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South China Sea Fisheries  
Research Institute,  
Chinese Academy of  
Fishery Sciences

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# Overview of Aquaculture in China & case study of Ecological Intensification

Changbo Zhu

This project receives funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No 773330 (GAIN)

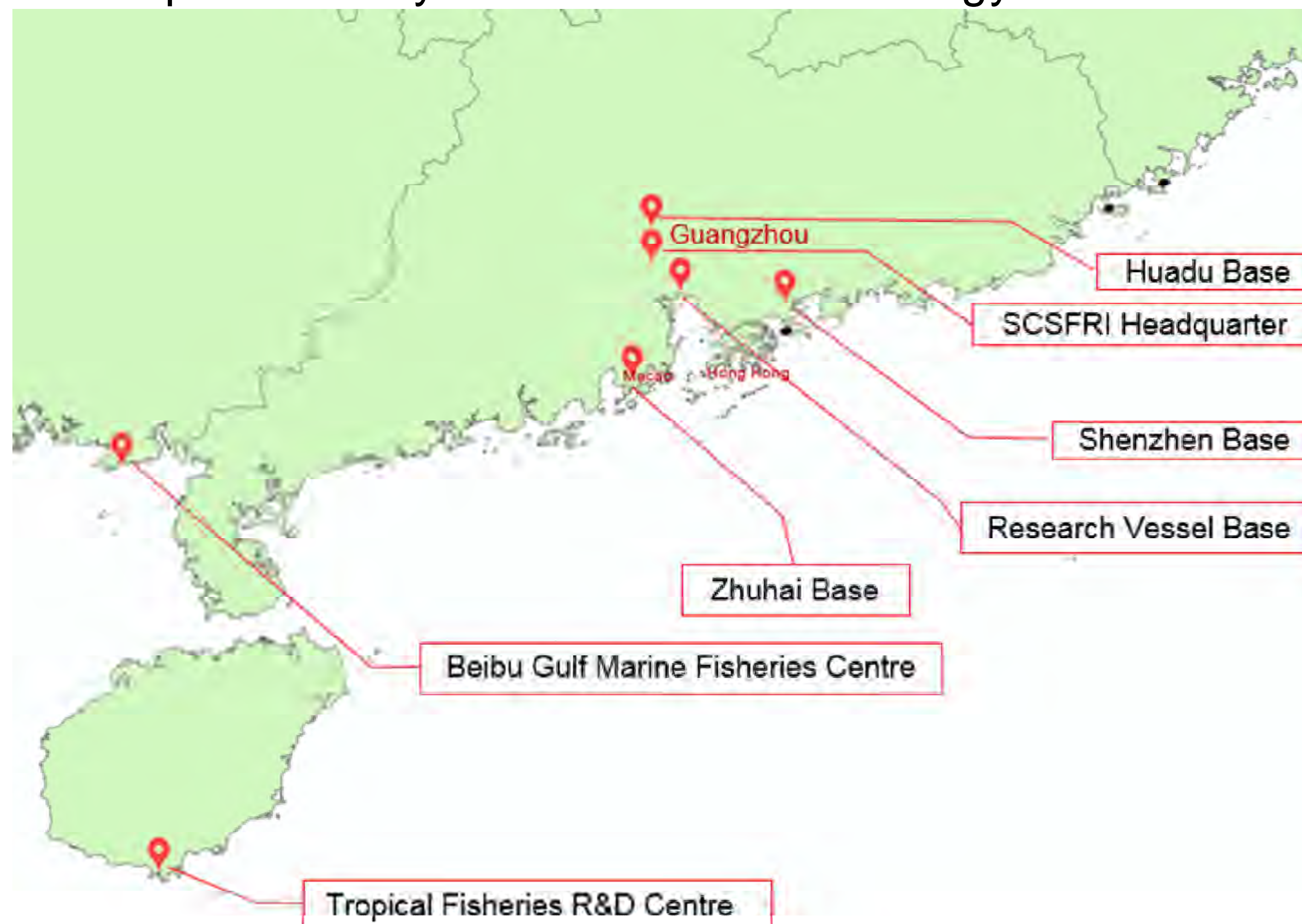




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# About SCSFRI

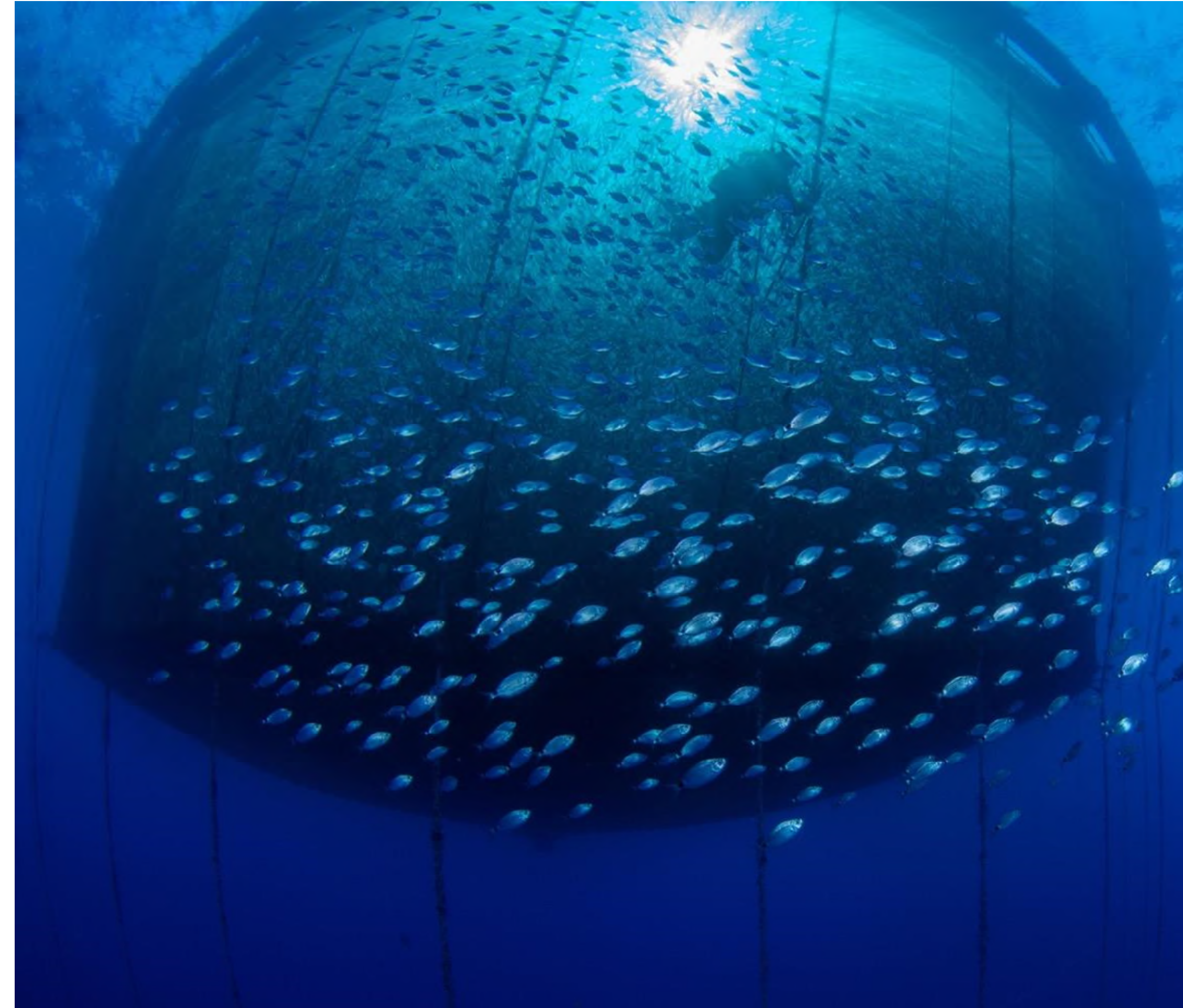
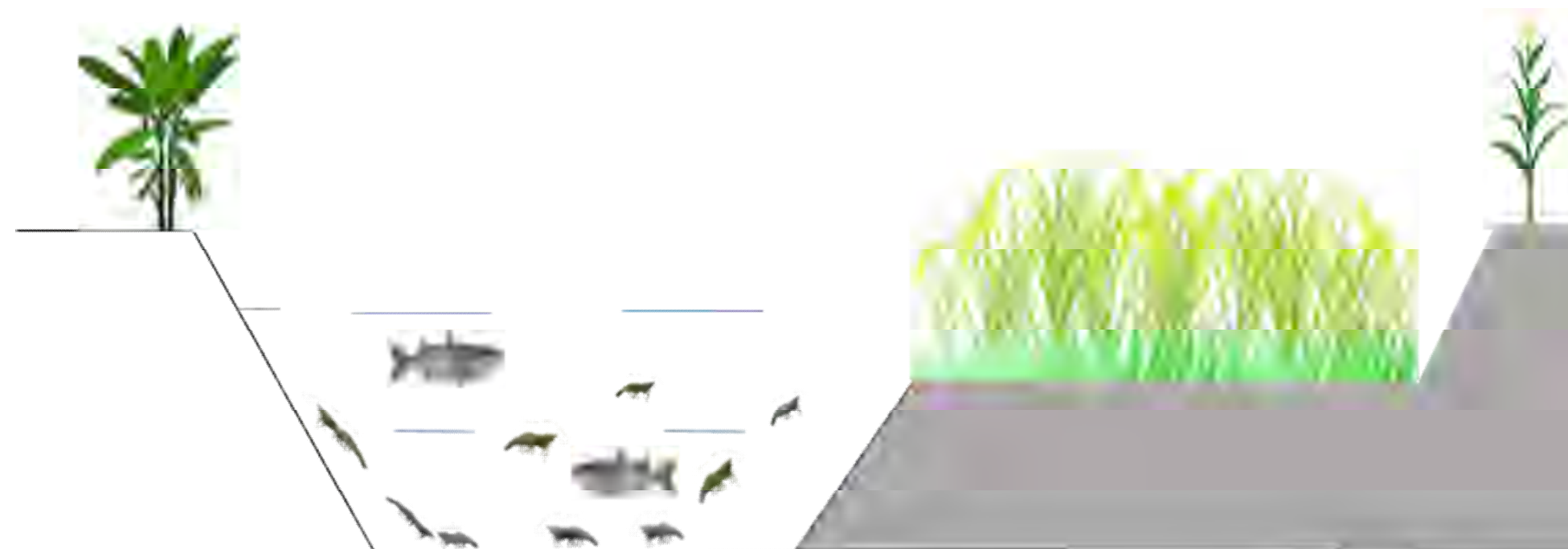
SCSFRI-South China Sea Fisheries Research Institute, CAFS (founded in 1953) is located in Guangzhou, China. It is a non-profit national scientific research agency focused on tropical & subtropical fishery sciences and technology.





# Contents

- Overview of Aquaculture in China
  - History, Production, Species, Mode, Area
  - New technology and tendency
- Ecological Intensification case study
  - An ex situ Shrimp-Rice aquaponic system
  - Application in the inland saline-alkali areas





# Brief history of Aquaculture development in China

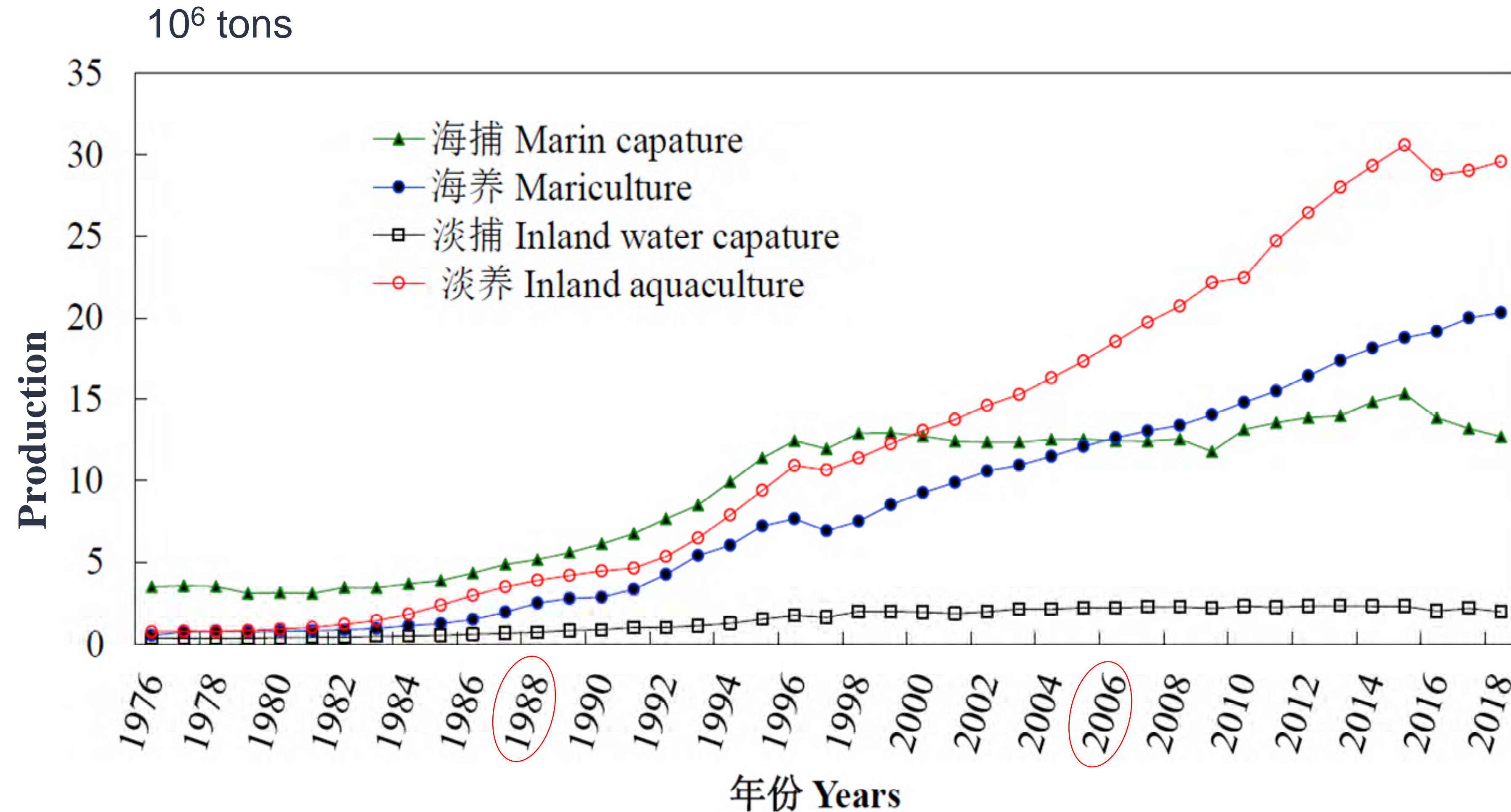


460 BC, Fan Li wrote the world's first monograph book on artificial fish farming.

Video by Nutriera Ltd.



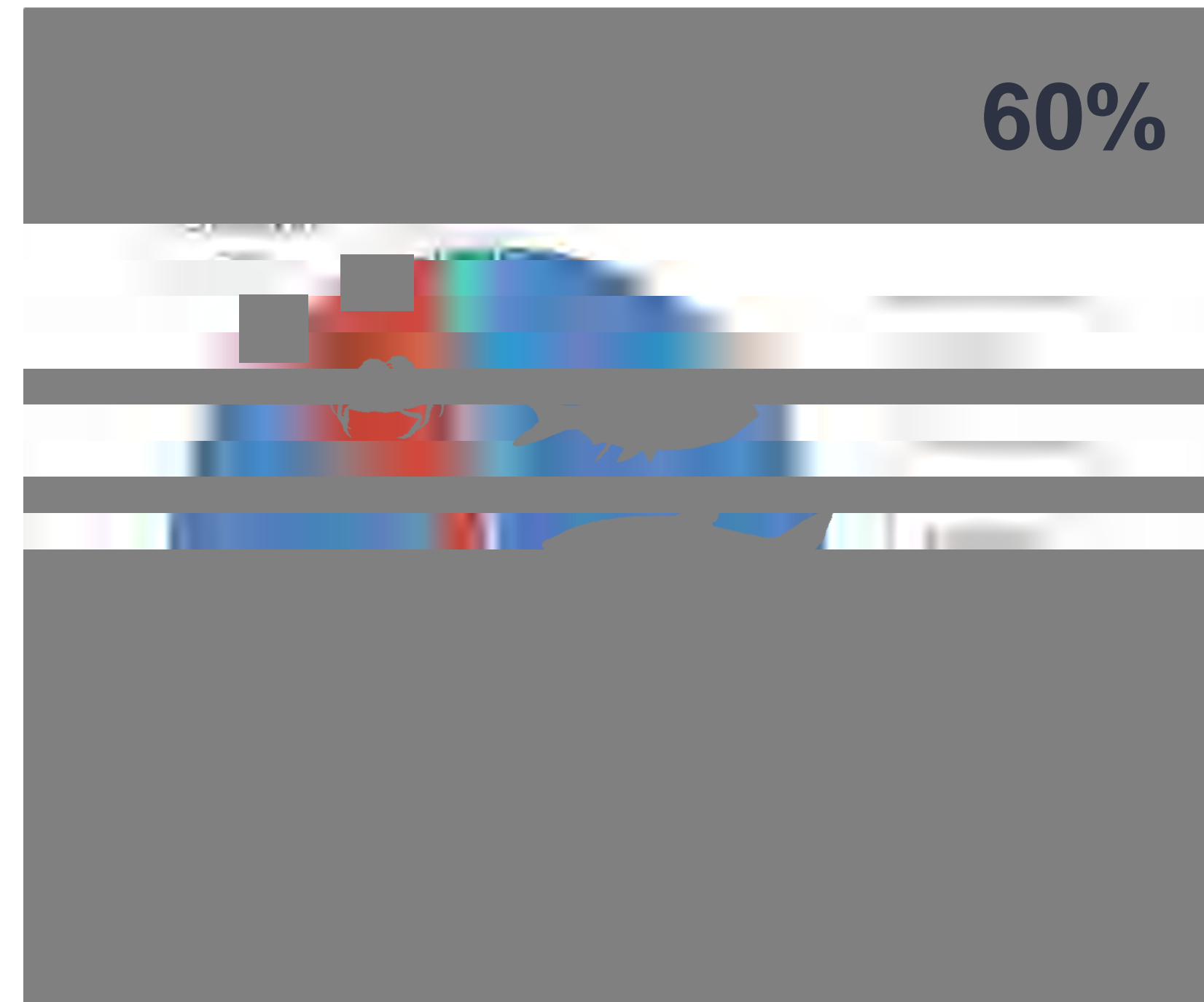
# Fishery Production in China



- Fisheries provide 1/3 animal protein for 1.4 billion people.
- Aquaculture is the only source of fishery production increment for China market.



# Composition of China's aquaculture production (2019)



## Aquaculture species

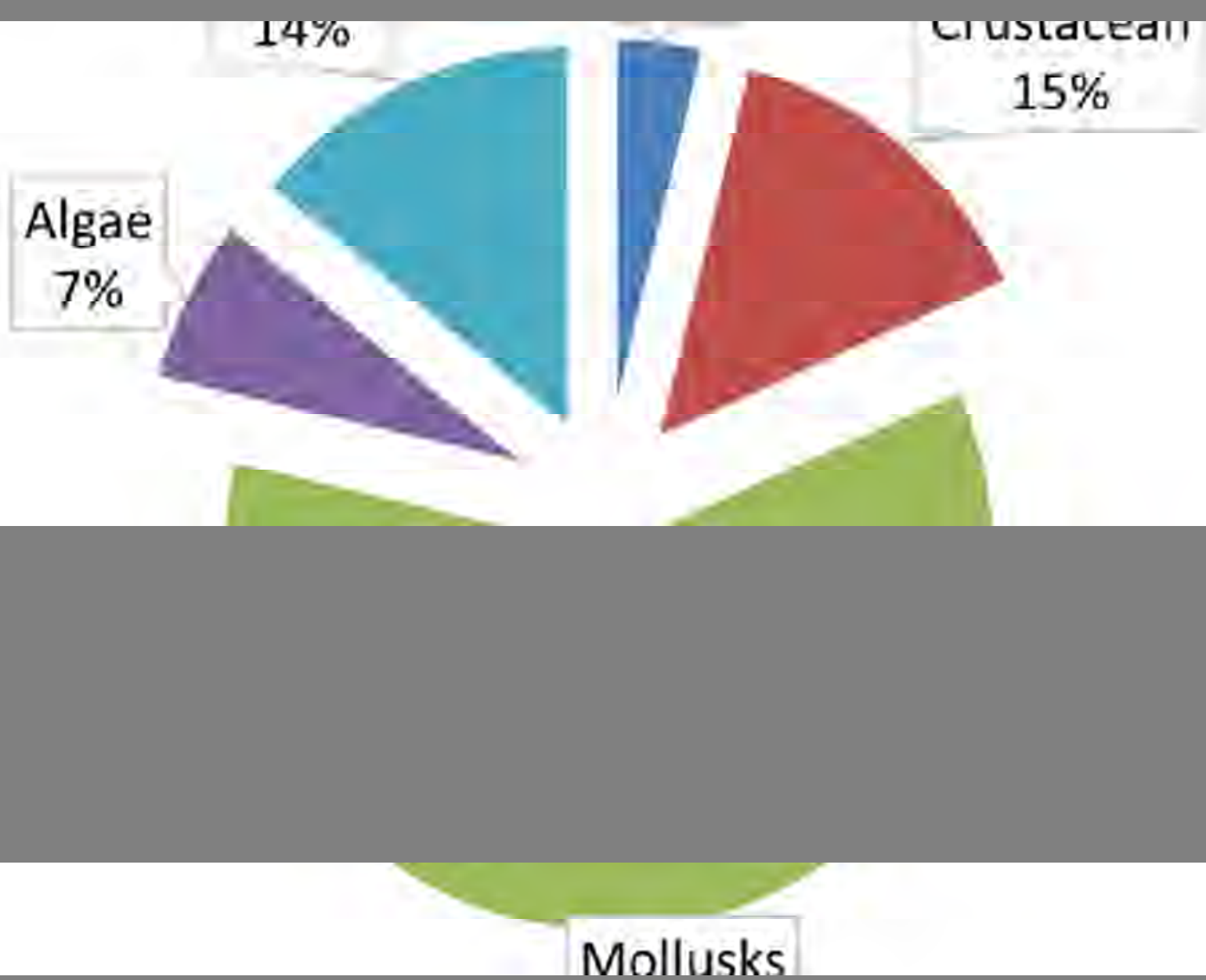
Local: > 280  
Introduced: > 80  
Artificial bred: ~ 200  
Total: **>550**

Large portion of low trophic level species, low feed cost.  
Large **carbon credit**.

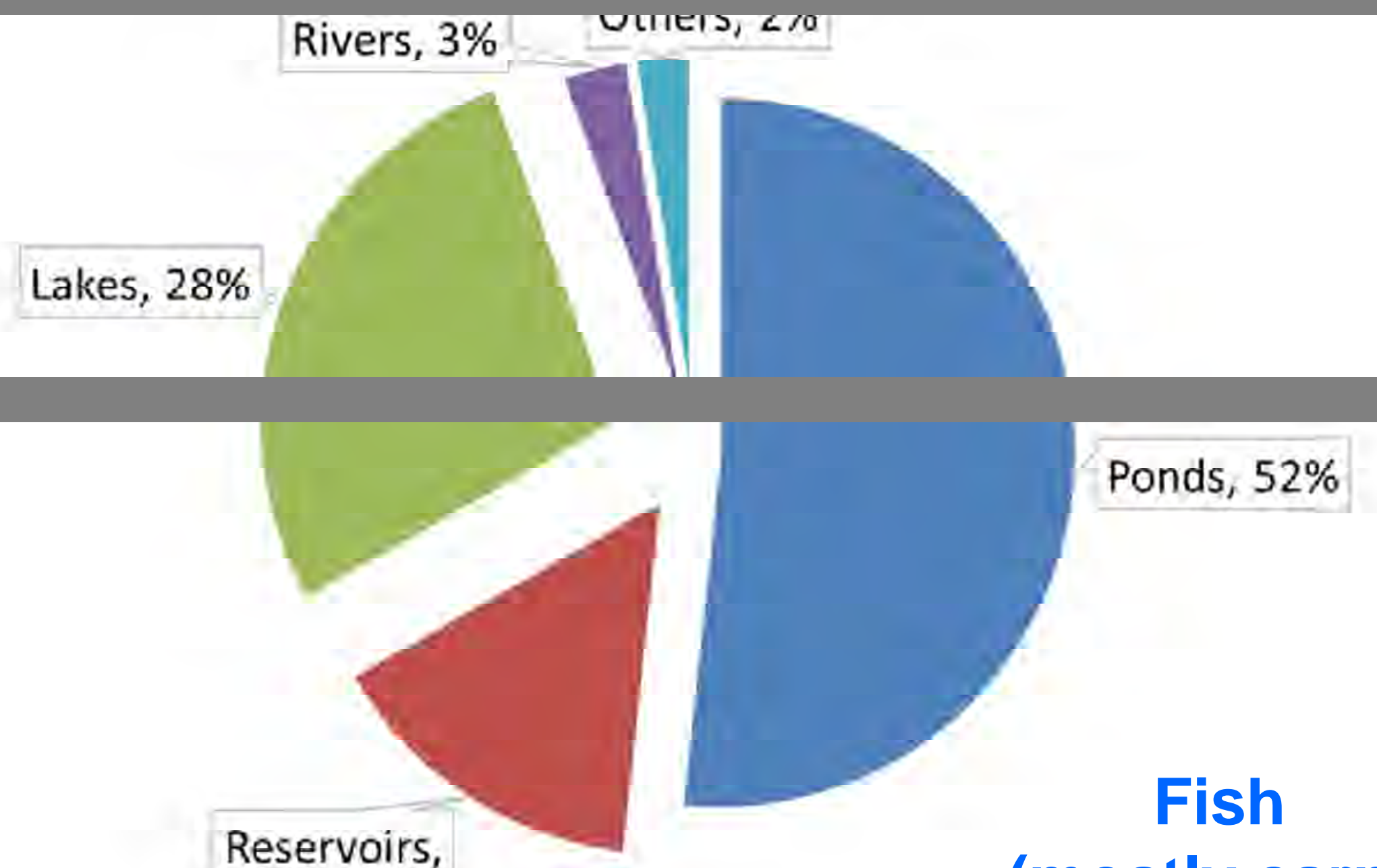


# Aquaculture area distribution (2019)

Fish Crustacean Mollusks Algae Others



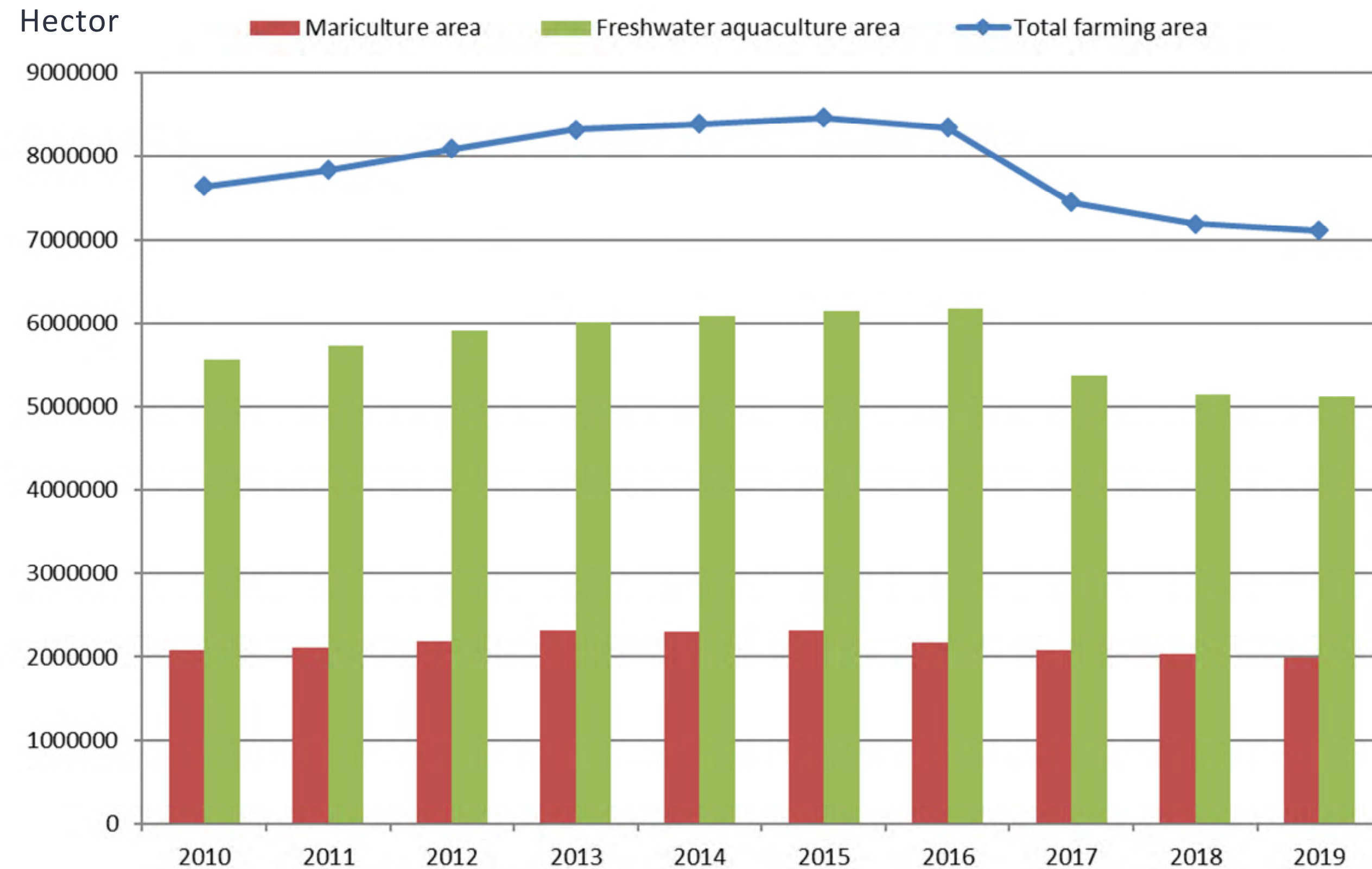
Ponds Reservoirs Lakes Rivers Others



Fish  
(mostly carps)



# Aquaculture area of China



Total aquaculture area (Year 2019)  $\approx 75,000 \text{ km}^2$

*~Scotland, Czech*



2021-08-27

## National plan for water areas of aquaculture (by 2030)

Water Type	Area ( $10^3 \text{ km}^2$ )
Approved	233
Restricted	413
Prohibited	520

1. Reservoirs are no longer allowed for aquaculture.
2. Aquaculture waste water must be treated before discharge.



## New aquaculture technology

- Biofloc system
- Far off-shore mariculture
- Inland saline-alkali waters farming

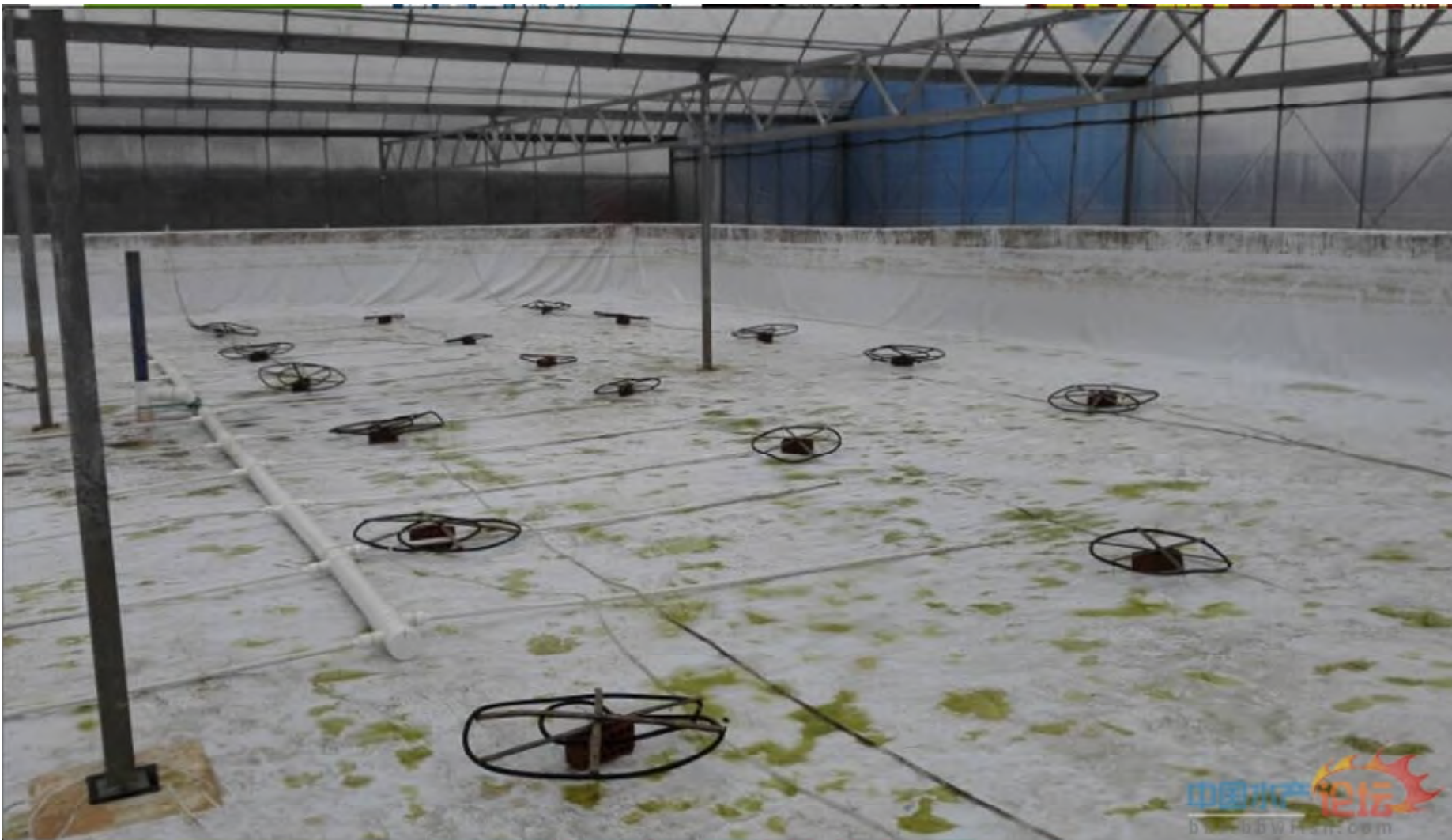


## Developing tendency

- Far off-shore
- Aqua-agriculture (aquaponics)
- Intensive IMTA (coastal)
- Filter-feeding aquaculture (lakes)
- RAS



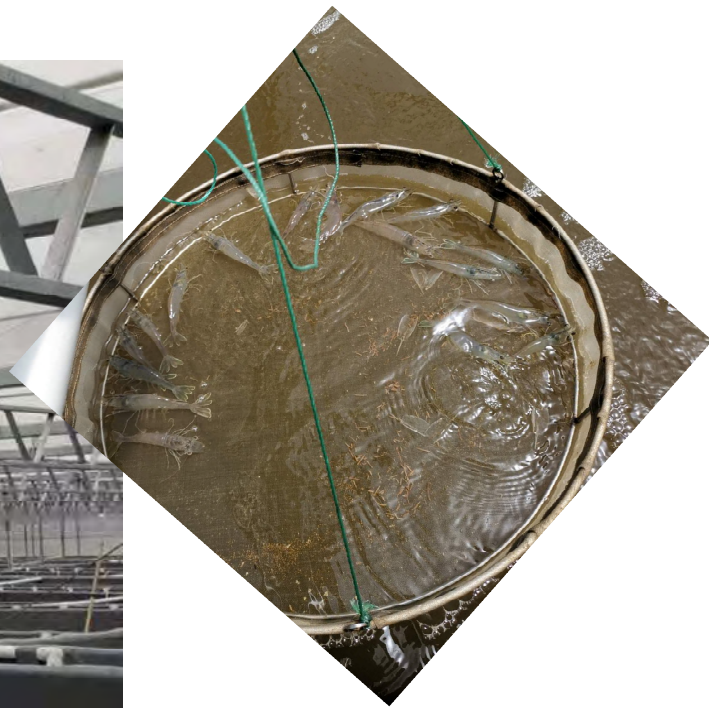
# Bio-floc Technology, BFT



Nantong, Jiangsu



Yangjiang,  
Guangdong





# Aqua-agriculture systems (aquaponics)

Traditional way with intensification



Rice field fish farming



Mulberry field - fish ponds system



Sugar cane field – fish ponds system



# Intensive IMTA (ecological intensification)



将投饵养殖动物以一定的比例与非投饵养殖动物和植物混养，使一种养殖生物的副产出成为另一生物的输入物（肥料、食物、能量）。

In these systems the waste of one species is another's food or nutrition.



# Blooming of offshore and far offshore mariculture in China



Deep Blue 1, Shandong, 2018



Zhenyu 1, Fujian, 2019



Dehai 1, Guangdong, 2018



Changjing 1, Shandong, 2019



Genghai 1, Shandong, 2020



Penghu, Guangdong, 2019



# Large scale filter-feeding aquaculture in lakes



Major species:

- Silver carp
- Big head carp



**Advantages:**

- Zero feed input
- Water quality improvement



# Progress of an ex situ Shrimp-Rice aquaponic system

## Case study of ecological intensification in land-based aquaculture


Ting Li, Bo Zhang, Changbo Zhu\*, Jiaqi Su, Junwei Li, Suwen Chen, Jinhua Qin, 2021. Effects of an ex situ shrimp-rice aquaponic system on the water quality of aquaculture ponds in the Pearl River estuary, China. *Aquaculture*, 545 (2021) 737179. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.aquaculture.2021.737179>

Aquaculture 545 (2021) 737179

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**Aquaculture**

journal homepage: [www.elsevier.com/locate/aquaculture](http://www.elsevier.com/locate/aquaculture)



Effects of an ex situ shrimp-rice aquaponic system on the water quality of aquaculture ponds in the Pearl River estuary, China

Ting Li, Bo Zhang, Changbo Zhu\*, Jiaqi Su, Junwei Li, Suwen Chen, Jinhua Qin

Key Laboratory of South China Sea Fishery Resources Exploitation & Utilization, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs, South China Sea Fisheries Research Institute, Chinese Academy of Fishery Sciences, Guangzhou 510000, China

**ARTICLE INFO**

**Keywords:**  
Brackish water pond  
Sea rice  
Nutrient removal  
Dissolved nitrogen

**ABSTRACT**

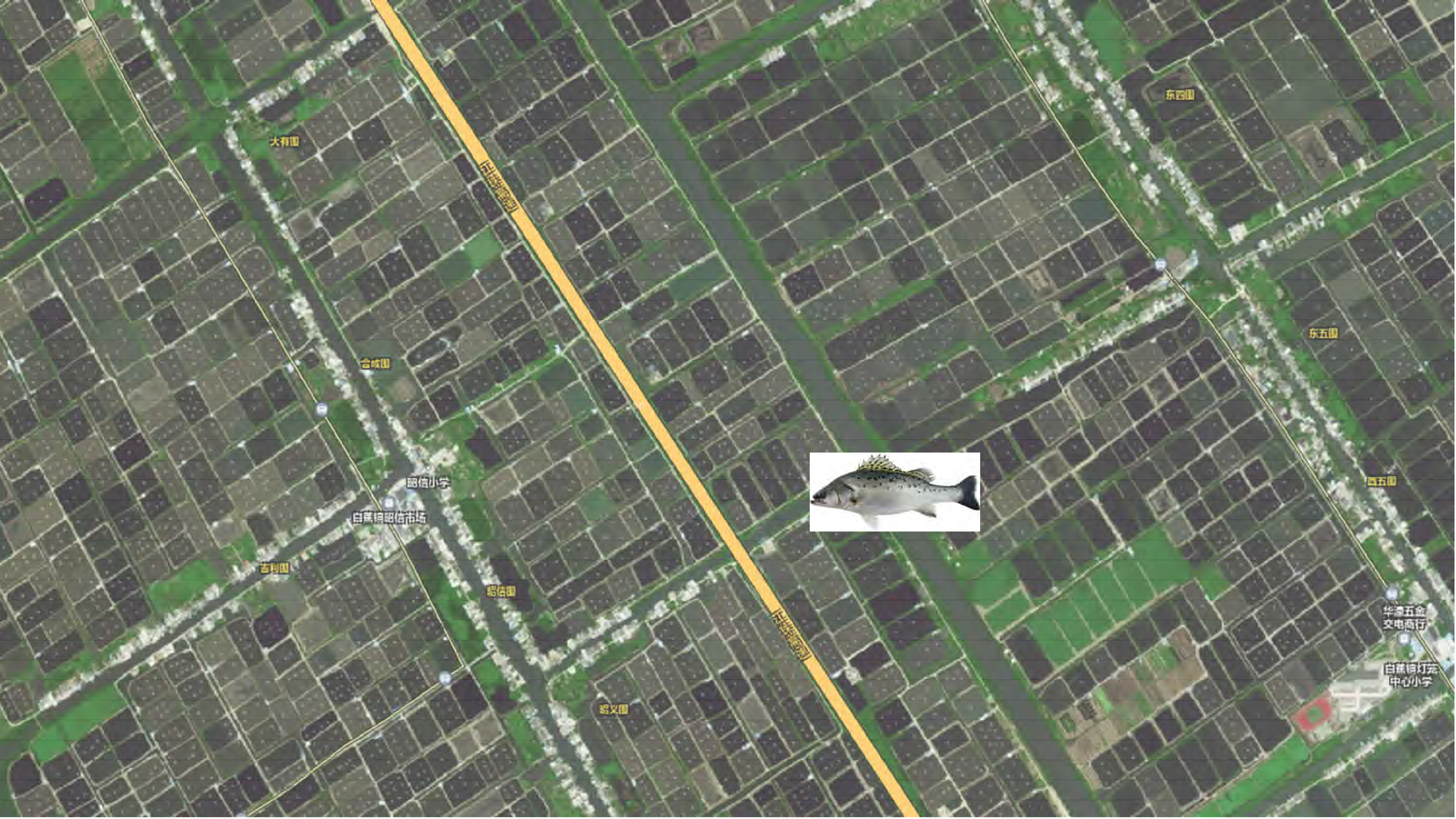
Integrated shrimp-rice systems have been widely applied in paddy fields around the world but have never been constructed in brackish water ponds. In this study, two types of rice cultivars and three shrimp varieties with different salinity requirements were co-cultured in two freshwater ponds (local rice *Lingonensis varanensis* and local rice *Macrobrachium rosenbergii*) and two brackish water ponds (sea rice *Lingonensis varanensis* and sea rice *Penaeus monodon*) under practical shrimp farming conditions. The nutrient removal ability and waste stability of



# Intensive seabass aquaculture ponds in pearl river delta











Intensive shrimp farms on the coast of Guangxi



# Shrimp pond-paddy field combined farming

## Background:

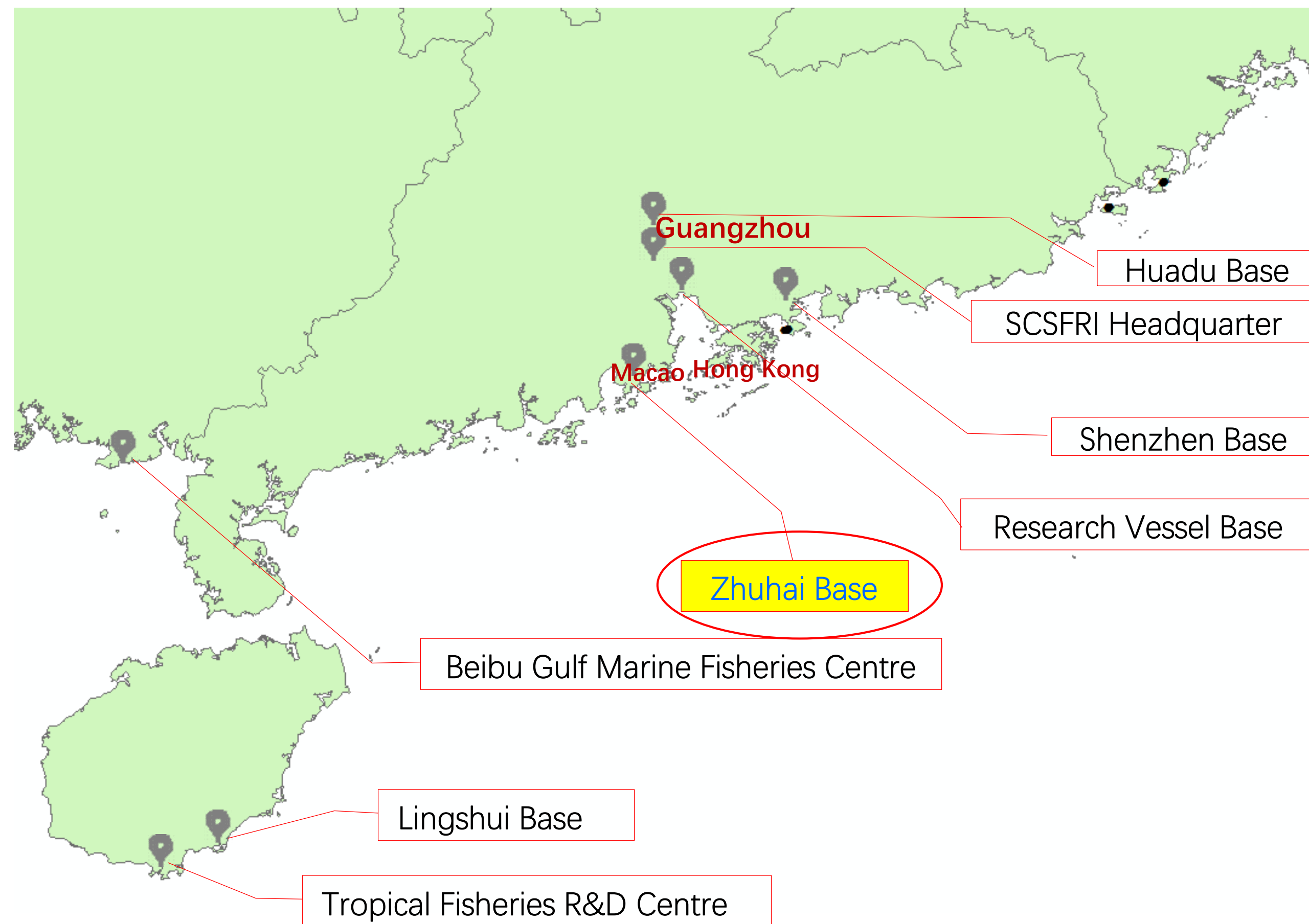
**Intensive monoculture** is the dominant shrimp farming style in China and all over the world. It has three major **problems**:

- Eutrophication of pond water and effluent.
- Decreased survival and growth of shrimp.
- High risk of shrimp diseases outbreak.





# Site of the pilot: Zhuhai Base





## Scenario 1

# Principle of pond-paddy co-culture



### Benefits:

- Particle sediments (shrimp faeces and uneaten feed) from pond be pumped into paddy field as base fertilizer for rice seedling.
- Dissolved nutrients from pond be absorbed by rice, make sure good and stable water quality.
- Better survival and growth of shrimps.
- Double harvest: shrimp + rice.
- Zero discharge of wastes.
- .....

Brackish water

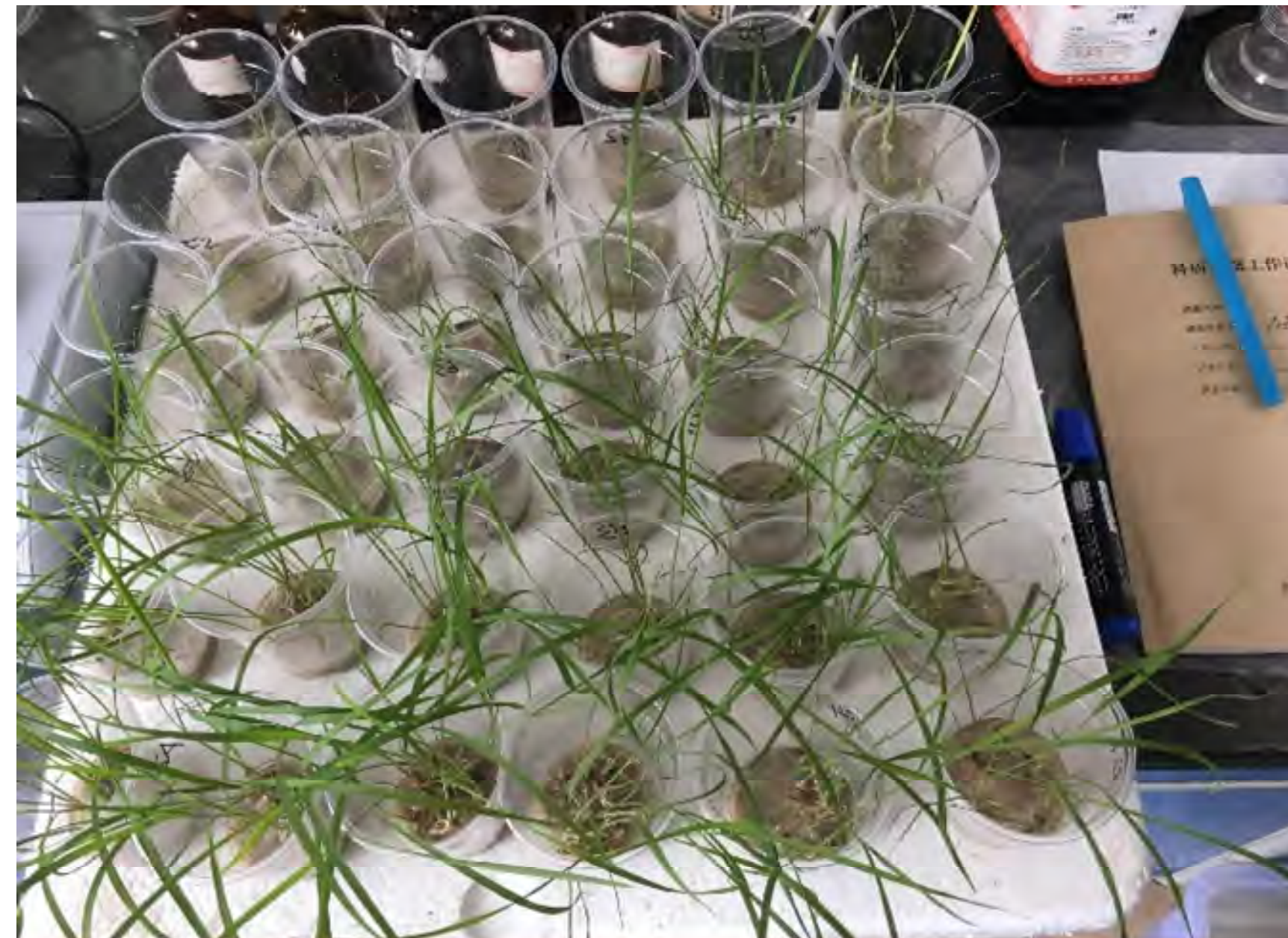


# Choose the appropriate rice species

**Common rice (< 3 ppt)**



**Saline rice (< 9 ppt)**





# Growth test for saline rice at different salinities

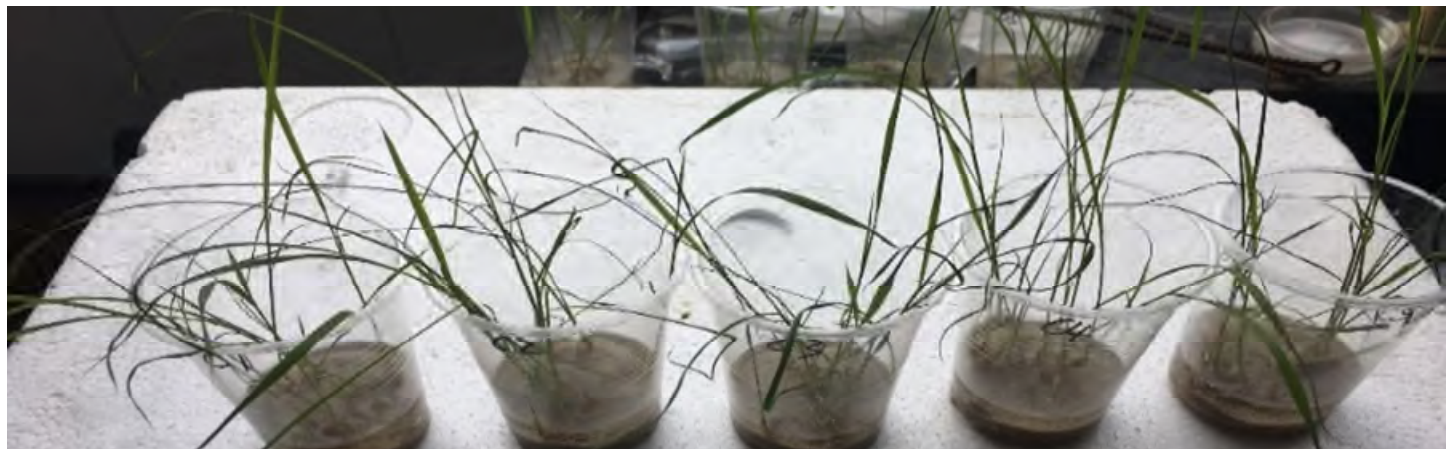
T1 : 3‰



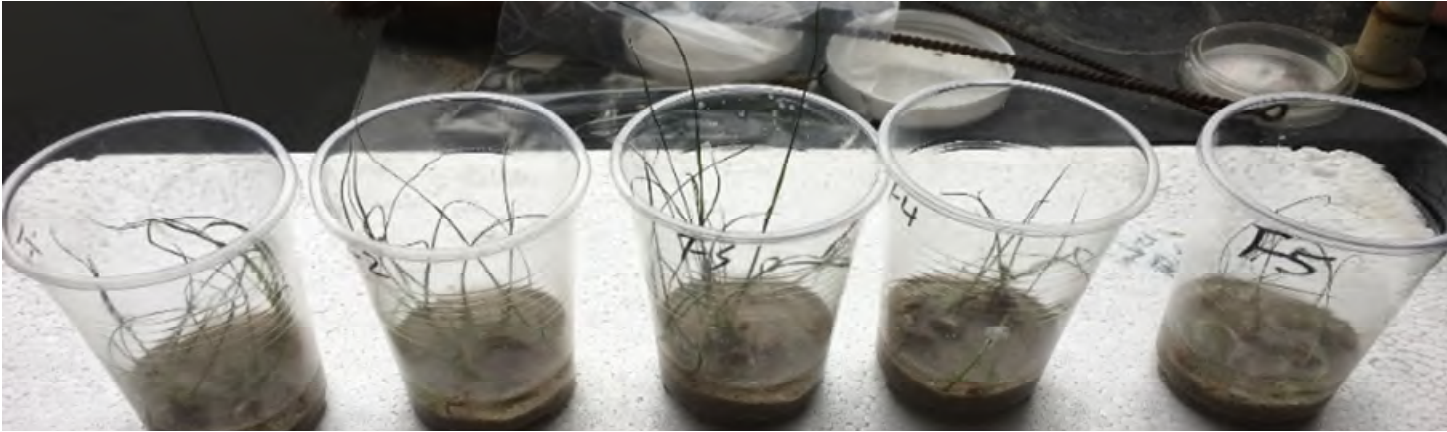
T4 : 12‰



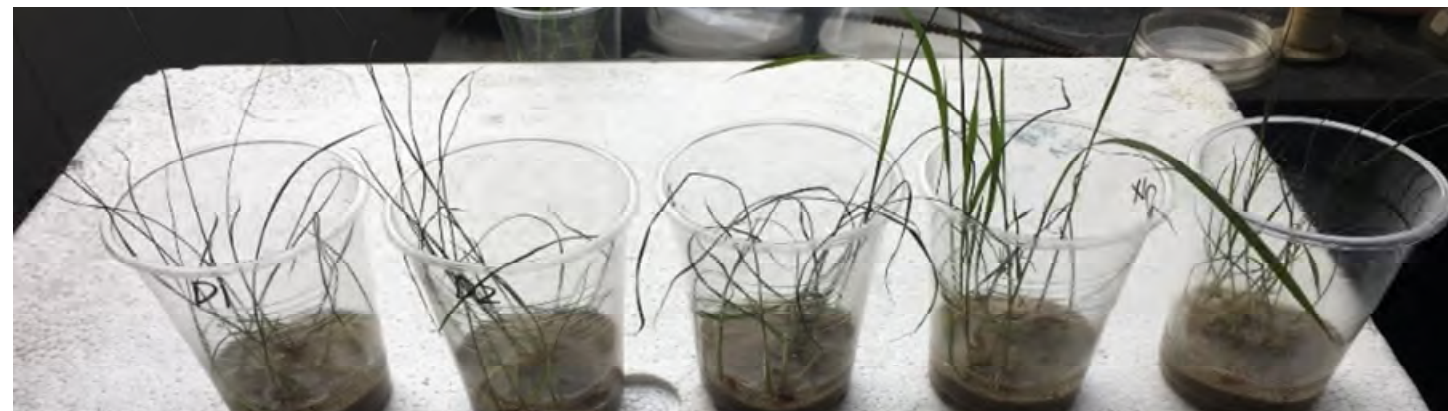
T2 : 6‰



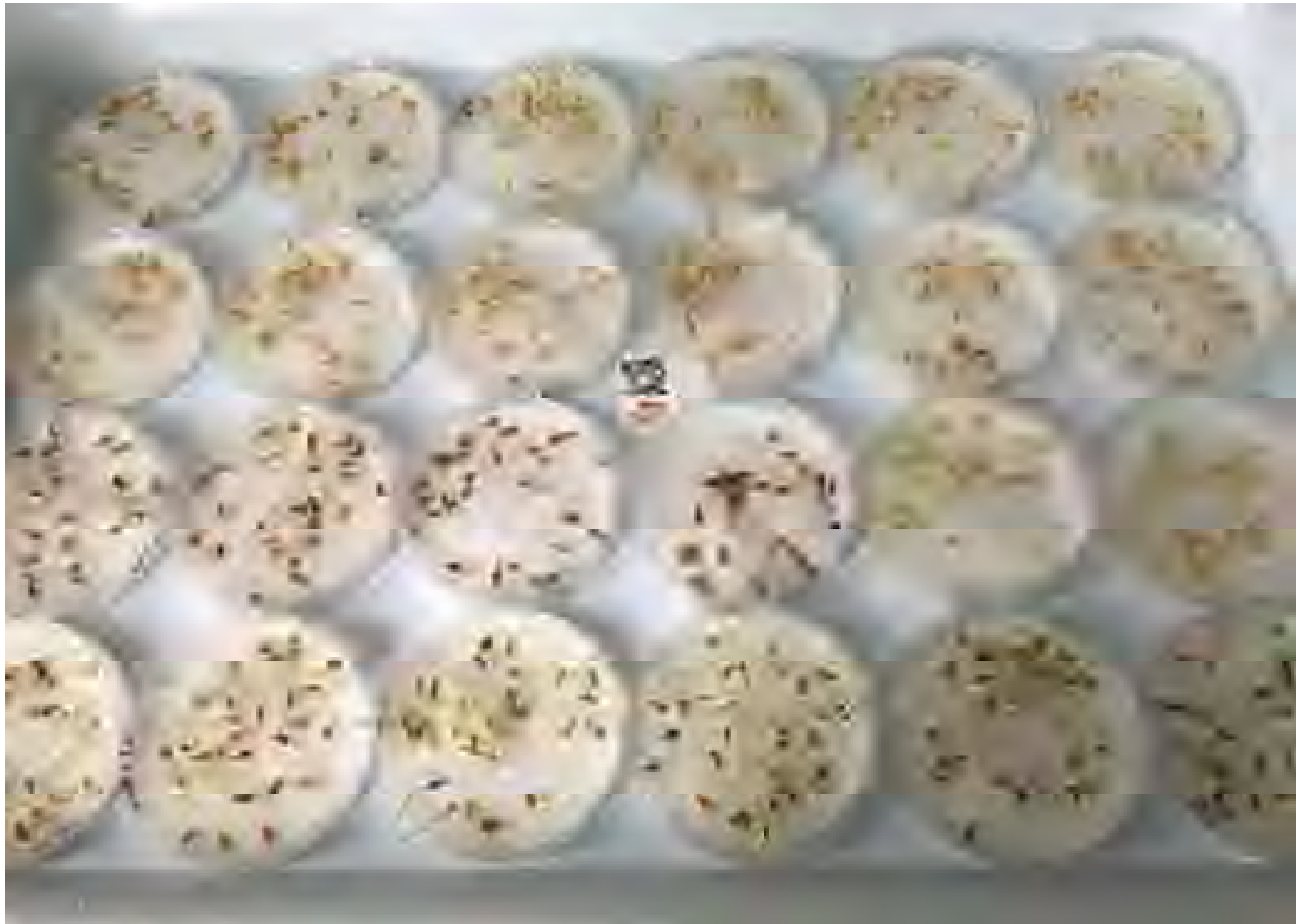
T5 : 15‰



T3 : 9‰



T6 : 20‰



*Journal of Southern Agriculture*

## Effects of seawater stress on seed germination and seedling growth of Sea rice 86

LI Ting, ZHU Chang-bo\*, LI Jun-wei, CHEN Su-wen, XIE Xiao-yong

(South China Sea Fisheries Research Institute, Chinese Academy of Fishery Sciences/Key Laboratory of South China Sea Fishery Resources Exploitation & Utilization, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs, Guangzhou 510300, China)

**Abstract:** [Objective] The effects of salt stress on seedling growth of a new salt-tolerant rice variety (Sea rice 86) at seedling stage were explored, which provided scientific basis for the development and application of salt-tolerant rice and for the construction of fish-rice farming mode in low-salinity ponds. [Method] Water culture experiment was conducted on Sea rice 86 during seed germination and seedling stages. Distilled water (0 salinity) was as control, and a series of seawater stress treatments (3‰, 6‰, 9‰, 12‰, 15‰ and 20‰) were simulated. Then the seed germination status (germination rate, germination potential, germination index and vigor index) and the morphological characters of seedlings (root length, stem length, leaf length and biomass allocation of plant organs) were investigated to analyze the response of sea rice to salt stress and its adaptation range to the salinity of seawater. [Result] Seed activity of Sea rice 86 were promoted in low-salinity treatments but inhibited in high-salinity treatments. Seed germination rate, germination potential, germination index and vigor index reached its highest level in 3‰ treatments, then gradually declined as the salinity increased. With the increase of salinity in seawater nutrient solution, the seed germination and seedling growth of Sea rice 86 were adversely affected, growth indicators such as shoot length, seedling height, length of leaf and root, biomass, shoot to root ratio de-

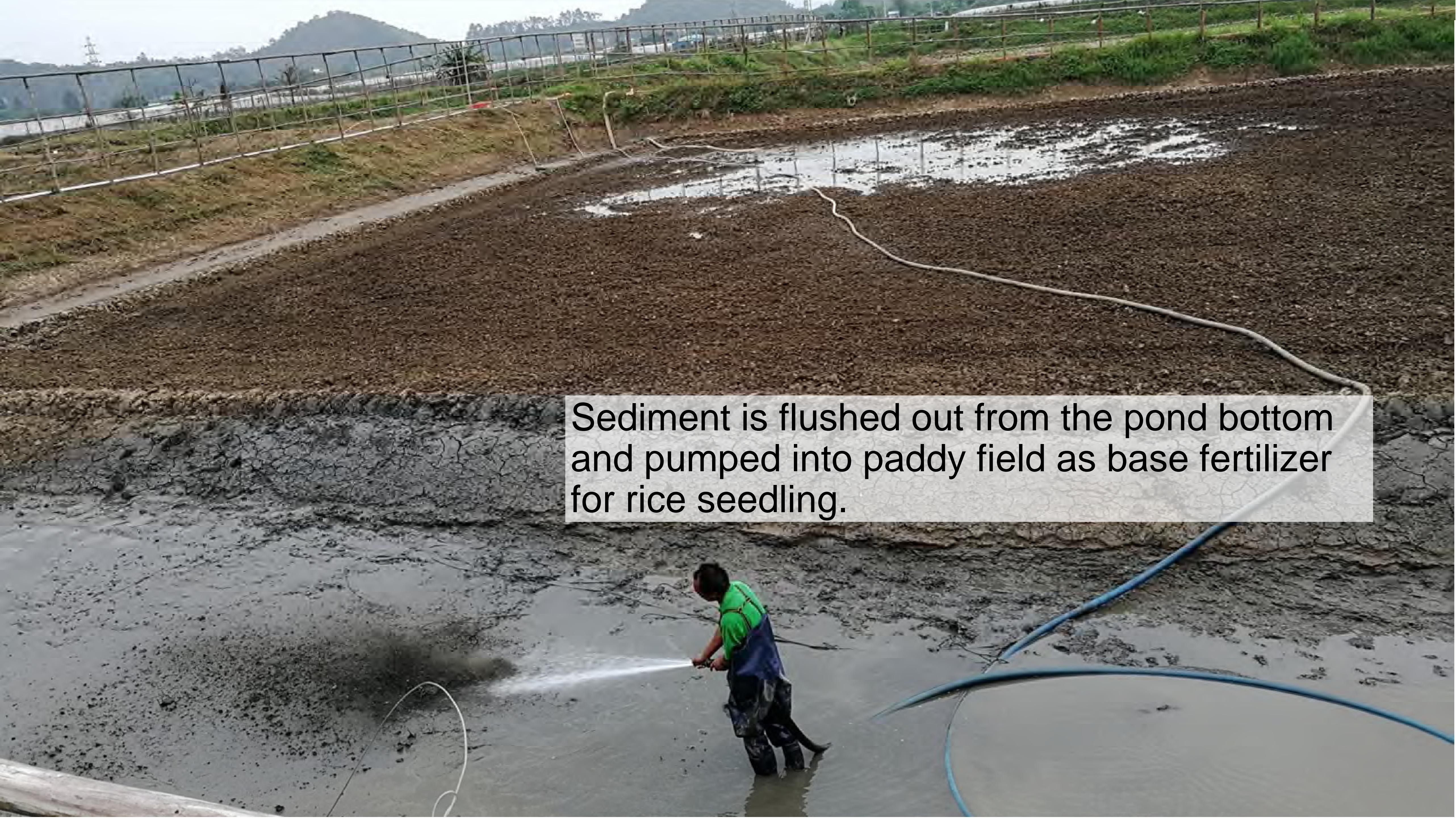
Salinity lower than 6‰ is suitable for saline rice, and it could endure short term salinity over 9.



# Structure of the co-culture system







Sediment is flushed out from the pond bottom and pumped into paddy field as base fertilizer for rice seedling.



# Rice seedling









# Shrimp seeding





# Feeding



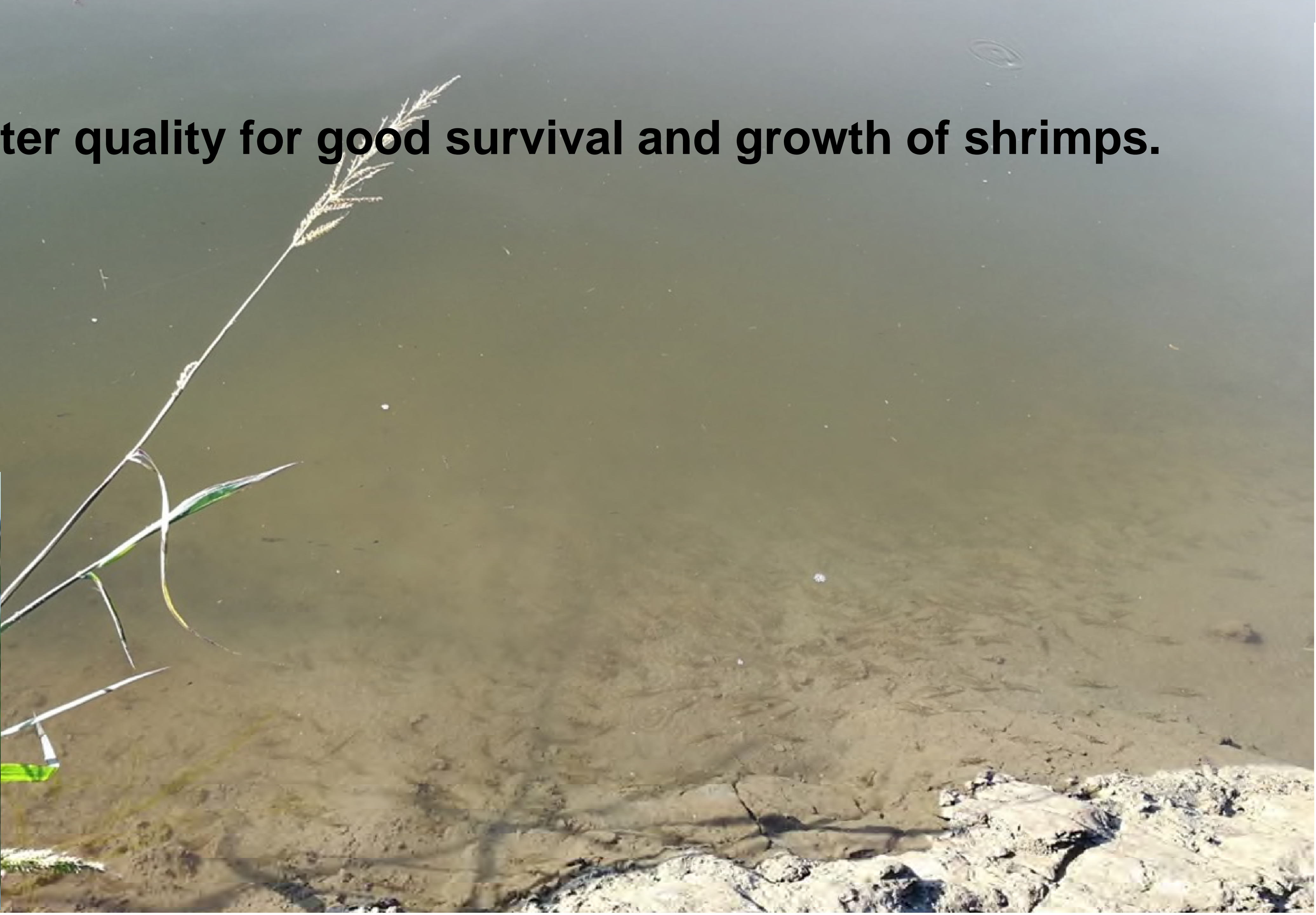


# Heading of the saline rice



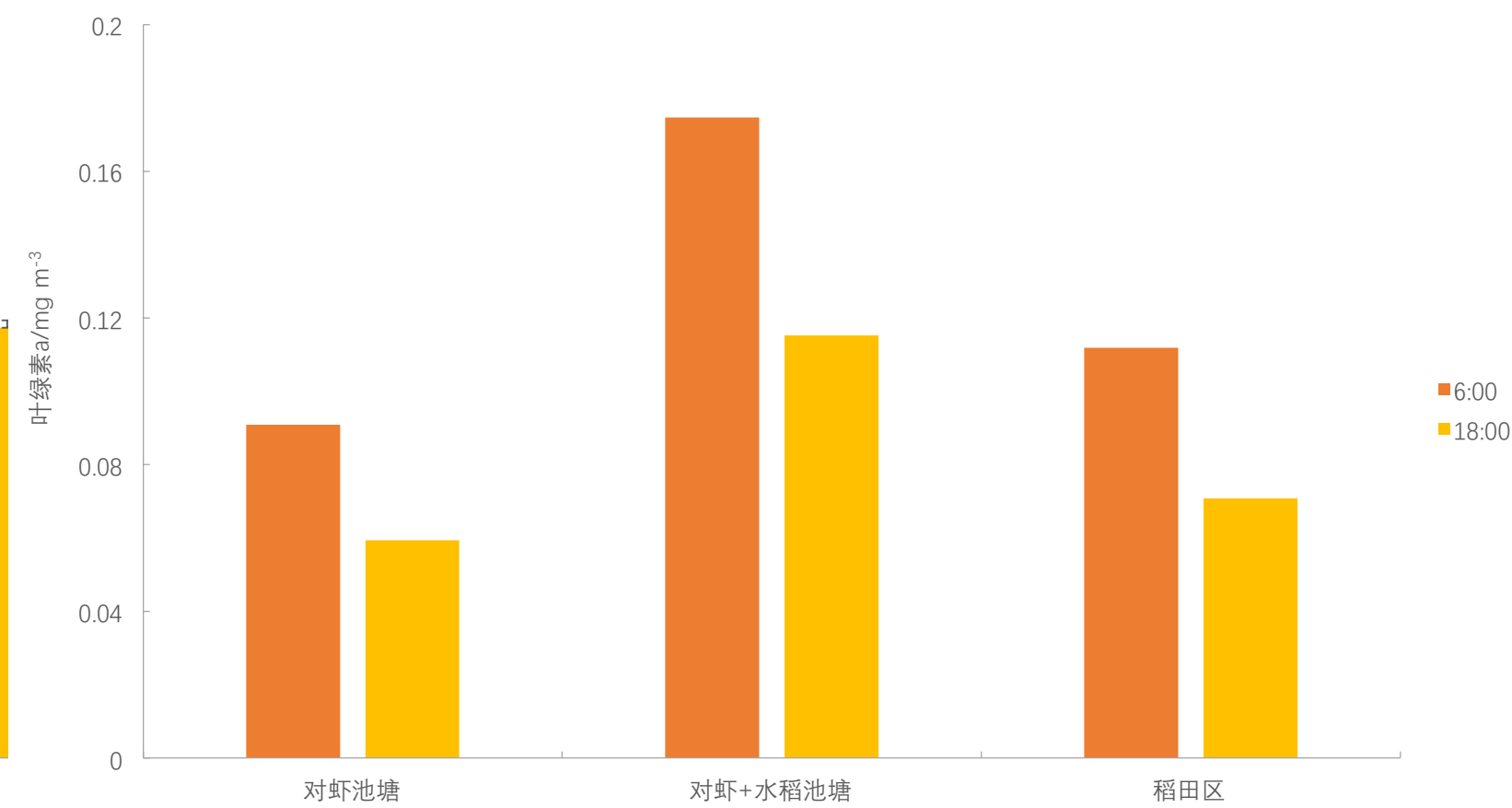
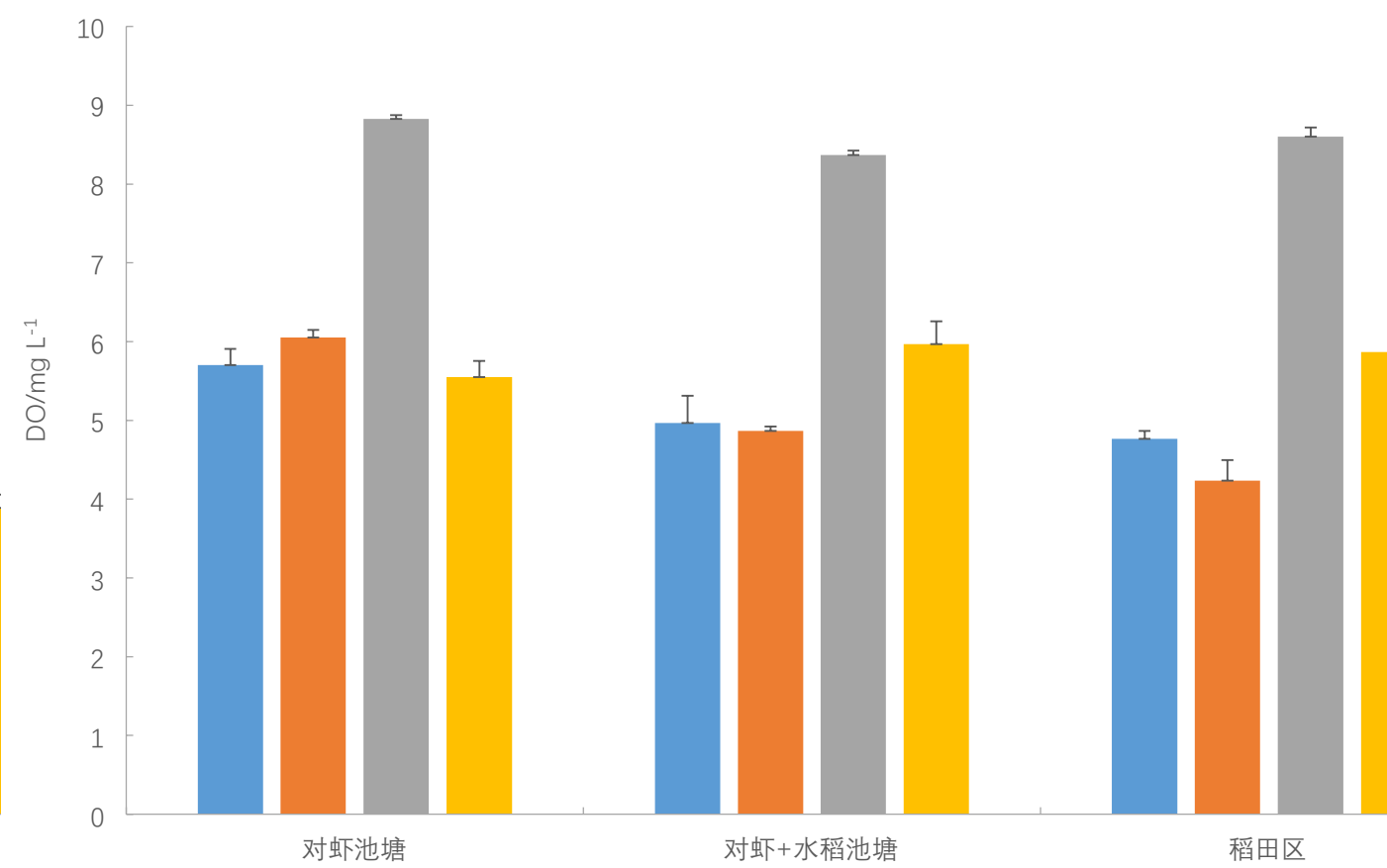
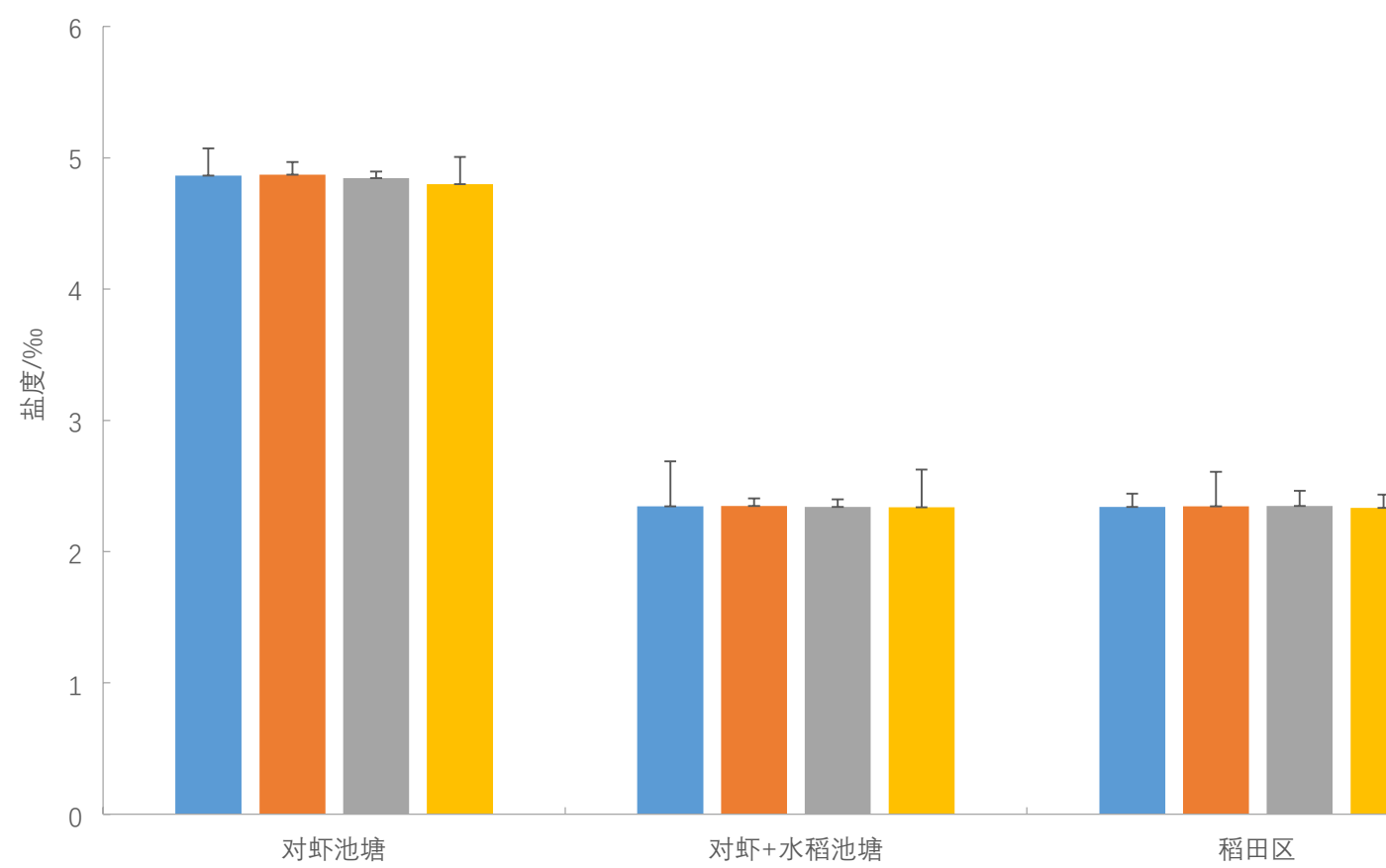
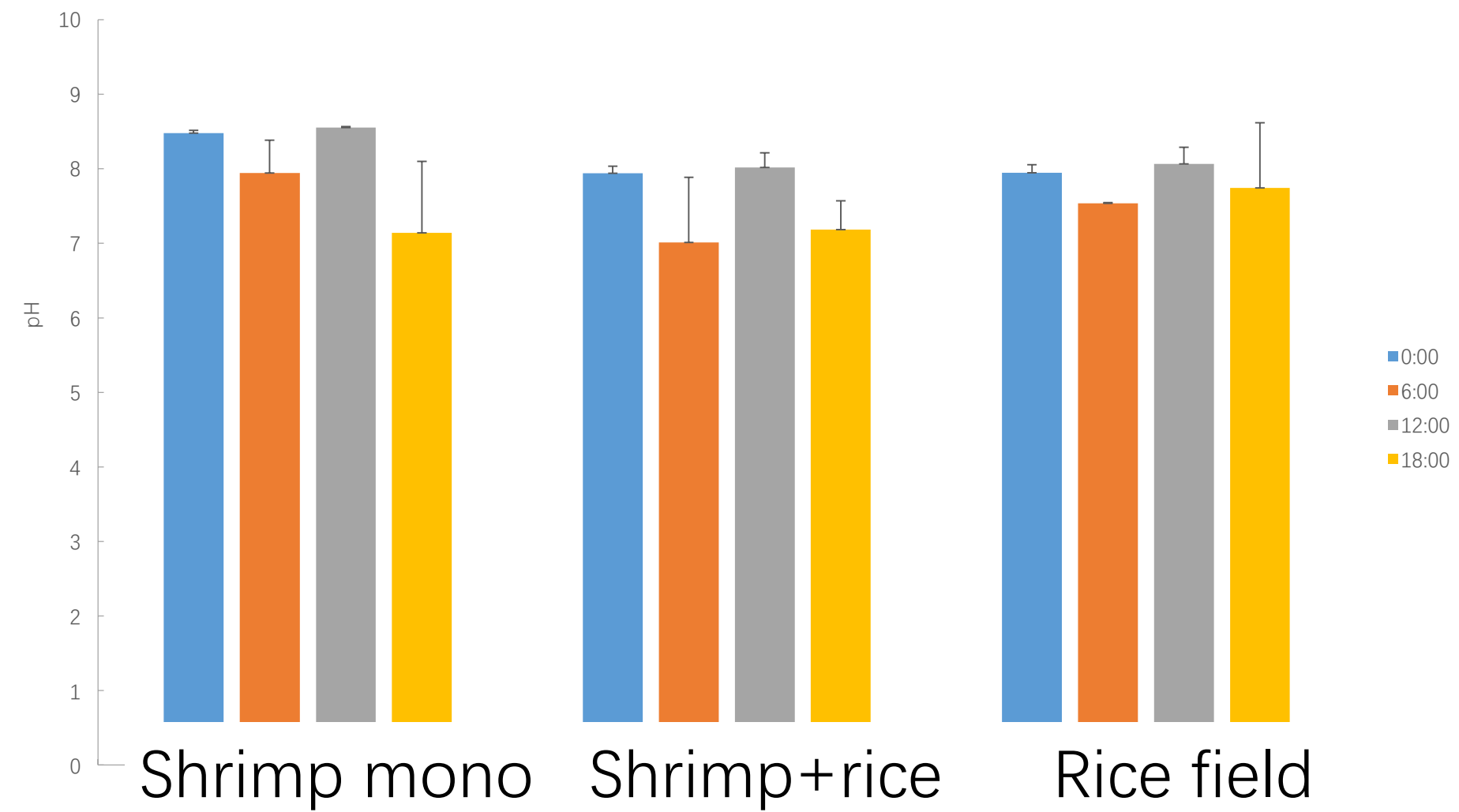
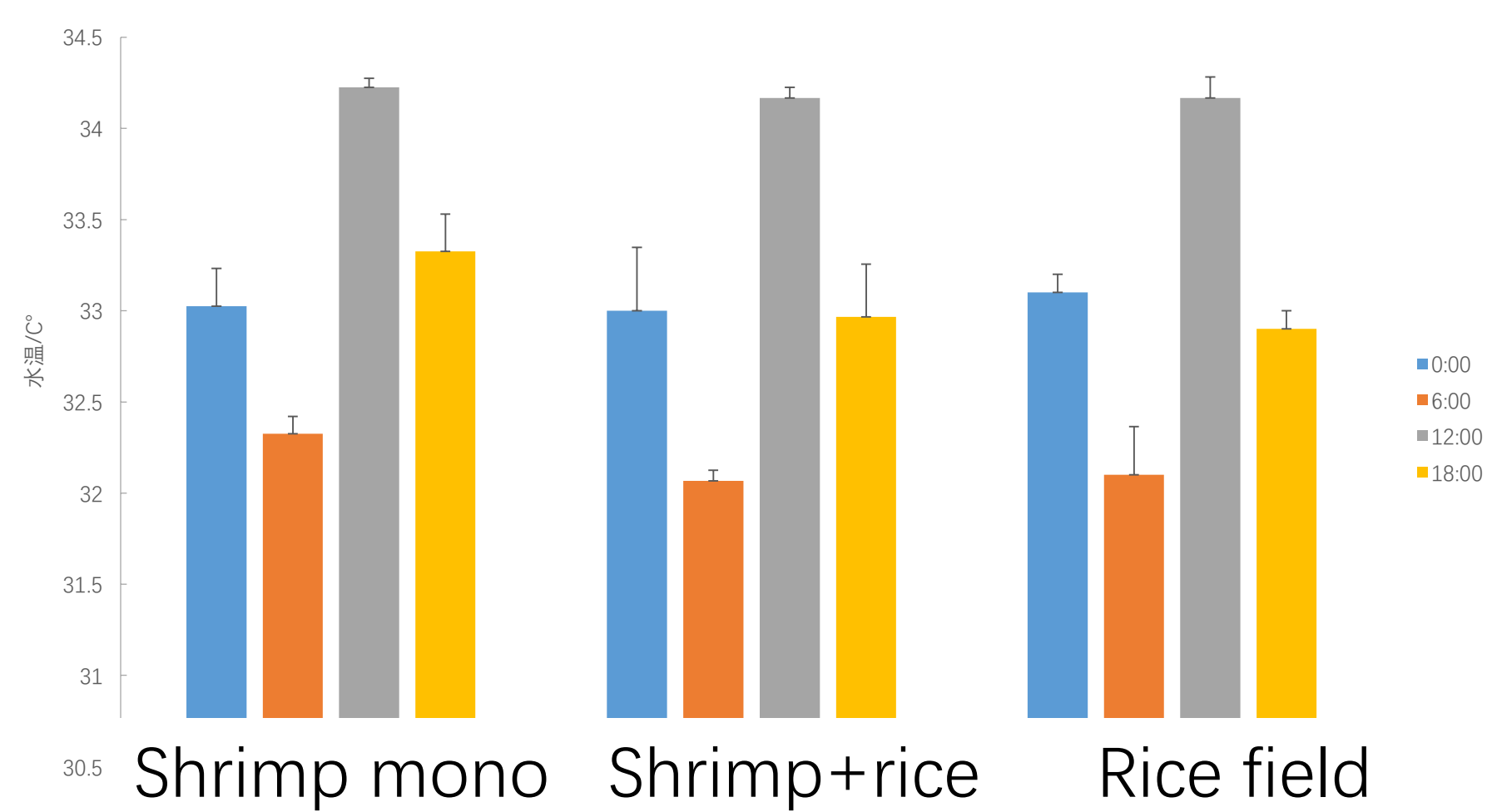


**Good water quality for good survival and growth of shrimps.**





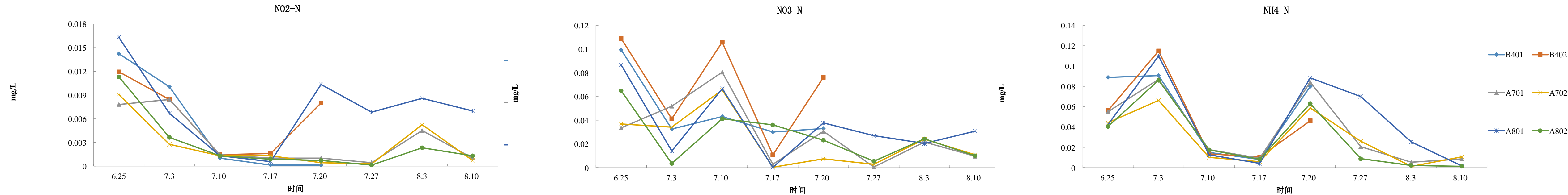
# Apparent indexes: no significant difference



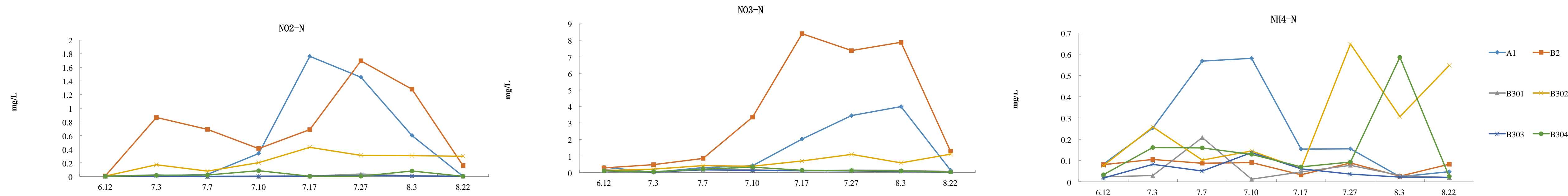


# Nutrient content in pond water: **big difference**

## Co-culture



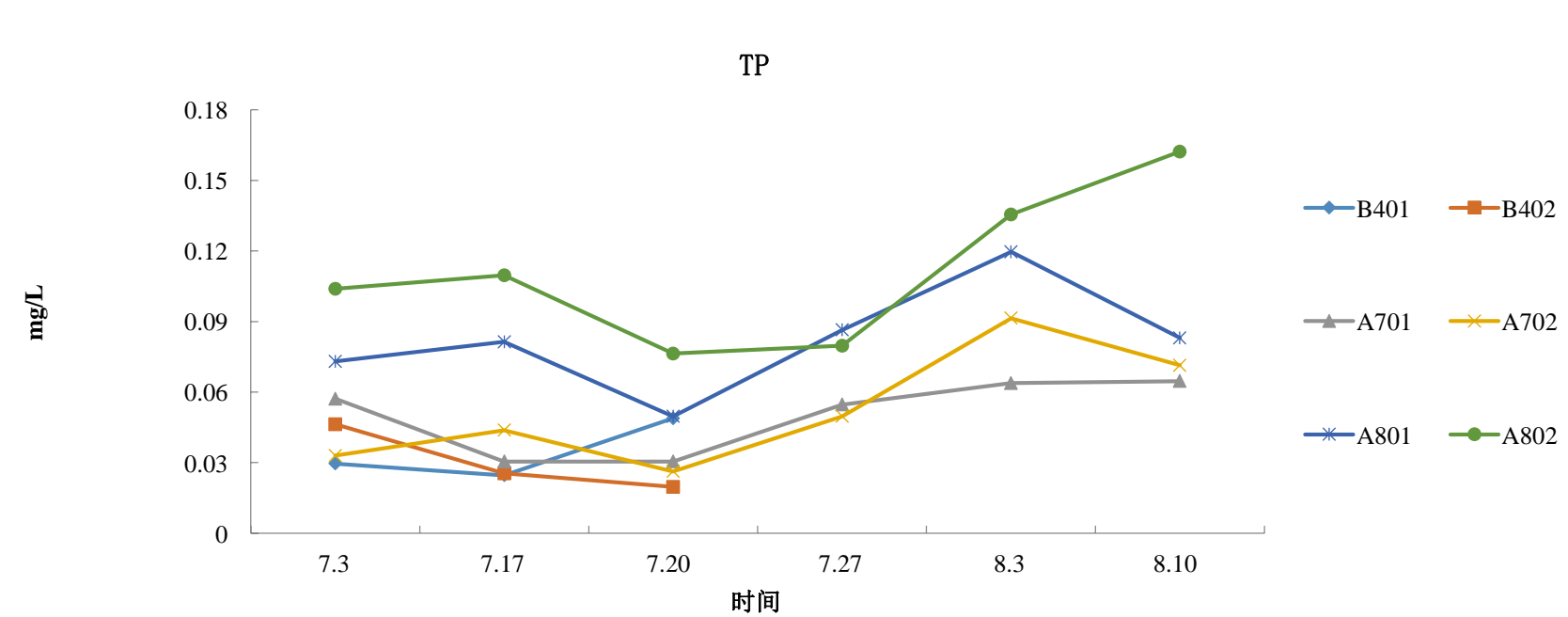
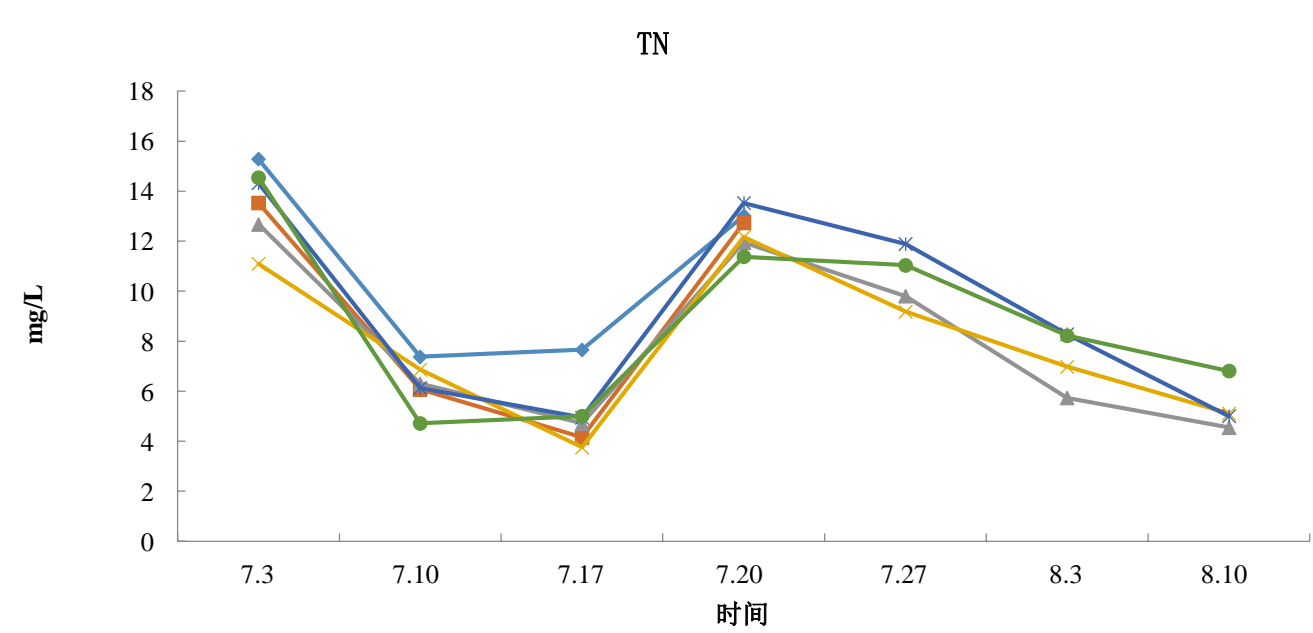
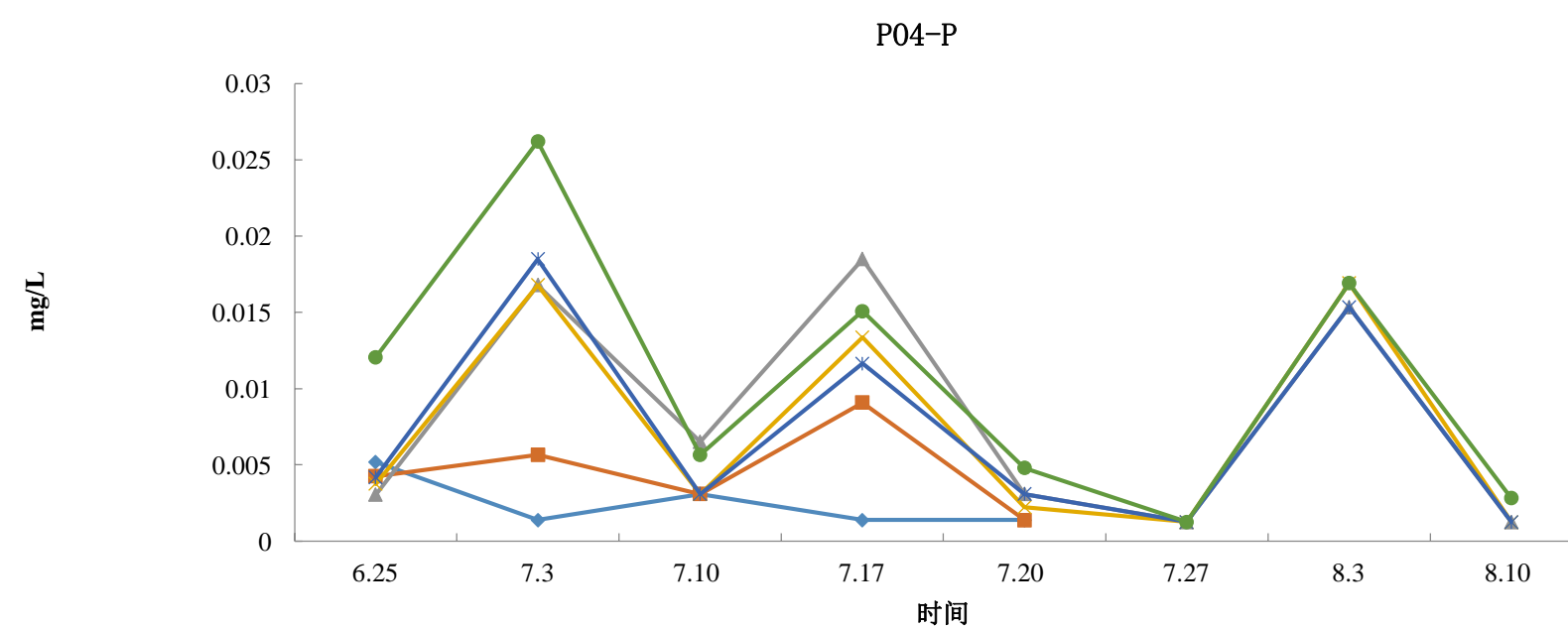
## Shrimp monoculture



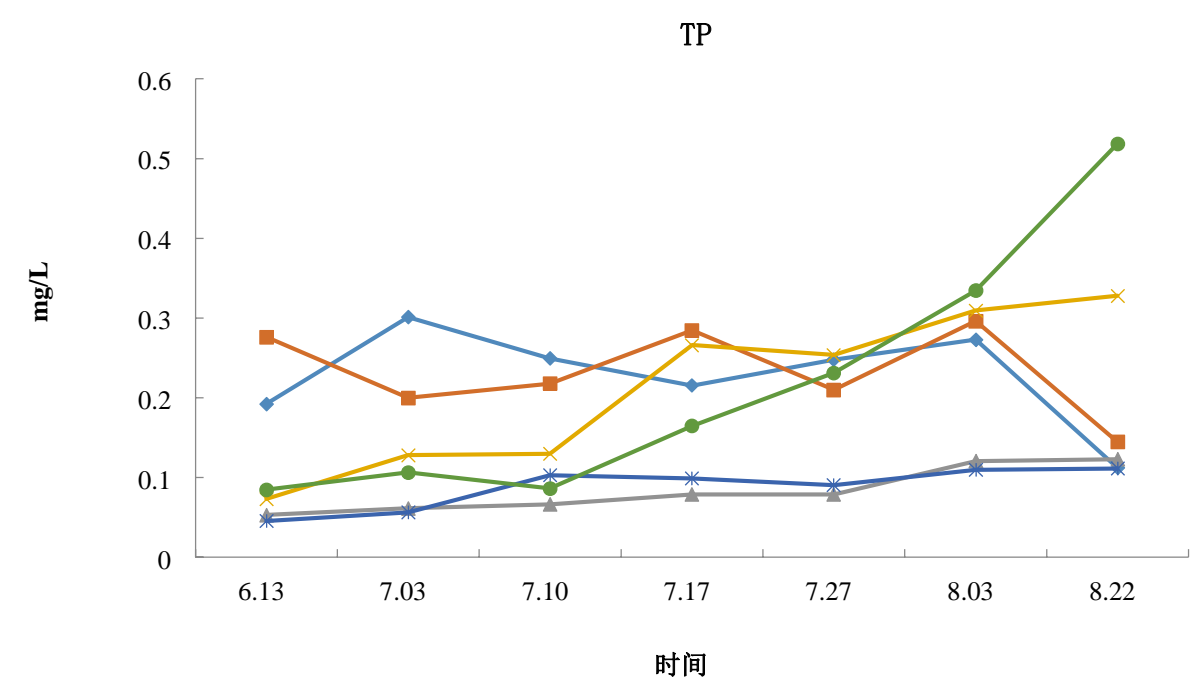
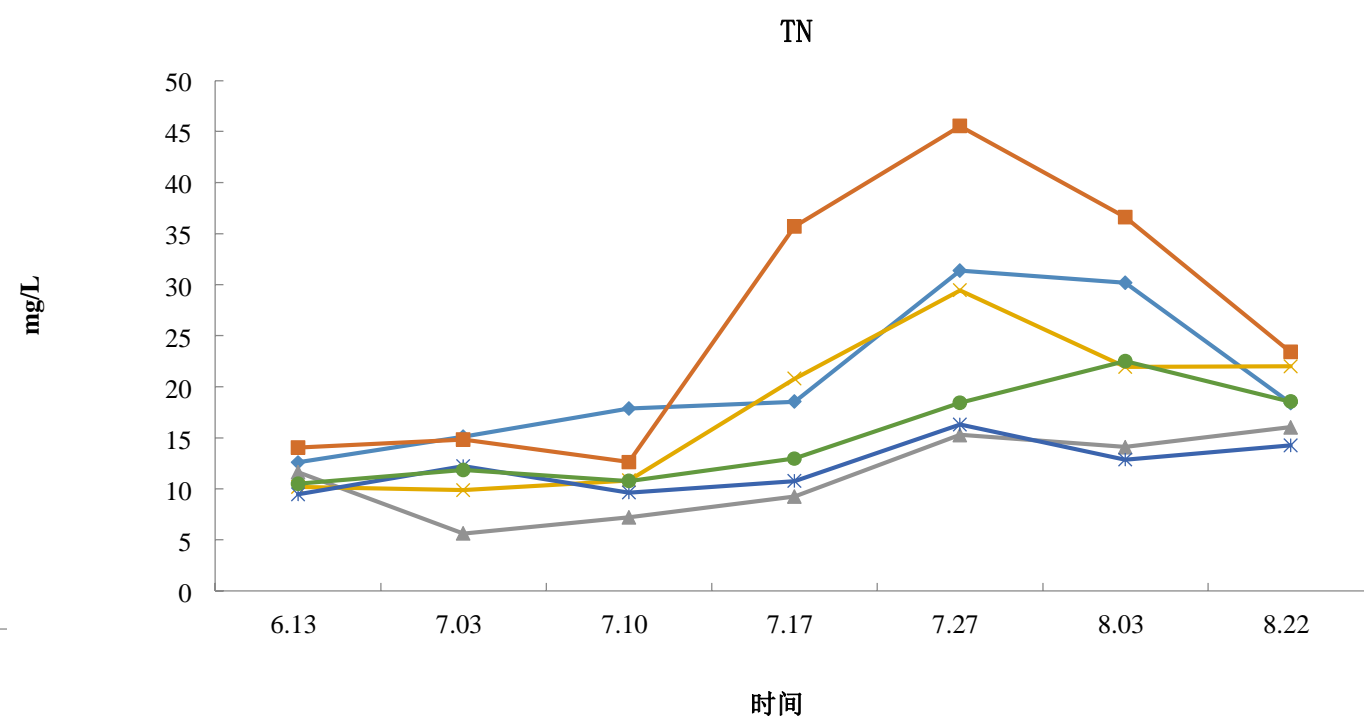
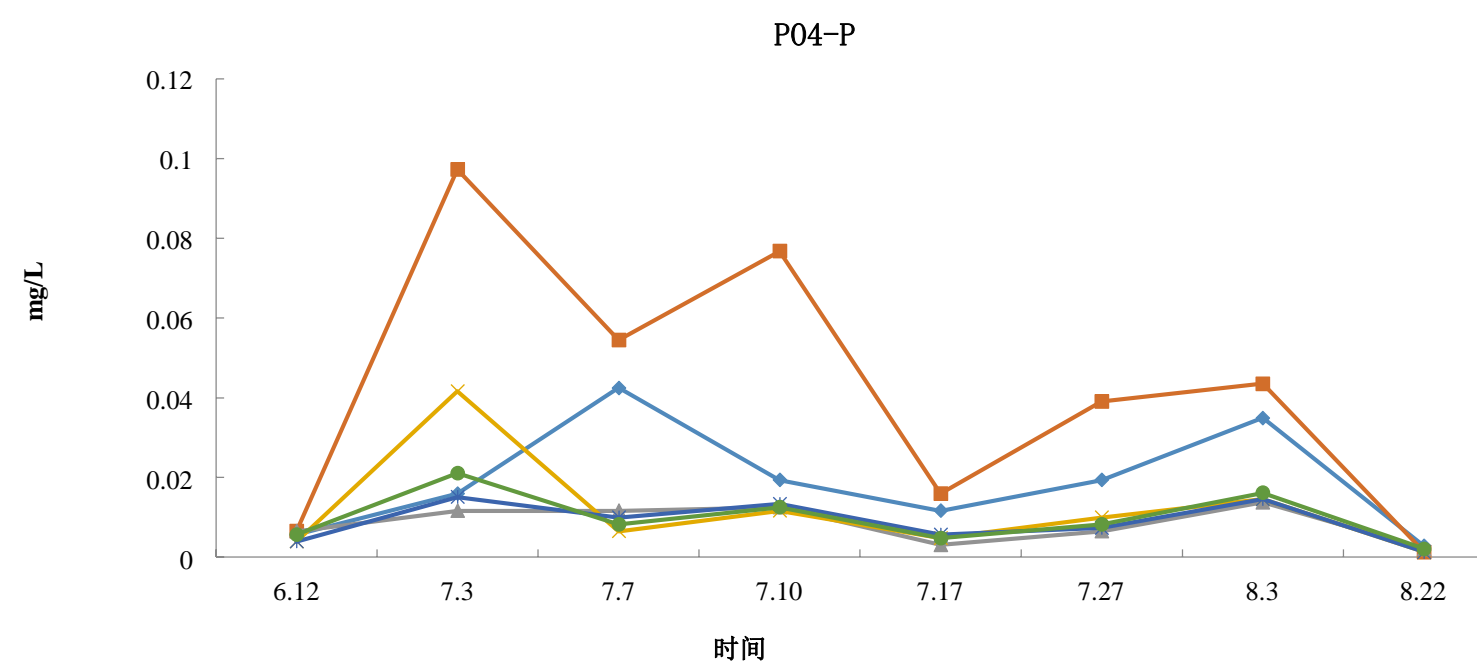
- Pacific white shrimp + Saline rice: Pond B401, B402, A701, A702, A801, A802
- Pacific white shrimp monoculture: Pond A1, B2
- Tiger shrimp monoculture: Pond B301, B302, B303, B304



# Co-culture



# Shrimp monoculture



- Pacific white shrimp + Saline rice: B401, B402, A701, A702, A801, A802
- Pacific white shrimp monoculture: A1, B2
- Tiger shrimp monoculture: B301, B302, B303, B304



# Rice harvest after typhoon attack









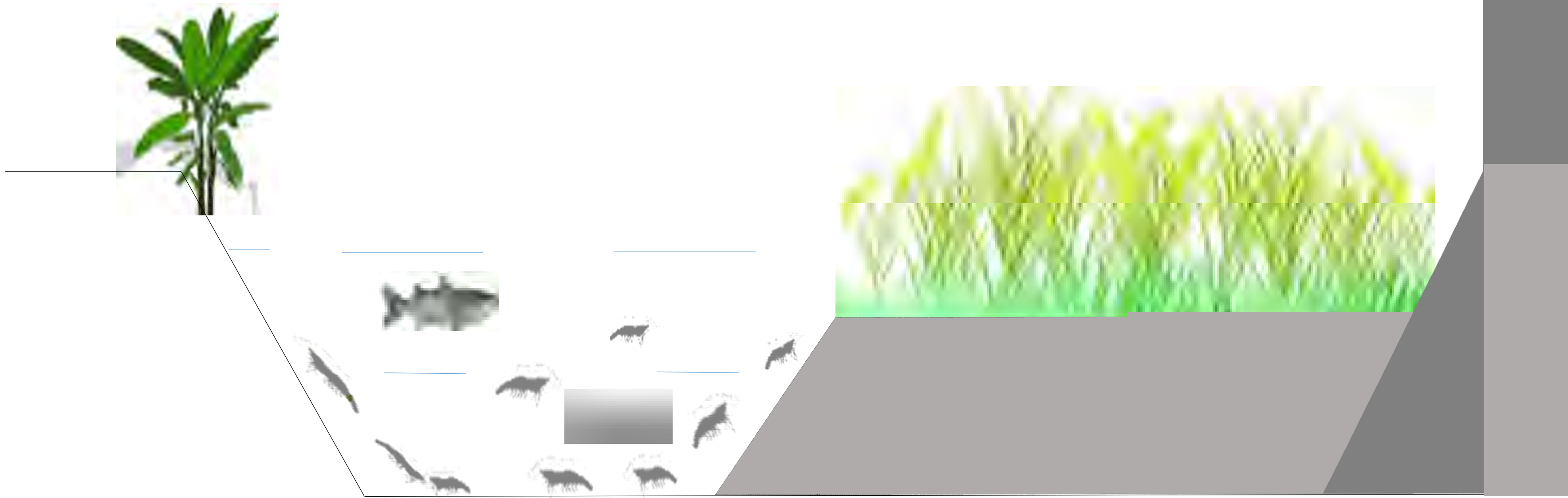
# Shrimp harvest





## Scenario 2

# Improvement



- Easier for machinery operations in the paddy field, e.g. rice seedling, disease prevention and harvest.
- Easier for shrimp feeding and harvest in the pond.





## Case 1: *Macrobrachium rosenbergii*- common rice combined farming

I. *M. rosenbergii* monoculture pond (MS) [Area: 0.4 ha, Seedling: 100 000 inds]

II. *M. rosenbergii* pond (50%) - early rice field (50%) combined farming (MR)

[Pond area:0.13 ha, Seedling: 60 000 inds] [Paddy area: 0.13 ha]

- Rice transplanting in paddy field: April 22; Rice harvest: Aug 9; Rice regeneration: Aug 16
- Shrimp seeding for both ponds: May 12
- Early stage of water body combination by pumping for MR: Jun 15 - Jul 15
- Middle stage of water body complete combination for MR: Jul 16 - Aug 9
- Late stage of water body combination for MR: Aug 9 – Sep. 7



Salinity:  
1-2

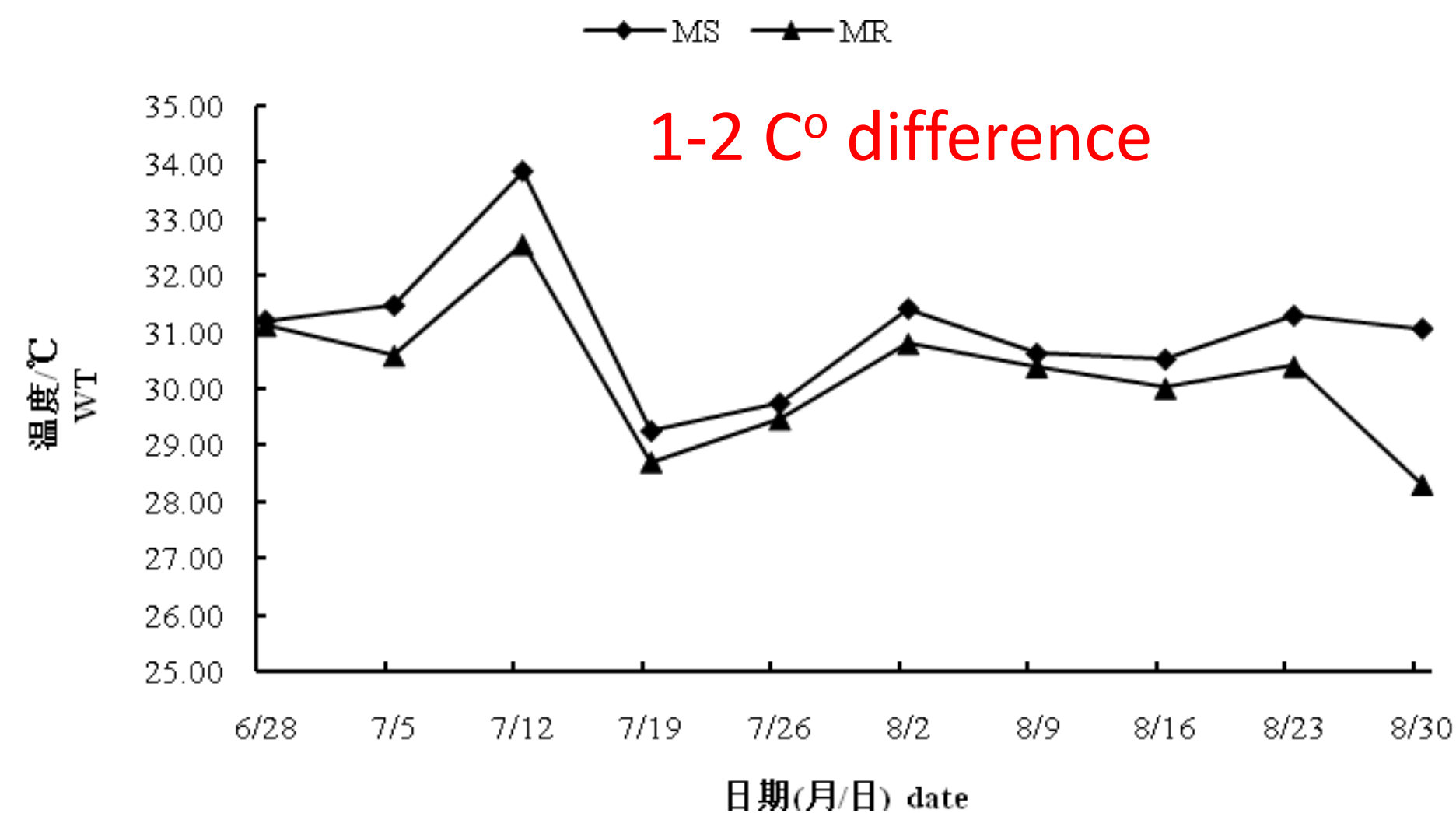




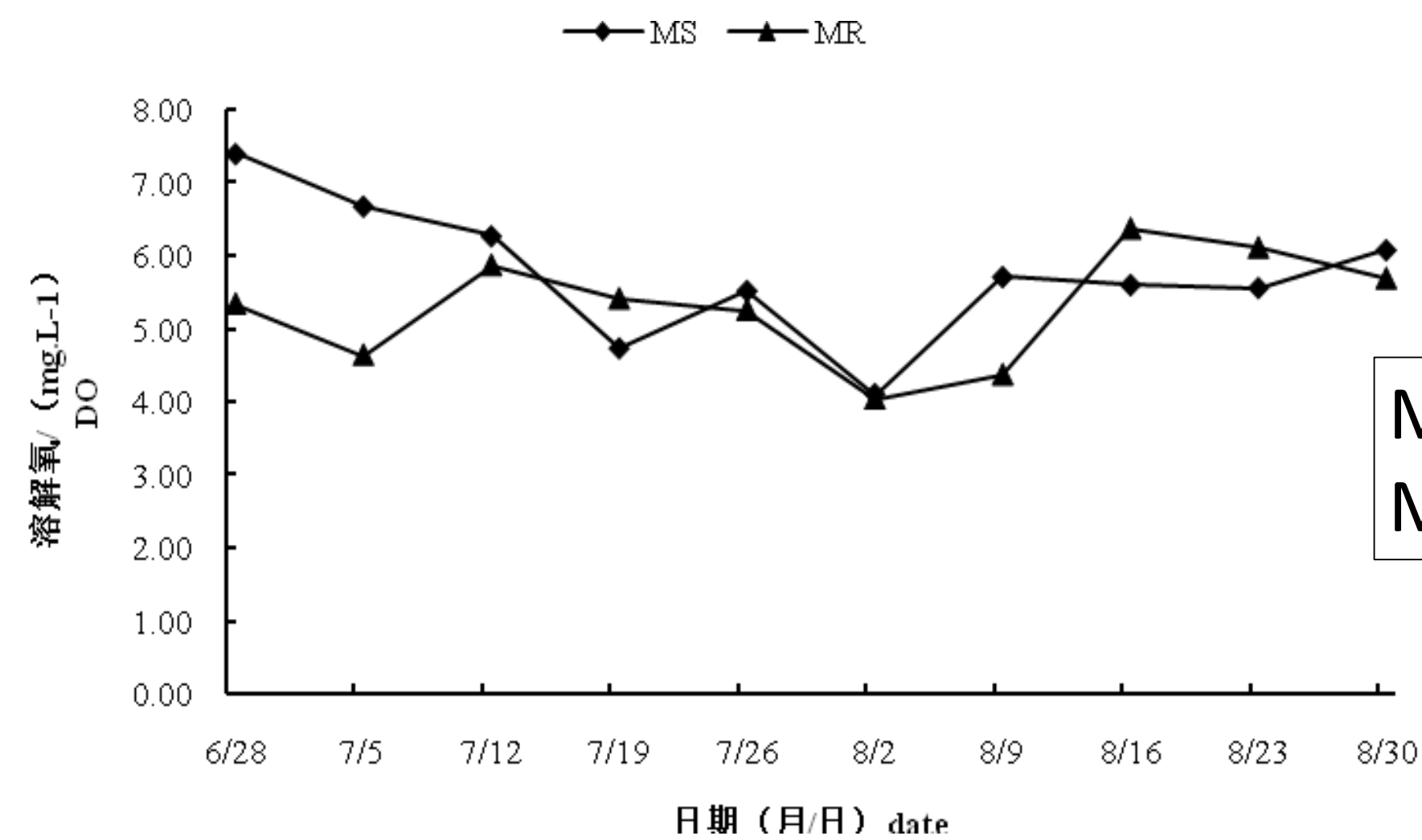


# Results:

## Water temperature

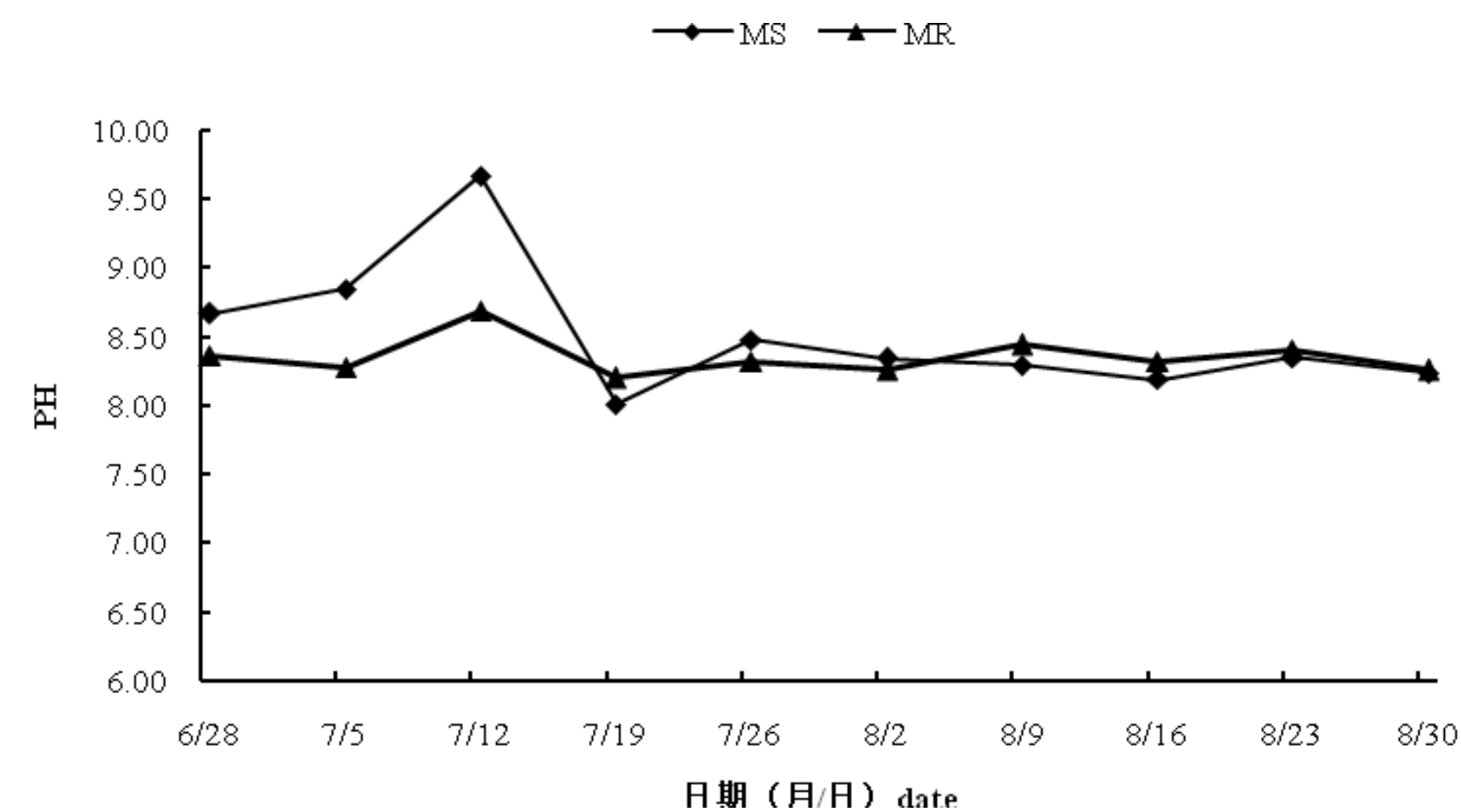


## Dissolve oxygen

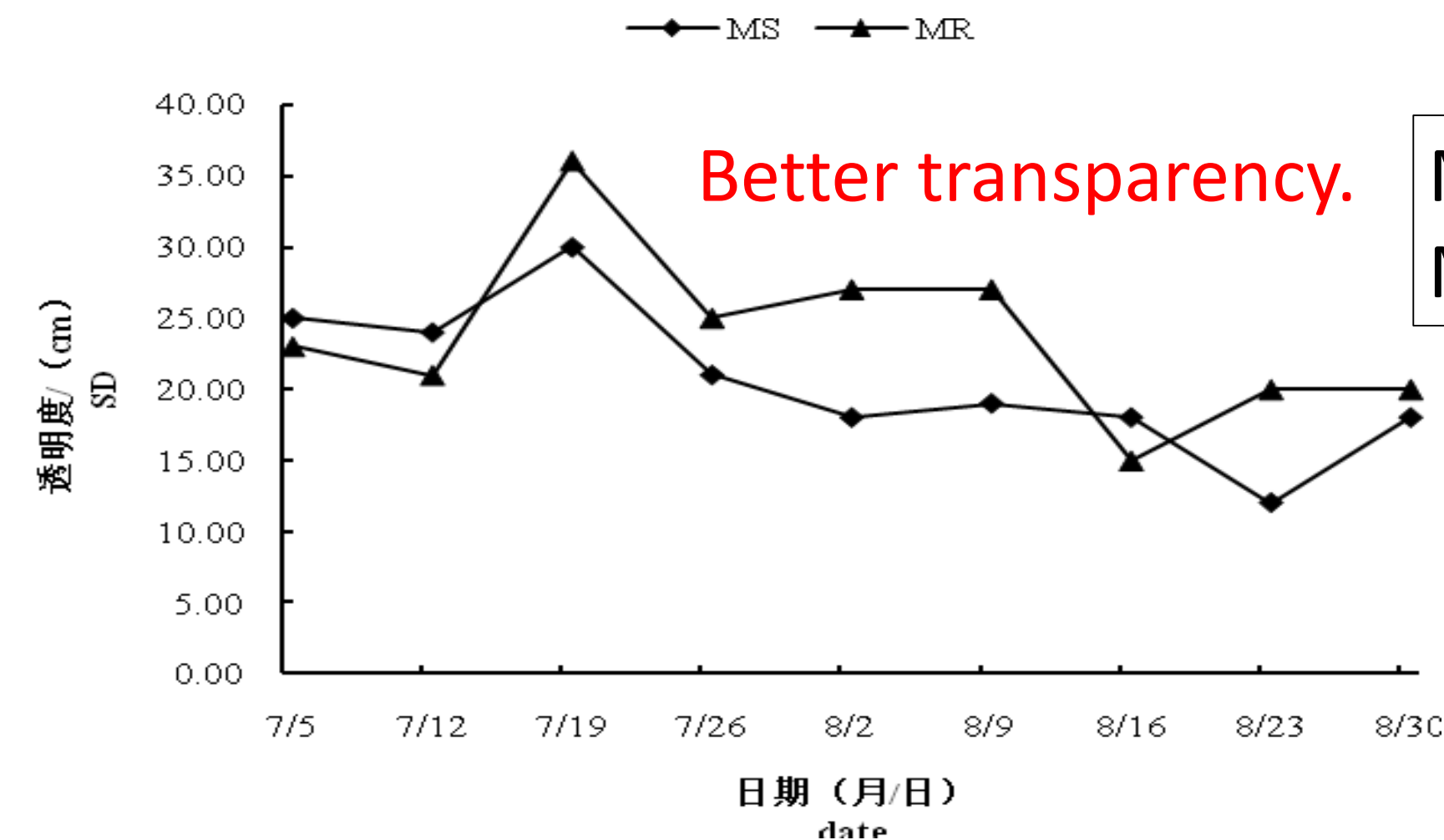


MS: shrimp monoculture  
MR: shrimp-rice co-culture

## PH



## Secchi depth



Better transparency.

MS: shrimp monoculture  
MR: shrimp-rice co-culture



**Tab 1 Water nutrient content during the trial**

Water quality indexes	Ponds	average content	coefficient of variation
$\text{NH}_4^+-\text{N}$ (mg·L <sup>-1</sup> )	MS	$0.042 \pm 0.076\text{a}$	1.803
	MR	$0.024 \pm 0.020\text{b}$	0.828
$\text{NO}_3^--\text{N}$ (mg·L <sup>-1</sup> )	MS	$0.151 \pm 0.220$	1.455
	MR	$0.100 \pm 0.074$	0.741
$\text{NO}_2^--\text{N}$ (mg·L <sup>-1</sup> )	MS	$0.014 \pm 0.018$	1.291
	MR	$0.005 \pm 0.005$	1.063
$\text{PO}_4^{3--}\text{P}$ (mg·L <sup>-1</sup> )	MS	$0.006 \pm 0.004$	0.797
	MR	$0.002 \pm 0.002$	0.759
COD (mg·L <sup>-1</sup> )	MS	$3.796 \pm 0.459\text{a}$	0.121
	MR	$3.326 \pm 0.297\text{b}$	0.089

Much better water quality in MR co-culture system.



# Rice harvest before typhoon



2021/8/29



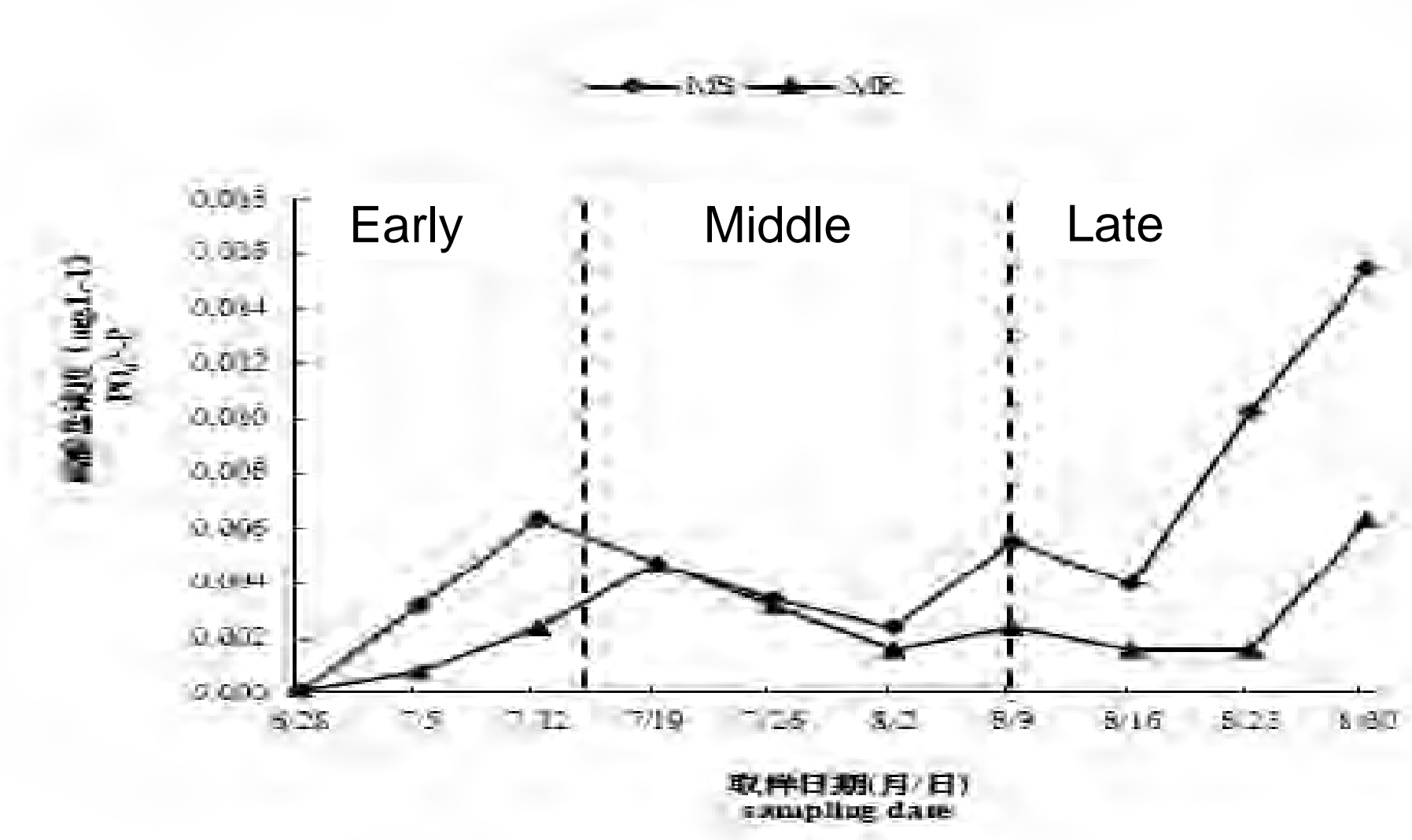
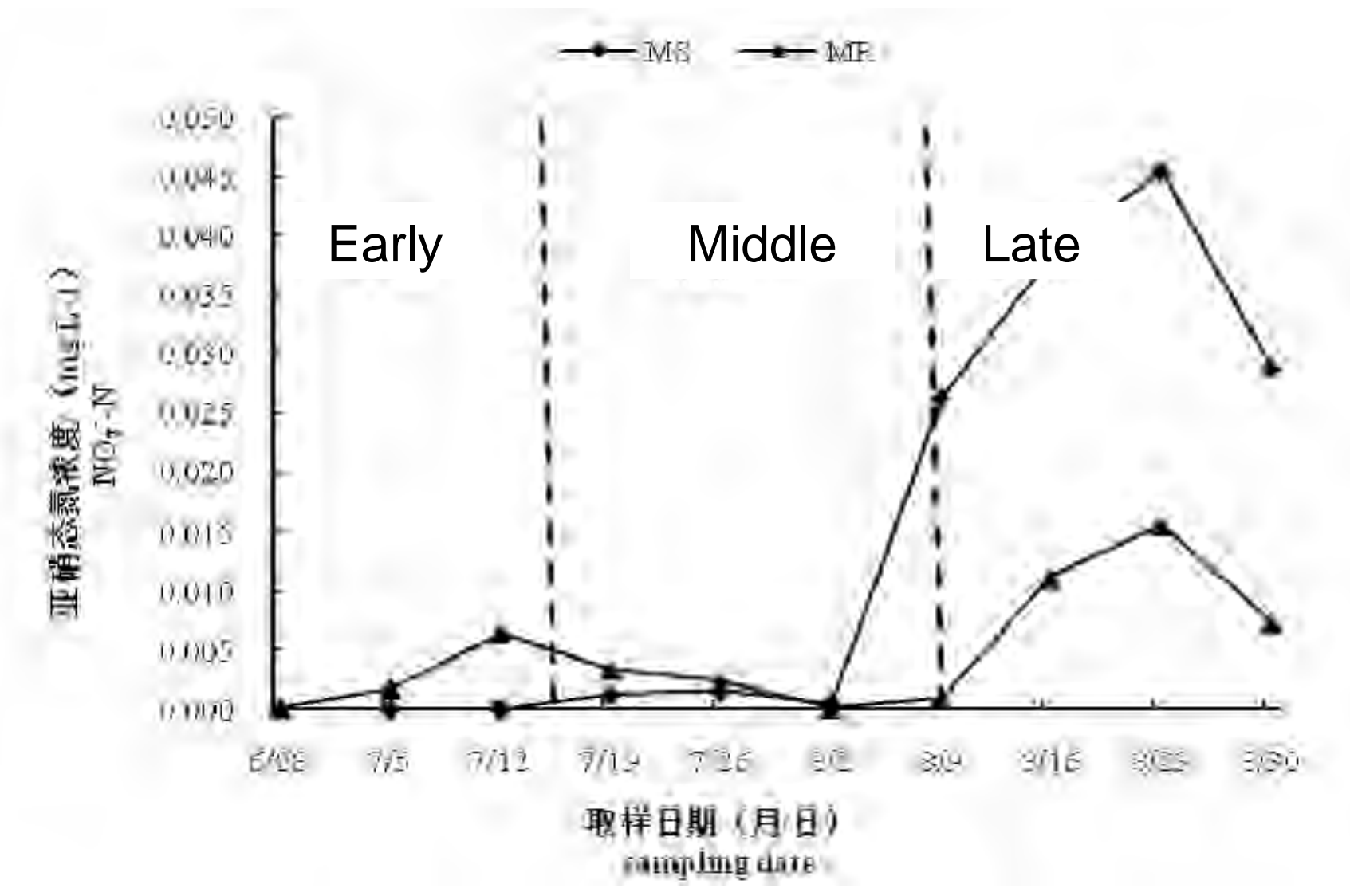
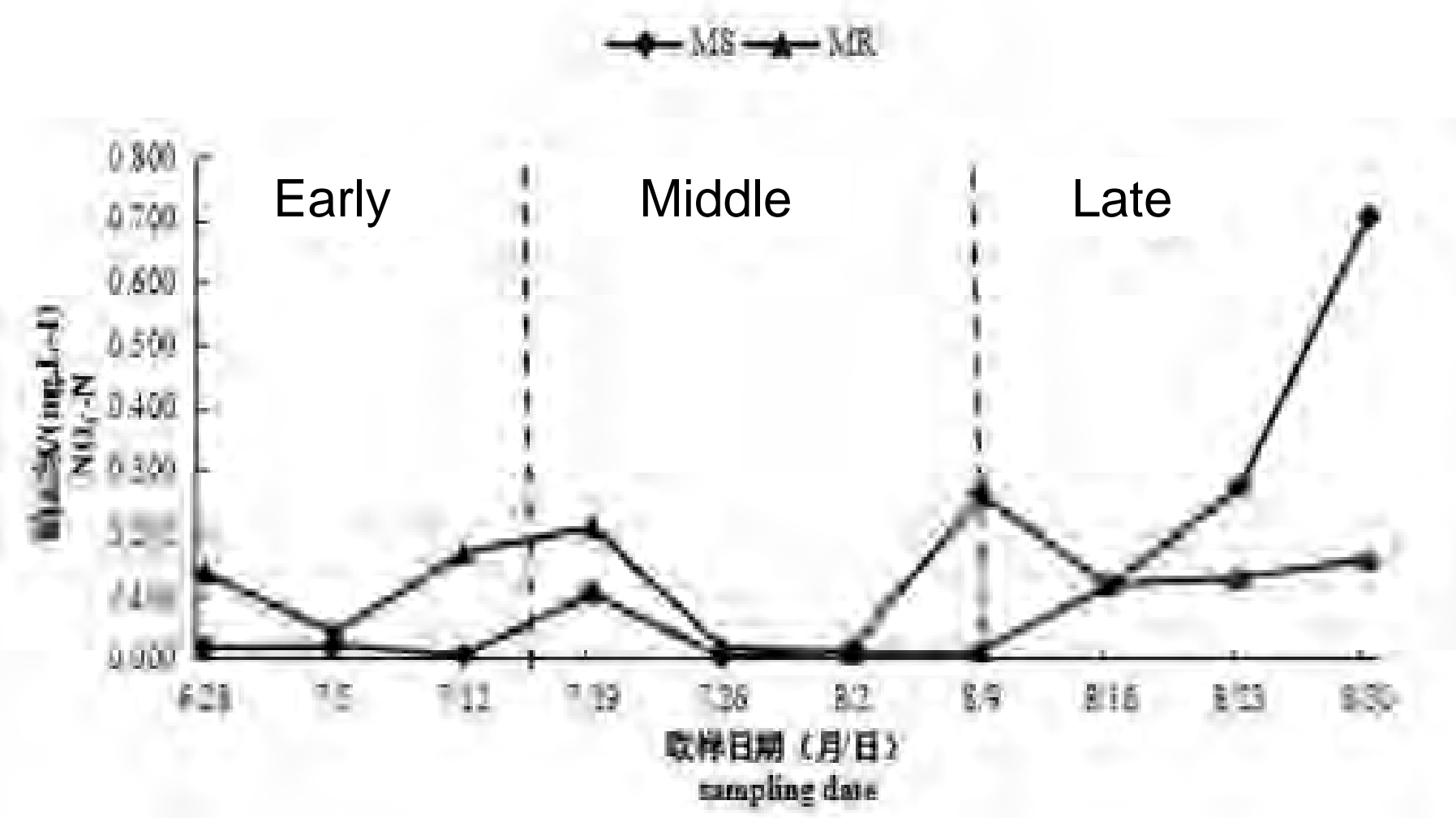
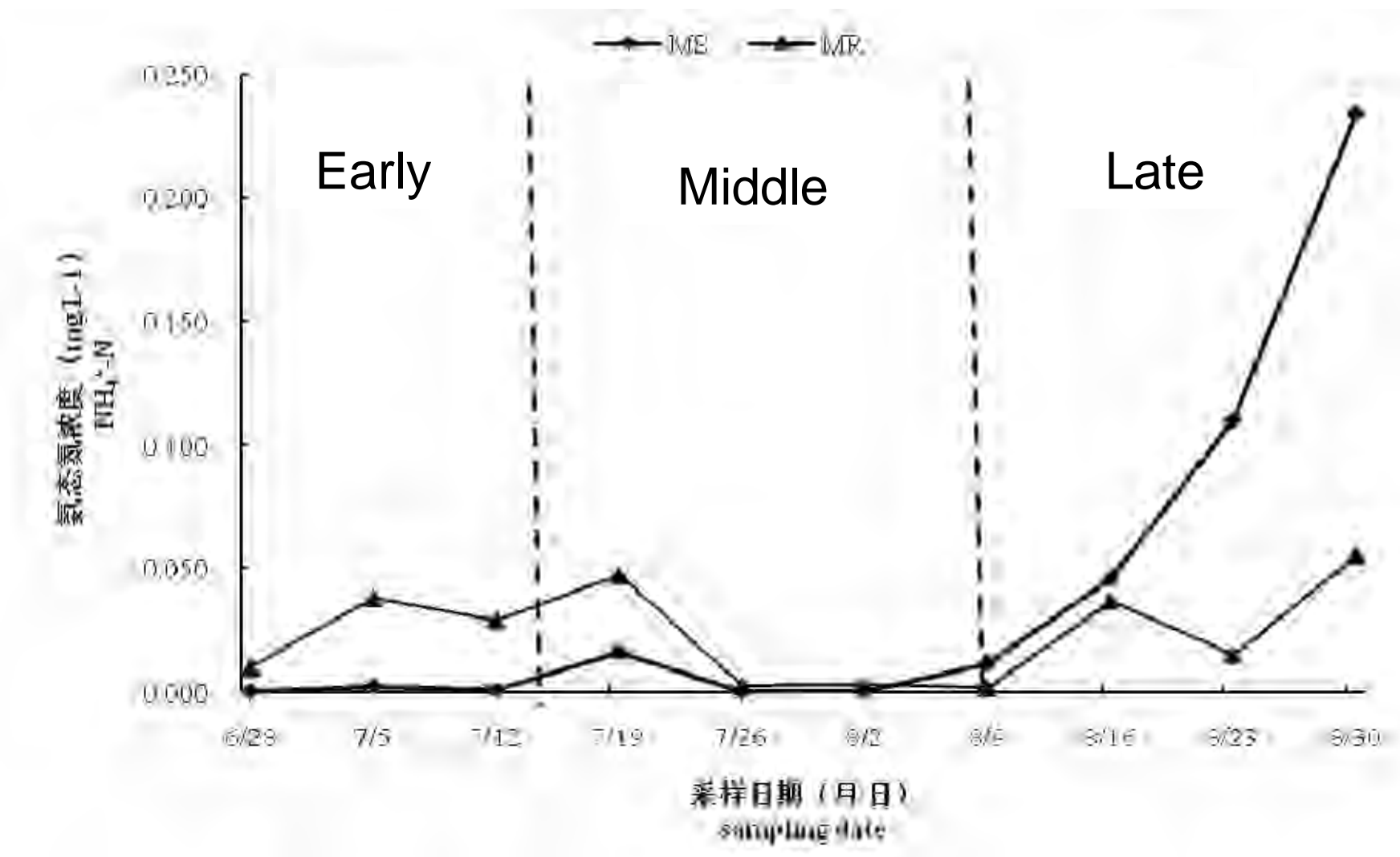
# Rice regeneration after first harvest



2021/8/29



# Nutrients dynamics in pond water during the experiment





# Shrimp growth

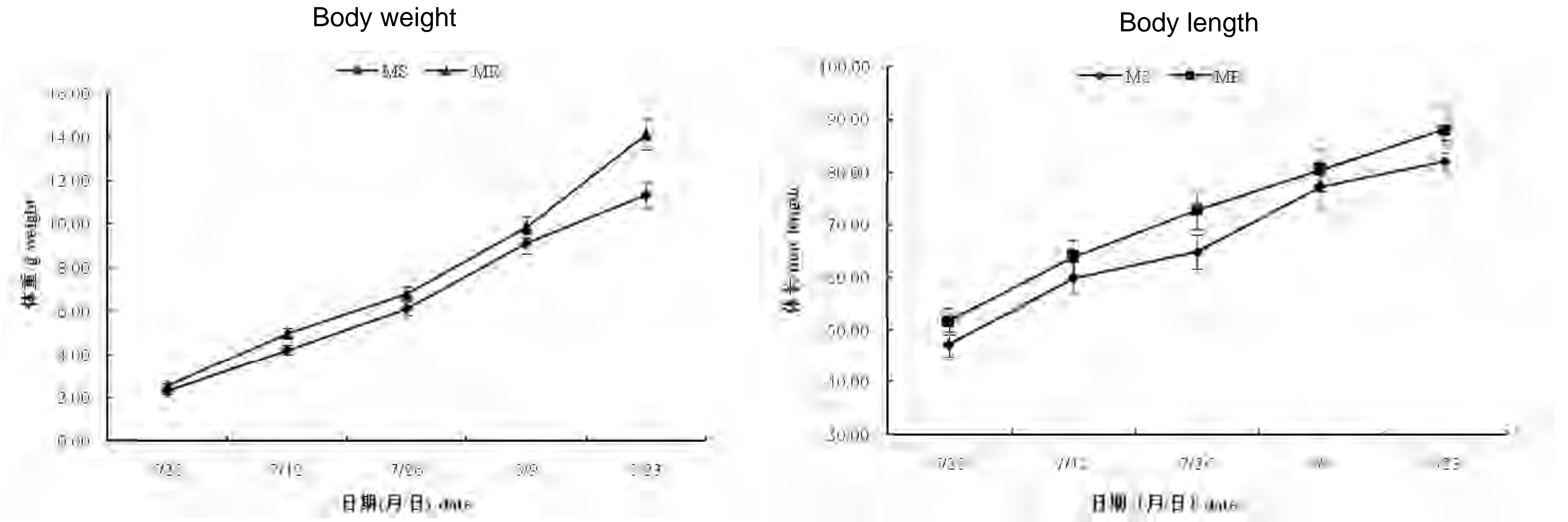


Table 2. Growth rates of *M. rosenbergii* during the experiment

Pond	Culturing days	weight gain	Specific growth rate
MS	56	397.44%	2.86
MR	56	459.40%	3.07





# Case 2: Tiger shrimp pond-saline rice paddy field combined farming

Experiment details:

- Pond area: 0.13 ha
- Combined paddy area: 0.13 ha
- Rice transplanting in paddy field: April 12
- Tiger shrimp seeding: 120 000 inds, May 25, 2019
- Rice harvest: Jul 15
- Shrimp harvest: Jul 14, 2019
- Salinity: 2-5







Production:

Tiger shrimp: 7620 kg/ ha

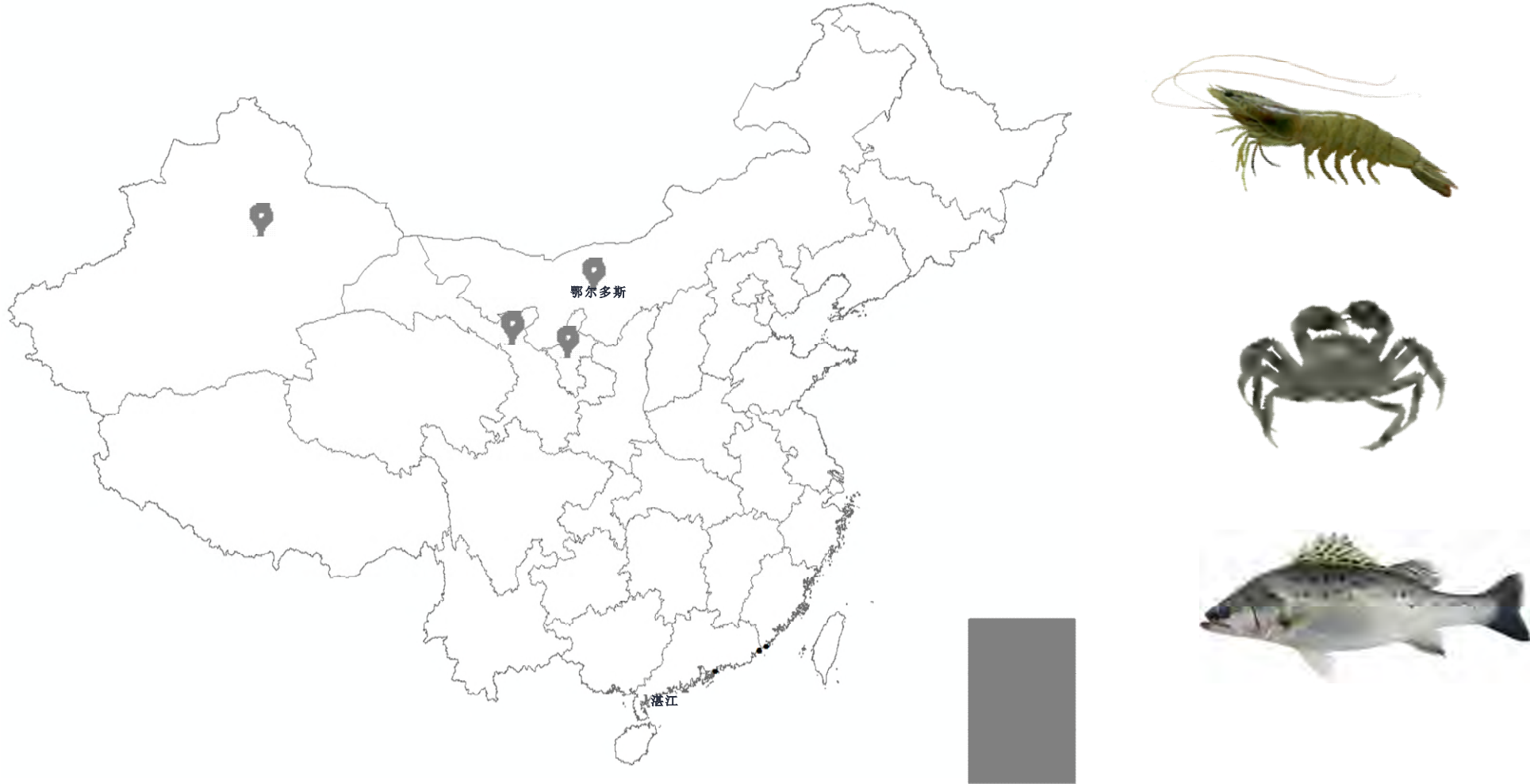
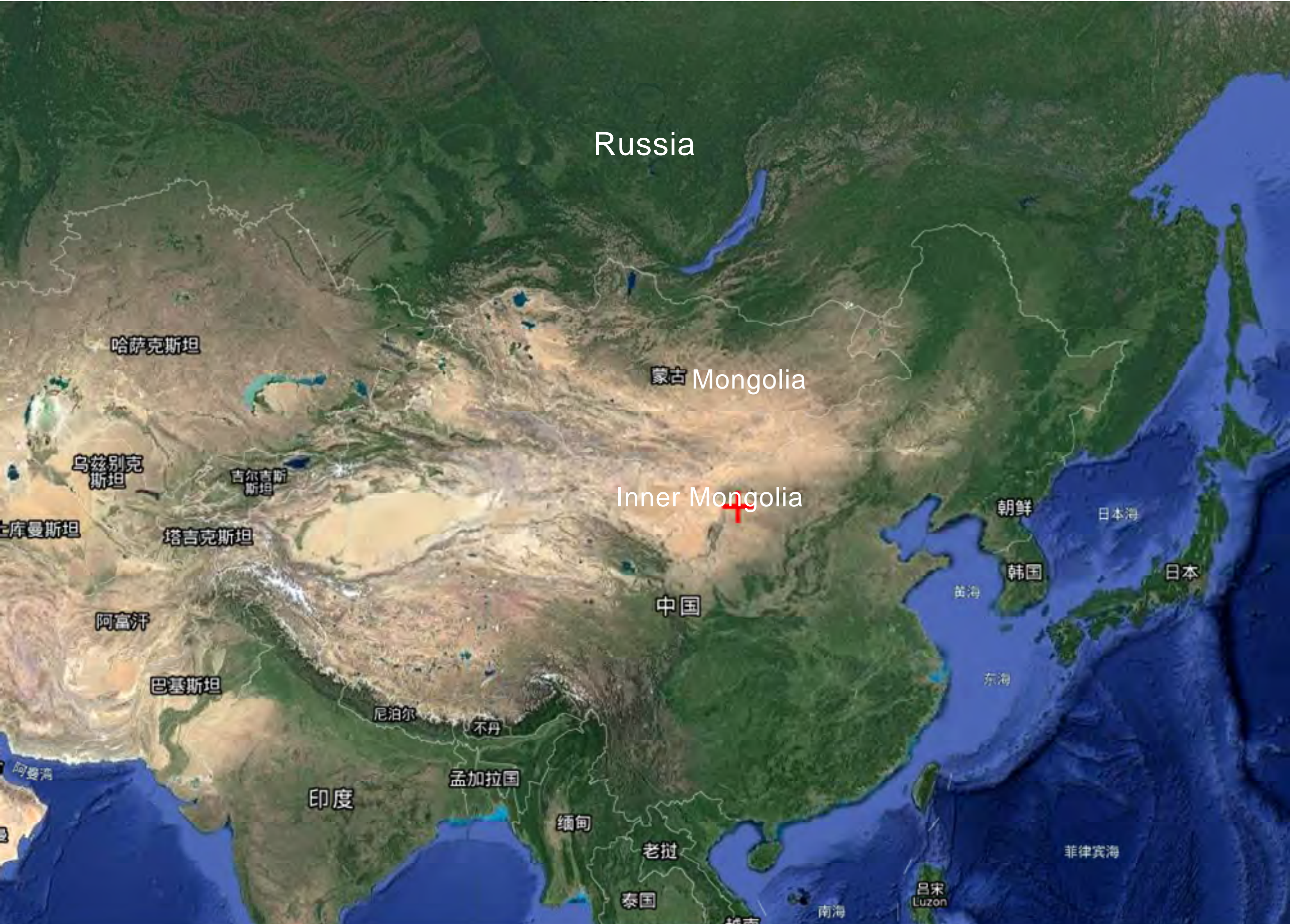
Saline rice: 5050 kg/ha





# Application of Pond-Rice field aquaponics in the inland saline-alkali areas

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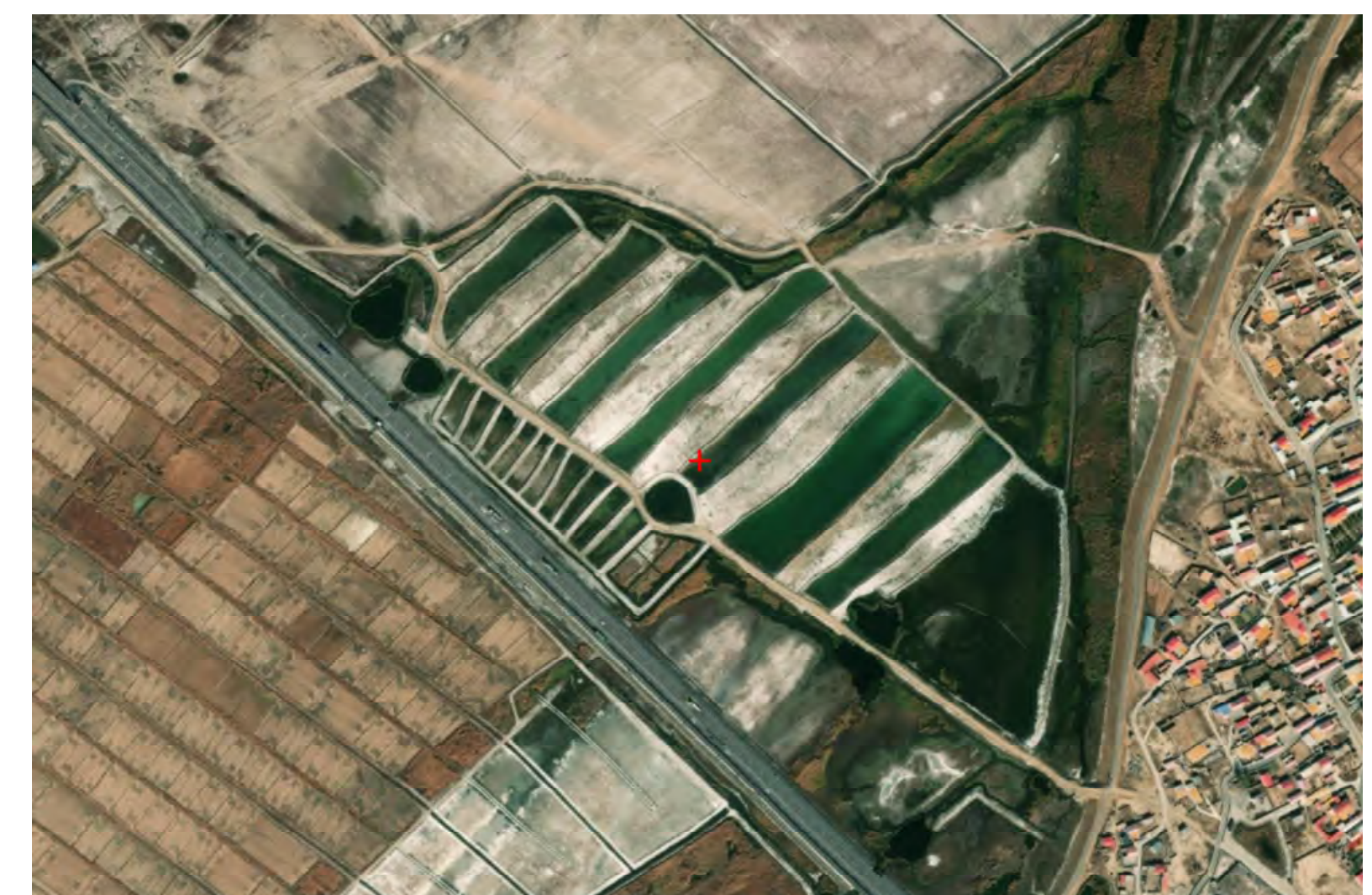
# Development of a shrimp-rice aquaponic system in Inner Mongolia



Before 2018, waste land



2019, construct pilot ponds



2020, construction of pond-rice field aquaponic system



# Result: Saline-alkali waste land → Oasis with fish and rice



March 16, 2021



June 5, 2021



June 25, 2021



Land restoration with  
eco-rice products



## Benefits:

- Restoration and reclamation of saline-alkali lands
- Development of rural economy with high value aqua-products
- Improve welfare and employment of rural community

High value crab



High quality shrimp product







Thanks for your attention.

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EUROPEAN PROJECT  
CONSULTING

OUR LOCATION

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