

3. Apply organic fertilizer (chicken manure) at a rate of one ton per hectare, and increase water level gradually to allow growth of natural food like lab-lab or lumut. For new ponds, a basal application of inorganic fertilizer like 16-20-0 (di-ammonium phosphate) at 50 kg per hectare would bolster growth of natural food. Chicken manure is applied by broadcasting while 16-20-0 is applied by bag-hanging.
4. Stock tilapia adults, preferably *Oreochromis mossambicus*, at 5,000-10,000 pieces per hectare regardless of sex ratio. Allow them to reproduce in the ponds for 20-30 days. The fingerlings produced will serve as natural food or prey for Seabass.
5. Seabass juveniles, preferably at 20-50 g weight size, are stocked at a rate of 5,000 juveniles per hectare.
6. Aside from the live-food available in the pond, chopped trash or low-value fish may be given every day at the rate of 5% of total fish biomass. This is important when live prey is observed to be exhausted. When possible, stocked more live *O. mossambicus* in the grow-out ponds.
7. Change water at least once or twice a week depending on water quality monitored daily. More frequent changing may be necessary when fish are nearing marketable size. Change water by taking advantage of tidal cycle or by use of pump.

Seabass is harvested when size of 400 to 600 grams is attained. Seabass may take five to six months to grow to marketable size. At 460 grams, selective harvesting can be initiated.



Para sa karagdagang kaalaman, sumangguni sa:

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Grow-out Production of SEABASS in Earthen Ponds

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Background

Seabass are best grown in brackishwater ponds with the following specifications:

- Earthen ponds or concrete tanks with area 500m² to one hectare
- Rectangular in shape with pond depth of at least one meter to allow easy harvest.
- Preferably with double gate system for tidal ponds or equipped with water pumps for good water exchange.
- Preferably equipped with life support systems like water pumps or paddle-wheel aerators, which are necessary for emergency water change aeration especially during neap tides, windless days or nights or when water condition requires. High stocking density of seabass requires any of such equipment.



Site-Selection

The following are the criteria in the selection of sites for the culture of Seabass in ponds:

- Sufficient source of seawater or brackishwater
- Water salinity range at 18-35 ppt
- Water temperature range of 27-30°C
- More than 3 ppm dissolved oxygen of the water
- Sufficient supply of live tilapia fingerlings and/or trash fish throughout the year.
- May need reliable supply of electricity



Pond Preparation

The ideal protocols in pond preparation for Seabass culture in ponds are the following:

1. Dry the pond completely and sun-dry for seven to 14 days until the soil cracks.
2. Apply teaseed powder at the rate of 15-30 ppm to eradicate pests and predators. Other environment friendly organic pesticides, such as tobacco dust and derris root extracts, may also be used.