</sup>
20:3n-6	$0.46{\pm}0.07^{\circ}$	$0.69 \pm 0.07^{bc}$	0.93±0.01 <sup>ab</sup>	$2.52{\pm}0.26^{a}$
20:4n-6	$1.16{\pm}0.08^{a}$	$0.39 \pm 0.03^{b}$	0.33±0.11 <sup>b</sup>	$1.21\pm0.22^{a}$
20:4n-3	$1.54{\pm}0.18^{a}$	$0.03{\pm}0.05^{d}$	$1.08 \pm 0.16^{b}$	$0.36 \pm 0.05^{\circ}$
20:5n-3	$7.50\pm0.12^{a}$	$0.54{\pm}0.07^{\circ}$	$1.47 \pm 0.44^{b}$	$1.44{\pm}0.49^{b}$
22:0	0.61±0.20	$0.34{\pm}0.07$	0.50±0.04	0.59±0.20
22:5n-3	$4.00{\pm}0.40^{a}$	0.35±0.14 <sup>b</sup>	$0.81 \pm 0.17^{b}$	0.96±0.51 <sup>b</sup>
22:6n-3	$14.23 \pm 1.26^{a}$	1.17±0.28 <sup>c</sup>	$3.55 \pm 0.50^{b}$	3.26±0.86 <sup>b</sup>
∑Saturated	28.00±1.07 <sup>a</sup>	11.83±0.37 <sup>d</sup>	16.10±1.42 <sup>c</sup>	24.65±0.65 <sup>b</sup>
$\overline{\Sigma}$ Monounsaturated	34.67±2.78 <sup>b</sup>	74.69±0.81 <sup>a</sup>	28.49±2.11 <sup>c</sup>	23.61±0.51 <sup>d</sup>
$\overline{\Sigma}$ Polyunsaturated	37.34±3.01 <sup>b</sup>	13.47±0.99°	55.41±3.51 <sup>a</sup>	51.74±0.59 <sup>a</sup>
$\overline{\Sigma}$ n-3	$30.39 \pm 1.99^{a}$	$2.75 \pm 0.40^{d}$	25.40±1.13 <sup>b</sup>	10.10±1.12 <sup>c</sup>
$\overline{\Sigma}$ n-6	$6.94 \pm 1.34^{d}$	$10.72 \pm 0.62^{\circ}$	30.01±2.45 <sup>b</sup>	41.65±1.44 <sup>a</sup>
n-3 / n-6	$4.46{\pm}0.67^{a}$	$0.26 \pm 0.02^{b}$	$0.85 \pm 0.04^{b}$	$0.24{\pm}0.04^{b}$

**Table 6.** Fatty acid composition (% of total fatty acids) of phospholipids of whole-body brown trout juveniles fed diets with different dietary lipid resources for 6 weeks. Means with different superscript letters in a row are significantly different (P<0.05)

E-#			Diets	
Fatty acids	МО	НО	LO+SO	LE
14:0	1.92±0.14 <sup>a</sup>	0.79±0.04 <sup>b</sup>	0.57±0.10 <sup>c</sup>	$0.48{\pm}0.00^{\circ}$
16:0	19.72±0.59 <sup>a</sup>	17.28±1.74 <sup>b</sup>	$17.18 \pm 0.16^{b}$	$19.76 \pm 0.24^{a}$
16:1 (n-7 and n-9)	2.78±0.31 <sup>a</sup>	$1.02 \pm 0.07^{b}$	$0.67{\pm}0.08^{b}$	$0.75 \pm 0.07^{b}$
18:0	6.10±0.22 <sup>ab</sup>	$5.69 \pm 0.54^{b}$	$6.76{\pm}0.28^{a}$	$6.66{\pm}0.28^{a}$
18:1 (n-7 and n-9)	$12.08 \pm 0.54^{b}$	$37.04 \pm 2.35^{a}$	13.43±0.63 <sup>b</sup>	$11.38 \pm 1.79^{b}$
18:2n-6	$1.29{\pm}0.06^{d}$	$6.79 \pm 1.0^{\circ}$	$9.75 \pm 1.00^{b}$	$15.74{\pm}0.37^{a}$
18:3n-6	nd	$0.58{\pm}0.08^{b}$	0.35±0.05 <sup>c</sup>	$0.85{\pm}0.01^{a}$
18:3n-3	$0.55 \pm 0.07^{\circ}$	$0.43 \pm 0.18^{\circ}$	6.93±1.01 <sup>a</sup>	$2.06 \pm 1.11^{b}$
18:4n-3	0.34±0.07 <sup>bc</sup>	0.11±0.09 <sup>c</sup>	$1.26{\pm}0.16^{a}$	$0.45 \pm 0.16^{b}$
20:0	0.14±0.12	0.16±0.11	$0.09 \pm 0.08$	0.12±0.01
20:1n-9	$0.53 \pm 0.07^{b}$	1.77±0.34 <sup>a</sup>	$0.44{\pm}0.08^{b}$	$0.48{\pm}0.06^{\rm b}$
20:2n-6	$0.28 \pm 0.10^{\circ}$	$1.48{\pm}0.11^{a}$	1.15±0.09 <sup>b</sup>	$1.65 \pm 0.11^{a}$
20:3n-6	$0.36 \pm 0.02^{d}$	3.89±0.22 <sup>b</sup>	$2.18\pm0.08^{\circ}$	$5.18{\pm}1.26^{a}$
20:4n-6	2.50±0.09 <sup>c</sup>	4.87±0.51 <sup>b</sup>	2.43±0.64 <sup>c</sup>	5.79±0.11 <sup>a</sup>
20:4n-3	$0.78{\pm}0.07^{b}$	$0.25 \pm 0.13^{\circ}$	$1.46{\pm}0.37^{a}$	$0.53 \pm 0.02^{bc}$
20:5n-3	$7.84{\pm}0.41^{a}$	3.21±0.29 <sup>c</sup>	$4.63 \pm 0.55^{b}$	$3.06\pm0.10^{\circ}$
22:0	nd	$0.08 \pm 0.07$	nd	nd
22:5n-3	$2.96 \pm 0.20^{a}$	$0.96 \pm 0.52^{b}$	$1.79\pm0.31^{b}$	$1.53 \pm 0.20^{b}$
22:6n-3	39.82±1.31 <sup>a</sup>	$13.61 \pm 5.02^{\circ}$	$28.94 \pm 0.64^{b}$	$23.54 \pm 1.48^{b}$
∑Saturated	27.88±0.59 <sup>a</sup>	24.00±2.26 <sup>c</sup>	24.60±0.11 <sup>bc</sup>	27.02±0.03 <sup>ab</sup>
$\overline{\Sigma}$ Monounsaturated	$15.38 \pm 0.84^{b}$	$39.83 \pm 2.47^{a}$	$14.54 \pm 0.73^{b}$	$12.61 \pm 1.92^{b}$
$\Sigma$ Polyunsaturated	$56.73 \pm 0.90^{a}$	36.17±4.67 <sup>b</sup>	$60.86 \pm 0.65^{a}$	$60.37 \pm 1.95^{a}$
$\overline{\Sigma}$ n-3	52.30±0.83 <sup>a</sup>	$18.57 \pm 5.49^{d}$	45.00±1.13 <sup>b</sup>	31.17±0.09 <sup>c</sup>
$\sum$ n-6	$4.44 \pm 0.21^{\circ}$	17.61±0.84 <sup>b</sup>	$15.86 \pm 0.62^{b}$	$29.20 \pm 1.86^{a}$
<u>n-3</u> / n-6	$11.80\pm0.55^{a}$	1.07±0.36°	$2.84{\pm}0.18^{b}$	$1.07 \pm 0.06^{\circ}$

nd: not determined.

oil, did not cause any adverse effect on growth or lipid accumulation in brown trout. On the contrary, the greatest growth performance in this study was achieved by fish that were fed the LO+SO diet, in which the dietary lipid source was a blend of linseed and soybean oils. Fish fed the MO and the LE diets demonstrated similar growth performance. A total substitution of fish oil with a blend of rapeseed oil and linseed oil (1:1), providing approximately equal amount of LA and LNA, resulted in significantly higher growth in Atlantic salmon after a full life cycle trial (Tocher et al., 2003). This research supports the results achieved in this study. Additional previous studies have also reported greater growth in the cases where dietary vegetable oils were used in place of fish oil in some fish species such as South American catfish (Arslan et al. 2008), rainbow trout Oncorhynchus mykiss (Rinchard et al. 2007), African catfish (Hoffman and Prinsloo, 1995; Ng et al. 2003), and hybrid tilapia (Huang et al., 1998; Ng et al., 2001). In freshwater fish species, LA and LNA will fulfill the essential fatty acid requirements because freshwater fish have the ability to convert these fatty acids to longer chain n-3 and n-6 PUFA (Sargent et al., 1995). Therefore, vegetable oils rich in LA and LNA are particularly important lipid sources for freshwater fish.

Phospholipids are known to increase lipid utilization and their incorporation into enterocytes (Hadas et al., 2003). Several studies have reported that dietary soybean lecithin, a phospholipids source, had growth promoting effect in sea bass (Cahu et al., 2003), rainbow trout (Rinchard et al., 2007), carp Cyprinus carpio (Geurden et al., 1997), and South American catfish (Arslan et al., 2008). In rainbow trout, fish fed a diet with lecithin as the primary dietary lipid source had significantly higher growth performance than those fed a diet with fish oil in water temperatures ranging from 15 to 19°C (Rinchard et al., 2007). In the present study, which was conducted at a temperature of 13°C, fish fed a diet with fish oil (the MO diet) showed similar growth rates as those fed diets with soybean lecithin (the LE diet). The primary difference between these two studies was the water temperature. In vitro studies have shown that the physical state of lipids influence the digestibility of emulsified lipids. It is evident that lipids are digested better in a liquid form than in a solid state (Bonnaire et al., 2008). Therefore, lecithin might not have been utilized at the lower temperature as a source of solid phospholipids as efficiently as it was in relatively higher temperatures.

Hazelnut oil is characterized by high levels of OA and low levels of essential fatty acids, LA and LNA. Fish fed the diet with hazelnut oil had the poorest growth performance in this study, indicating a deficiency in essential fatty acids in brown trout. Similar results were observed in rainbow trout fed a diet deficient in essential fatty acids where the lipid source was oleic acid methyl esters (Rinchard *et al.*, 2007). However, there were no symptoms of deficiency such as fin erosion and occurrences of bacterial diseases observed during the feeding trial. Nonetheless, these types of deficiency symptoms were observed in rainbow trout that were fed a diet deficient in essential fatty acids after an eight-month feeding trial (Castell *et al.*, 1972).

Blends of vegetable oils are considered the best alternative to substitute fish oil in aquafeeds, because no single raw lipid material is able to replace fish oil by itself. A combination of fat sources provides a wide variety of fatty acid profiles and averts the negative impact of diets with amounts that are too high or too low ratio of n-3/n-6 (Wassef et al., 2009). In the present study, the SO+LO diet, with a vegetable oil blend characterized by high amounts of LA and LNA which are the essential fatty acids for freshwater fish (Sargent el al., 1995), provided the best growth performance in brown trout. In nature, the diets of brown trout consist primarily of two benthic invertebrates: Gammaridae and Tricoptera (Kara and Alp, 2005). The most abundant fatty acids in these aquatic invertebrates are 16:0, 16:1 and OA. Unlike fish oil, DHA level is very low in these organisms. However, EPA profiles of those are similar with fish oil (Sushchik et al., 2003).

Studies show that replacing fish oil with vegetable oils consistently results in major changes in fatty acid profile of fish (Turchini et al., 2003). Considering n-3 LC-PUFAs such as EPA and DHA are extremely beneficial to human health (Ruxton, et al., 2005; Sinclair et al., 2007), the final quality and presence of these oils in farmed fish is important. These fatty acids as well as ARA, another important essential fatty acid, are normally expected to be abundant in fish. However, there is concern that by partially or totally replacing the fish oil in fish diets with vegetable oil, the amount of healthy fatty acids in the fish meat will be reduced. This concern may have more validity in marine fish because, unlike freshwater fish, they do not have the ability to convert the 18C fatty acids to 20-22C fatty acids. In freshwater fish, when LN and LNA are included as part of the diet, their bioconversion and desaturation ability ensures the availability of LC-PUFAs. In the present study, the dietary fatty acid profile reflected the fatty acid composition of fish. However, there were some increases in the amount of certain fatty acids. Based on the amount of LA and LNA in diet, the levels of 20:4n-3, ARA, EPA, and DHA increased in fish lipids. It was evident that LNA level decreased in fish fed the SO+LO diet. This can be explained due to the bioconversion of LNA to corresponding longerchain fatty acids. The highest levels of ARA, as well as 20:3n-6, was detected in fish fed the LE diet, which was rich in LA. Fish fed the HO diet, which had very low amount of LNA, seemed to maintain the DHA level at a certain point independent of the diet. This demonstrates the paramount role of DHA in cell membrane structure in the selective deposition of this fatty acid (Bell *et al.*, 2003). Our results are consistent with earlier studies in which diet independent DHA accumulation was observed in Atlantic salmon that were fed diets in which fish oil was substituted by linseed oil at different levels (Menoyo *et al.*, 2005). However, fish fed HO diet had higher amounts of ARA and 20:3n-6 than fish fed the SO+LO diet, even though the latter diet had more than twice the level of LA, which is a precursor to these fatty acids. These results may be due to the stimulation of the  $\Delta 5$ desaturase and elongase enzyme activities in the case of lower essential fatty acid presence. The other reason might be the enzyme competition in favor of bioconversion of n3 fatty acids (Torstensen and Tocher, 2010).

#### Conclusions

In the present study, vegetable oils successfully replaced fish oil in the diet of brown trout. The only exception was hazelnut oil, which lacks essential fatty acids required by fish to thrive. Fish fed the HO diet had depleted growth because of the absence of essential fatty acids. However, further studies should be conducted to optimize hazelnut oil amount used in dietary oil blends meeting the essential fatty acid requirements of fish. The LO+SO diet (a blend of linseed oil and soybean oil) provided the best rate of growth. Replacing fish oil with vegetable oil caused major reduction in LC-PUFAs. The increase in the levels of 20:4n-3, 20:3n-6, 20:4n-6, EPA, and DHA in fish fed the LO+SO and the LE diets, which were rich in LA and LNA, demonstrated that brown trout have the ability to convert 18C fatty acids to LC-PUFAs.

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