

Socio-Ecological Impacts and Business Analysis of the Climbing Perch (*Anabas testudineus* bloch) in the Biofloc System

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ABSTRACT

The objectives of this study were to analyze the socio-ecological impact and to conduct simple business analysis of tuna (*Anabas testudineus* Bloch) in a biofloc system. The average public perception was 4.3820, which when compared with the range of Likert score values, is considered high. A high score indicates that the public's perception of biofloc system aquaculture is very supportive. The implication for the climbing perch waste is that the biofloc system can be disposed into the environment and can be used to raise fish and vegetable crops. The total production and equipment costs in this study were Rp8,652,718, with total sales of Rp15.400.000. The income obtained during one period (7 months) was Rp6,747,282, with an average monthly income of Rp963,897.43. When linked to the 2024 South Kalimantan UMR standard, to achieve an income of Rp3,282,812.11, a minimum of four maintenance ponds with a diameter of 2 meters are required under normal conditions, without disease attacks, and using the high-quality female climbing perch seeds. Therefore, the climbing perch aquaculture using a biofloc system is worth pursuing. The combined findings from all research suggest that rearing 75-100% female climbing perch fish with a seed size of approximately 7cm in a biofloc system, at a density of 1 fish per 1-2 liters, is technically feasible, economically viable, and environmentally friendly.

INTRODUCTION

The blue transformation vision that was released by FAO in 2021 aimed to maximize opportunities for a sustainable aquatic food system to enhance food security, increase nutrition, reduce poverty, and contribute to the achievement of sustainable development agenda 2030 (FAO, 2022). Among the three global goals to be achieved through the transformation of aquatic food systems in 2030 and beyond, which align priority policies and actions are (1) sustainable expansion and intensification of aquaculture that meet the growing worldwide demand for equitable aquatic food sources while ensuring equitable distribution of benefits; (2) management of effective fisheries that ensures healthy fish stocks and equitable livelihoods, and (3) improved fisheries value chains that ensure

environmental, economic and social sustainability of equitable food systems (FAO, 2024).

Rising global food demand, driven by the world's growing population, which is projected to reach 8 billion by 2022, has led to an intensified production of farmed aquatic animals (McCusker *et al.*, 2023). However, the sustainable development of the aquaculture industry is hampered by the limited availability of natural resources and their negative impact on the surrounding environment (Mugwanya *et al.*, 2021). Aquaculture, through the production of aquatic animals and plants, offers a potential solution to reduce, rehabilitate, and even prevent the extinction of various aquatic fish species. Due to limited fish resources globally, the demand for fish as food is increasing. This is the reason why today, of the total amount of globally consumed fish, 50% originates in aquaculture. In addition to the main role of aquaculture, it is also an important way to renew populations of rare fish and other aquatic organisms in their natural habitat (Araujo *et al.*, 2022; Marković & Poleksić, 2023). Increasing aquaculture production needs to be sustainable in several aspects of activity, including the use of aquaculture systems that reduce water requirements, reducing dependence on space for increased production and the availability of natural complementary feed (Oliveira *et al.*, 2024). There is a need for water technology innovation that can stimulate increased livelihood resilience of small farmers (Ogelloa *et al.*, 2021). Aquaculture is considered a rising sector in terms of growth across the world. There is an urgent need to ensure that this growth is sustainable to protect the environment and preserve the world's natural resources (Mahanand & Pandey, 2021).

The biofloc technology (BFT) was identified as an impressive and environmentally sustainable farming method, especially beneficial to tropical warm-water species. This technology is largely utilized in intensified aquaculture of a number of different aquatic types for its ability to reduce the water exchange rate significantly, thereby improving both the yield system and the environmental benefits. The potency of BFT in aquaculture operation is clearly linked to the proper organization of the quality parameters of the water within the optimum limits of the host species since they have a direct influence on the outcome of the unit production. Basically, BFTs act as a water balance and control system, transforming the dangerous nitrogen effluents such as ammonia and nitrite into less harmful forms like nitrates by microbial movement, thus protecting the safety of all living aquatic species (Mahanand & Pandey, 2021; Mugwanya, *et al.*, 2021; Chirwa *et al.*, 2023; McCusker *et al.*, 2023; Basumatary *et al.*, 2024; Bilal *et al.*, 2024; Kumar *et al.*, 2024). The main environmental parameters like temperature, pH, dissolved oxygen (DO), alkalinity, salinity, TAN (total ammonia nitrogen), nitrate-nitrite, suspended (SS) solids, and TSS can affect the development of the aquatic life species and microbial function (Khanjani *et al.*, 2024). Additionally, strategic farming equipment is essential for improving conversion of feed, ensuring bio-security, and recycling wastewater (Nisar *et al.*, 2021).

The rapid intensification of aquaculture systems has caused several environmental impacts including decreased water quality, pollution, and disease outbreaks. Therefore, environmentally friendly techniques are inevitable to guarantee better production with less impact on the environment by minimizing waste discharge from aquaculture practices (Zafar *et al.*, 2022). As an emergency disposal alternative for wastewater, Biofloc Technology (BFT) utilizing microbes offers an additional and sustainable food source for livestock, thereby reducing the demand for artificial feed and decreasing feed conversion ratios (McCusker *et al.*, 2023). Important areas of the emphasis is on the necessity for a greater insight into the sophisticated community of microbes in biofloc rearing systems, in addition to the elaboration of strategies designed to navigate and maximize their organic structural integrity, development, regulation, and activity (Bilal *et al.*, 2024). Moreover, there is a need for practical research to increasing energy and resource efficiency as well as utilizing renewable resources from technology used in aquaculture (Laktuka *et al.*, 2023).

The use of biofloc in aquaculture has recently increased, especially in research related to the survival and growth rate of fish as well as their economic viability. The physiological activity and disease resistance of fish fed biofloc diets is being studied extensively. Standards for an effective application of biofloc in aquaculture are also recommended (Yu *et al.*, 2023). Analyzing the financial aspects linked to the successful automation of aeration system into a biofloc culture system were critical to promoting the sustainability in the aquaculture industry. The efficacy of the aeration system in optimizing oxygen transfer and creating a conducive environment for biofloc breeding confirms this (Laktuka *et al.*, 2023). The development and further implementation of bio-eco-economic fuelled modelling would focus the efforts of the research by providing primary measurement indicators for the use of water, energy, and many other valuable resources. This will improve the efficacy and continuity of the system, taking into account both the financial aspects and environmental concerns. Promotion of biofloc production in the future is favorable since it provides great environmental sustainability opportunities and find innovative ideas to minimize the cost of production, improve efficiency, consistency and increase profits (Bilal *et al.*, 2024). Limited land use causes an unfavorable benefit-expense rate in maintaining social/economic stability. In addition to continuity, fish farmed in BFT also showed enhanced fitness outcomes when challenged with a variety of emerging pathogens (Kumar *et al.*, 2024). In addition, the importance of bioflocs in enhancing water balance, health preventive qualities of fish, shellfish, and their effect on gut flora were also investigated. To further assess the financial viability of implementing BFT and addressing its current and prospective use of implementing the system, as well as the potential to generate an additional income through the biofloc business as a value-added product (Kumar *et al.*, 2024). Produced progress in the survival rate and growth of aquatic species in person affects financing

results, meaning higher crop results and improvements in accountability during the long term. Moreover, the prudent utilization of nutrition in the biofloc system, mediated by an advanced aeration facility, is not only promoting the production of cost-effective products, it is in line with environmental friendly practices, tackling both the environmental and economic aspects of farming. The scalability of BFT for widely uptake within bioflocs is likely to be limited by inherent costs, the gaps in technical knowledge, and the many potential users. Since available data show optimal operational costs and good performance of biofloc, this could increase its widespread adoption. On the other hand, sustainable commercial scalability will depend on further research into the optimization of FBT in biofloc. Overall, BFT is on the way to commercial success to promote environmentally friendly biofloc aquaculture (**Laktuka *et al.*, 2023**).

Biofloc aquaculture research is predominantly focused on various aspects of the system, including its efficiency, sustainability, and impact on fish health and growth. This technology primarily uses shrimp and tilapia, but it can be applied to a wider range of species, particularly those that can tolerate bioflocs. The tilapia (*Oreochromis niloticus*) and the white shrimp (*Penaeus merguensis*) have been extensively used in research due to their adaptability and lower carnivorous nature (**Hargreaves, 2013; Khanjani *et al.*, 2023; McCusker *et al.*, 2023**). Research on the climbing perch (*Anabas testudineus* Bloch) in biofloc systems has also begun, focusing on stocking density (**Debnath *et al.*, 2022; Arnuparp *et al.*, 2020**). Recent studies (**Hanafie, 2020; Hanafie *et al.*, 2023a, b**) have shown promising results in this area. However, there has been a lack of research on the social-ecological impacts and business analysis of this system. This study aimed to address this gap by analyzing the social and ecological impacts of the climbing perch aquaculture in a biofloc system, as well as conducting a business feasibility analysis, including community perception, ecological assessment, and economic viability.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Research design

To map the distribution of biofloc system aquaculture businesses and explore their social and ecological impacts, we employed a delineation approach. This method involved:

Data collection: Direct observation techniques were utilized to gather data in the field. This included visiting various biofloc system aquaculture sites to assess their distribution and operational practices.

Analysis: The collected data were analyzed to understand the relationships between the use of biofloc technology and its social and ecological effects. This analysis provided

insights into the implementation and impact of biofloc systems within the aquaculture sector.

Data types and sources

The collection of social data for the preparation of marketing network map analysis and the dynamics of biofloc system aquaculture utilization were obtained through interviews and direct observation of selected biofloc system aquaculture users. The respondents interviewed were 15. Secondary data were collected from sources relevant to this research. Secondary data sources were selected structurally starting from the village/sub-district, sub-district, district/city, provincial to central levels, with various institutions related to the research objectives, such as the South Kalimantan provincial Maritime and Fisheries Service, and the KKP, as well as literature studies. Ecological data were obtained from studies one and two. Simple business analysis data were obtained from business calculations carried out by the community and comparable to the results of studies-1 and 2.

Sampling and data collection techniques

Collecting primary data for BFT users was achieved by conducting in-depth interviews to explore perceptions and record data on fixed costs, variable costs, sales results of respondents periodically, and the results were then averaged. Data collection was carried out by appointing 15 respondents. Information about respondents was obtained from local extension officers (PPL) and related agencies. Moreover, research on social impacts on the climbing perch aquaculture biofloc system was obtained from data collection by distributing questionnaires to users, local communities, fisheries PPL and other stakeholders to detect perceptions compared to score values.

Analysis method

Public perception analysis method

Data on public perception of the climbing perch aquaculture biofloc system was compiled tabulatedly, compared with existing criteria or standards, including perceptions of fisheries aquaculture, waste and water management, and increasing income. Analysis of community perception and participation was conducted using a Likert scale. To measure someone's agreement and disagreement with an object, the levels consisted of:

1. Strongly agree
2. Agree
3. Neutral between agree and not (undecided)
4. Don't agree
5. Strongly disagree

Data analysis continued with a quantitative descriptive approach with the following formulation:

1. Average score

$$\text{Average score} = \frac{\sum (\text{question score} \times \text{score frequency})}{N}$$

2. Scale range (SR)

$$\text{SR} = \frac{(m-1)}{m}$$

information :

N = number of samples

M = number of alternative answers for each item

$$\text{RS} = \frac{(5-1)}{4} = 0.80$$

Table 1. Scoring range and description

Score	Description		
1.00 – 1.79	Strongly disagree	Very damaged	Very annoying
1.80 – 2.59	Don't agree	Damaged	Often annoying
2.60 – 3.39	Undecided	50% damaged	Bother
3.40 – 4.19	Agree	Good	Sometimes
4.20 – 5.00	Strongly agree	Very good	Do not disturb

Hypothesis test

Ho = accepted if the community does not support biofloc system aquaculture

H1 = accepted if the community does not support the biofloc aquaculture system

Ecological analysis methods

Ecological data were analyzed by comparison of water condition variable values with aquaculture values and environmental quality standards. Water quality criteria were assessed based on their grade relative to quality standards and permissible limits for wastewater discharge into the environment.

Simple business analysis

The business analysis calculations in this research refer to the ongoing implementation of the biofloc aquaculture system and simulation of research results, which produce the best data from a series of research that has been carried out. Analysis of a simple climbing perch aquaculture business with a biofloc system includes the following components:

A. Equipment purchase costs

1. Round pool tarpaulin
2. Iron wire size
3. Intake and exhaust pipes
4. Aerator Complete Unit
5. Scales
6. Fishing tools
7. Drugs

B. Production costs

1. Estimated price of the climbing perch fish deed
2. Media ingredients (probiotics, dolomite lime, salt, chlorine, molasses, etc.)
3. Feed

C. Proceeds from sales of rock climbing harvests

Fish harvest size × Current price (estimated)

D. Calculation of profit and loss

1. Profit: Sales - (Equipment costs + Production costs)
2. Total profit based on the number of pools
3. Revenue for one maintenance cycle

Descriptive analysis was employed in this research, focusing on quantitative data. The research data are presented using tabulations, histogram graphics, and qualitative

explanations of processed images and graphs. This approach was selected to meet the analytical needs and achieve the research objectives effectively.

RESULTS

Analysis of public perceptions of the biofloc system

In general, the respondents' profiles are well-suited for biofloc system aquaculture businesses, except for income level and experience in the field. It is assumed that respondents are motivated to increase their income and gain experience through this business. The biofloc system's climate is consistent, with no seasonal variations and no need for water changes.

A significant 78% of respondents agreed or strongly agreed on the importance of water quality, a fundamental principle in fisheries aquaculture. All respondents (100%) agreed or strongly agreed that water quality parameters are crucial in aquaculture, and recognize the importance of soil texture in supporting the weight of maintenance media (water and fish) in biofloc ponds. Furthermore, 91% of respondents strongly agreed that paved roads provide an essential infrastructure for biofloc aquaculture.

The quality and availability of seeds are considered very supportive factors by 100% of the respondents, and marketing is viewed as essential for achieving optimal results. Similarly, 100% of respondents strongly agreed that fish marketing must carefully consider profitability and production costs. Based on public perception, 94% of the respondents find biofloc system aquaculture easy to implement, while a minority find it challenging.

The quality and availability of seeds are considered very supportive factors by 100% of the respondents, and marketing is viewed as essential for achieving optimal results. Additionally, all the respondents (100%) strongly agreed that fish marketing must carefully consider profitability and production costs. Public perception indicates that 94% of the respondents find the biofloc system aquaculture easy to implement, with only a minority finding it challenging.

Furthermore, 94% of the respondents believe that the market opportunity for the climbing perch fish is quite promising and substantial. Of those surveyed, 42% of them are aware of biofloc system aquaculture, with 33% possessing a high level of knowledge about it. Additionally, 83% of the respondents reported that the biofloc system does not cause disturbances to local residents in terms of odors or waste discharge. The average score of public perception regarding the physical and non-physical factors of the climbing perch biofloc system aquaculture is detailed in Table (2).

Table 2. Average score of community perception of physical and non-physical factors of the climbing perch aquaculture biofloc system

NO	Perception	Score value
1	Physical condition factors that encourage the success of the climbing perch biofloc system aquaculture.	3.9583
2	Non-physical condition factors that encourage the success of the climbing perch biofloc system aquaculture.	4.9167
3	Biofloc system aquaculture	4.2709
	Total	13.1459
	Average	4.3820
	Highest score range	4.20 – 5.00

Ecological analysis

Ecological data were analyzed by comparing water quality variable values with aquaculture and environmental quality standard values.

Water quality

The range of water temperature (°C), acidity (pH), DO (mg/L), and dissolved ammonia (mg/L) for research-1 and research-2 can be seen in Table (3). The results of water quality analysis from research-1 and research-2 were then compared with quality standards and wastewater quality standards that are permitted to be discharged into the environment based on Decrees of the Minister of Environment and Forestry the Republic of Indonesia No. P.68/Menlhk/Setjen/Kum.1/8/2016 concerning the standard quality of domestic wastewater.

Table 3. Water temperature range (°C), acidity (pH), dissolved oxygen (mg/L) and dissolved ammonia (mg/L) in study-1 and study-2

Treatment	Water		Dissolved oxygen (mg/L)	Dissolved ammonia (mg/L)
	temperature (°C)	pH		
Study-1				
BFT3	26.60 - 30.10	6.92 - 7.52	6.25 - 7.53	0.23 - 0.62
BFT5	26.60 - 30.10	6.88 - 7.45	5.30 - 8.87	0.27 - 0.53
BFT7	26.60 - 30.10	6.80 - 7.42	6.29 - 6.40	0.33 - 0.65
K3	26.70 - 29.40	6.27 - 6.84	5.49 - 6.24	0.25 - 0.77
K5	26.77 - 29.70	6.19 - 6.75	5.35 - 6.30	0.26 - 0.72
K7	26.77 - 29.73	5.77 - 6.79	6.30 - 5.17	0.32 - 0.57

Treatment	Water temperature (°C)	pH	Dissolved oxygen (mg/L)	Dissolved ammonia (mg/L)
Treatment	Water Temperature (°C)	pH	Dissolved Oxygen (mg/L)	Dissolved Ammonia (mg/L)
Study-2				
B100J0	26.74-27.50	6.57 -7.32	2.98 - 6.30	0.21 - 0.67
B75J25	26.84-28.10	6.64 -7.35	3.64 - 6.28	0.20 - 0.65
B50J50	26.46-27.20	6.70 -7.40	3.58 - 6.10	0.23 - 0.68
B25J75	26.30-27.42	6.63 -7.60	3.46 - 5.98	0.20 - 0.69
B0J100	26.62-27.92	6.31 -7.60	3.16 - 6.34	0.23 - 0.73

Information:

- BFT3 = BFT seed size \pm 3 cm
 BFT5 = BFT seed size \pm 5 cm
 BFT7 = BFT seed size \pm 7 cm
 K3 = Conventional seed size is \pm 3 cm
 K5 = Conventional seed size is \pm 5 cm
 K7 = Conventional seed size is \pm 7 cm
 B100J0 = BFT of female fish 100% and male fish 0%
 B75J25 = BFT of female fish 75% and male fish 25%
 B50J50 = BFT of female fish 50% and male fish 50%
 B25J75 = BFT of female fish 25% and male fish 75%
 B0J100 = BFT of female fish 0% and male fish 100%

The first trial of biofloc wastewater quality had water temperature values of 25.2 – 26.7°C, acidity between 5.67-6.46, DO between 4.33-3.34mg/ L, dissolved ammonia in the range of 0.55–0.88mg/ L, and biological oxygen requirements (BOD5) in the range of 60.36-101.80mg/ L. The results of the second trial of the biofloc wastewater temperature were recorded at 26.6°C, acidity at 7.22, DO between 1.9-3.06mg/ L and dissolved ammonia between 0.03–1.88mg/ L. The research water quality range values were: for Quality Range 1, water temperature between 26.0 and 30.10°C, pH from 5.77 to 7.52, dissolved oxygen (DO) between 5.30 and 8.87mg/ L, and dissolved ammonia from 0.23 to 0.77mg/ L; and for Quality Range 2, water temperature between 26.30 and 28.10°C, pH from 6.31 to 7.60, DO between 3.16 and 6.34mg/ L, and dissolved ammonia from 0.20 to 0.73mg/ L.

Trial of utilization of the climbing perch biofloc waste

To reduce the waste discharged from the biofloc system maintenance container into the environment, a trial has been carried out: utilization of biofloc waste for aquaculture and vegetable crops. In connection with the climbing perch aquaculture activities using a biofloc system, observations and trials have been carried out on the use of biofloc waste. Some of the impacts of these observations were that many silk worms (*Tubifex* sp.) were found to breed in drains, where silk worms are an important natural food in fish hatchery activities. Other observations showed that plants watered with biofloc waste water showed good growth and development; this shows that biofloc waste water acts as a liquid fertilizer. Some observations of the impacts caused by biofloc wastewater, which is generally disposed of around 5-10L/ day, were as follows:

Test results for the utilization of biofloc aquaculture waste from the climbing perch (*Anabas testudineus* Bloch) for the rearing of the pearl catfish (*Clarias gariepinus*) and the land water spinach (*Ipomoea reptans*). The Budikdamber system did not have a real influence on the relative length growth and relative weight of the pearl catfish, but it did have a real influence on the mortality and FCR of fish reared in the climbing perch biofloc waste waters. From the results, the best relative length growth was in treatment B (100% biofloc waste) at 190.98%, relative weight growth was in treatment D (50% biofloc waste + 50% irrigation water) at 1031.53%, mortality in treatment C (75% biofloc waste + 25% irrigation water) was 97.33%, and FCR in treatment C (50% biofloc waste + 50% irrigation water) was 1.49%. Meanwhile, the effect of maintaining the kale plants on the height of the kale plants and the number of kale leaves was also found in treatment C (50% biofloc waste + 50% irrigation water), namely 26cm and 189.33 (number of leaves). Judging from each parameter of the test fish and water spinach, the best and optimal maintenance dose using biofloc waste was obtained in treatment C, with a dose of 75% biofloc waste + 25% irrigation water. Water quality analysis showed a temperature of 26.06°C, pH of 6.18, dissolved oxygen (DO) of 3.79mg/ L, ammonia level of 0.69mg/ L, and BOD results, all of which support the growth and survival of catfish and water spinach plants.

Simple business analysis

The simple business analysis calculations in this research refer to applications that have been carried out by @akuakultur entrepreneurs in collaboration with the Mina Satu Hati pokdakan in Iwak Village, Mentaos Subdistrict, Banjarbaru City and business analysis simulations by combining current business, ongoing business, and current business walk. The results can be seen in Tables (4, 5).

Table 4. Simple business analysis of the climbing perch fish biofloc system for round ponds measuring 2 meters in diameter

Simple analysis of aquaculture pond diameter climbing perch biofloc system 2 service life 7 years about 11 maintenance cycles			
Equipment Purchase Costs			
Equipment and Materials	Lots	Unit price (Rp)	Total price (Rp)
Complete 2 diameter pool	1	1.500.000	1.500.000
1 Complete aerator unit	1	425.000	425.000.
1 Temperature meter	1	25.000	25.000
1 pH meter	1	65.000	65.000
Ammonia Meter	1	325.000	325.000
Scales	1	200.000	200.000
Fishing equipment	2	50.000	100.000
Total equipment cost			2.640.000
Production Costs (Materials)			
Fry climbing perch size 5-6	2500	320	800.000
Feed PF 500 40% (10 kg)	1	240.000	240.000
Feed PF 1000 39-41% (10 kg)	2	240.000	480.000
Fish Feed LP 1 Protein 32% 30kg	5	400.000	2.000.000
LP2 fish feed 32% protein 30 kg	5	400.000	2.000.000
Probiotics (litre)	1	50.000	50.000.00
Molasses (litre)	2	15.000	30.000.
Dolomite Lime (gram)	1	7.000	7.000.
Chlorine (grams)	0.5	50.000	25.000
Pineapple (fruit)	1	8.000	8.000
Salt (kilogram)	4	10.000	40.000
Medicines (sachets)	2	45.000	90.000
Electricity Cost (16.8 kwh)	168	1.444.75	242.718
Cost of depreciation	1	285.714	285.714
Total Production Costs			6.012.718
Harvest Sales Proceeds			
Main Harvest Size < 10/kg	90	90.000	8.100.000
Harvest size 11-13 /kg	85	70.000	5.950.000
Harvest size > 14 /kg	45	30.000	1.350.000
Number of Sales	220		15.400.000
Profit and Loss Calculation			
Profit: Sales - (Equipment costs + Production costs)			
Sale			

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Equipment Costs			2.640.000
Production cost			6.012.718
Total production and equipment Costs			8.652.718
Number of sales			15.400.000
Profit (profit) 1 period			6.747.282
1 period = 7 months			
for 11 maintenance cycles	11	5.047.282	55.520.102
for 12 units 1 cycle	12	5.047.282	60.567.384
Under normal conditions good quality seeds			

Table 5. Comparison of average expenditure costs and sales results from 4 businesses carried out per kilogram (Rp)

Information	Biofloc (2024)	Biofloc climbing perch (2018)	Sakti climbing perch irrigation pond (2021)	Bangladesh Pond (Sarker <i>et al.</i> , 2014)
Production	46.657.96	38.602.38	43.282.91	21441.4
Cost/kg				
Profit/kg	70.000.00	53.271.03	65.546.22	24704.2
Difference	23.342.04	14.668.65	22.263.31	3.262.8
Maintenance Container	Diameter of 2 biofloc ponds, one piece	Diameter of 3 biofloc ponds	pool area 10x10 m	Pool area 1 hectare

DISCUSSION

The average value of public perception is 4.3820, when compared with the range of Likert score values; this perception is classified as high. **Sugiyono (2022)** believed that the Likert scale is used to measure the attitudes, opinions and perceptions of a person or group of people toward social phenomena. Using a Likert scale, each statement item has a graduation from very positive to very negative. According to **Oktopura *et al.* (2020)**, there are seven policy options and strategies that can be recommended to improve the performance of aquaculture fisheries development in all ecosystem typologies in the future, namely (1) increasing managerial capacity and knowledge of fish farmers through technology outreach, training and technical assistance; (2) providing quality production inputs at affordable prices; (3) expansion of product quality and added value markets; (4)

improving the supply chain system for fisheries aquaculture businesses; (5) increasing business scale through technological intensification; (6) research and engineering for the development of technological innovation; and (7) strengthening regulations and simplifying permits related to aquaculture fisheries businesses. The role and involvement of multi-stakeholders, including the central government, regional government, researchers, academics, extension workers, business associations in the fisheries aquaculture sector, fish farmers, traders or exporters, and financial institutions are very necessary in implementing this strategy to achieve optimal results.

The obstacle faced in implementing organic farming/fishing systems is the difficulty of maintaining organic aquaculture, while the obstacles faced in implementing inorganic farming/fishing systems are the high costs required and low selling prices (**Juliantika *et al.*, 2020**). **Firdiansyah *et al.* (2020)** reported that the people of Enggano Island have a good level of perception (79.00%) and a level of active participation (89.20%) in the management of Marine Protected Areas (KKL); strategies that can be implemented in continuing Marine Protected Areas (KKP). **Ulfa (2018)** stated that the impact of climate change causes people to experience socio-economic problems. In terms of economic problems, the impact of climate change makes people unable to meet their daily needs and vulnerable to poverty, while in social problems, especially fishermen, they are unable to determine the season due to unpredictable weather, long distances to fish and reduced fisheries resources. **Tohari *et al.* (2020)** reported that the economic aspect cumulatively has the highest value (0.73), while the institutional and environmental aspects have the lowest value, namely 0.64 and 0.67, respectively. These results indicate that the main focus of this business is still on economic aspects, while environmental and institutional aspects are still not a priority. **Mappasomba and Haidir (2024)** reported that the level of public understanding and knowledge is still low. Community participation is in the medium category even though it is known that the community's perception of the benefits of the mangrove ecosystem for them is quite good. **Arianti *et al.* (2022)** reported that most farmers felt the negative impact of climate change on freshwater fisheries. Freshwater farmers have the perception that climate change has a negative impact on fisheries. **Marie *et al.* (2024)** reported that BFT, a method that is developing in it, has attracted attention for its continuing adoption in the tilapia aquaculture. By manipulating communities of microbes to produce high density suspensible solids referred to as bioflocs, they serve a dual purpose: supplying a source of nutrients for aqueous organisms and increasing the quality of water by dissolving excessive nutrients. Growing interest in the culture of the tilapia has fuelled the increased use in biofloc systems due to its potential to improve grow-out, lower feed costs, and minimize the impact on the environment. The present review seeks to synthesis comprehensively the latest study, compiled from reputable key databases, with a particular focus on biofloc pond aquaculture in the advanced tilapia aquaculture.

The result of the current study can be summarized as follows: suitable BFT can be developed for the climbing perch in an efficient manner and requires little innovation. Standardization of the climbing perch breeding procedures, based on induced breeding, can be considered a breakthrough in the propagation of this species in aquaculture farms. It is hoped that the achievements in this research would encourage fish and aquaculture farmers from all categories to adopt and diversify these potential fish species in aquaculture systems.

The Decree of the Minister of State for the Environment Number 112 of 2003, dated July 10, 2003, specifies domestic wastewater quality standards with parameters including pH (6– 9), BOD (100mg/ L), TSS (100mg/ L), and Oil and Fat (10mg/ L). This aligns with **Tatangindatu *et al.* (2003)**, **Kordi and Tancung (2007)** and **Aisyah and Subehi (2012)**, who stated that the optimal temperature range for aquaculture is between 27 and 32°C. According to Government Regulation of the Republic of Indonesia Number 82 of 2001 concerning water quality management and water pollution Control, water temperature quality standards for Class III water are set between 26 and 33°C, with deviation 3 indicating a normal temperature range of 29-30°C (**Hanisa, 2017**). Thus, the water temperature in studies-1 and 2 can still support the life and growth of the climbing perch fish. Temperature greatly influences the growth and life of aquatic biota. In general, growth rate increases as temperature increases. An extreme (drastic) increase in temperature can suppress the life of aquaculture animals, and even cause death.

When compared with the water quality standards in Government Decree of the Republic of Indonesia Number 82 of 2001 regarding the management and quality control of class III water pollution, the pH in research-1 and research-2 is suitable for aquaculture activities with values ranging from 6.01 to 7.2. The death point for fish is at an acidic pH of 4 and at an alkaline pH of 11 (**Lesmana, 2002**). In general, freshwater fish can live well at a slightly acidic pH ranging from 6.5 to 8, while the acidity level of water for good aquaculture ranges from 6.4 to 7.0 according to the type of fish while the optimal pH range for fish is around between 6.5 and 8.5. From the measurement results, the DO range in studies-1 and 2 was 1.2 – 4.3mg/l.

The number of the kale leaves in the aquaculture system in buckets was counted at the end of the study. Kale leaves are counted as whole in 1 bucket or per treatment. The results of the 42- day study showed that the application of biofloc waste to the kale aquaculture media gave good results on the number of kale leaves. Research by **Hasan *et al.* (2017)** stated that an increase in the number of kale leaves maintained using an aquaponics system in catfish has an average number of leaves above the average number of kale leaves when maintained in compost and soil media.

Khodijah *et al.* (2022) reported an experiment using a Split Plot Design with two treatment factors. Firstly, the main factor was the stocking density of catfish (P), which consisted of three treatment stages, namely: 10 heads/50L; 15 heads/50L; and 20 heads/50L of water. The secondary factor is the type of fertilizers (J), which consists of

three treatment stages: No fertilizers (control); fertilizer type 1 (N 20%, P 15%, K 15%, and Mg 1%); and fertilizer type 2 (N 32%, P 10%, K 10%, and Mg 0.1%). Variables of growth and yield of water spinach observed were crop heights, leaf number as well as plant mass, yield weight, peak wet mass, root wet mass, peak dry mass, root dry mass, roots in terms of volume, leaves in terms of area, leave colors, and diameter of stems. No significant interaction among foliar fertilizer effects of the catfish densities on the aquaponics growth of kale in Budikdamber system. The independent effect of treatment of foliar fertilizer with relatively higher N concentration (N: 32%, P: 10%, K:10% and Mg: 0.1%) was significantly better in promoting crown growth compared to foliar fertilizer, with lower N and P composition, higher K and Mg (N: 20%, P: 15%, K: 15% and Mg: 1%) but did not lead to improved roots growing. The stocking density treatment of the catfish (10, 15 and 20 fish per 50 liters of water) showed no obvious variation in all parameters of the growth and production of water spinach.

In this trial, the highest average number of the kale leaves was in treatment C (189.33) with a dose of 75% biofloc waste + 25% irrigation water, followed by treatment B (118.67) and D (114.67). Meanwhile, in treatment A (irrigation water control), the number of kale plant leaves was less than in other treatments, namely 98.33. The high number of leaves growing is thought to be caused by rearing water spinach and the catfish in the aquaponics system by providing biofloc waste which has good nutrients for plants to absorb, while the low number of leaves growing in the aquaponics system. Water spinach plants, namely treatment A, are caused by controlled waters/irrigation; water not having enough nutrients to be absorbed by kale plants. This finding agrees with the results of **Hasan *et al.* (2017)** who determined that, upon growing water spinach in an aquaponic system, the nutrients in the form of nitrate and phosphate that can be absorbed by water spinach plants are higher compared to plants grown in compost and soil media, hence high levels of water, nitrogen, and phosphorus are absorbed by plants in an aquaponic system. This is proven by the condition of the roots of the kale plants being greater than those without aquaponics. **Setijaningsih and Suryaningsih (2015)** and **Setijaningsih and Umar (2015)** emphasized that the nitrogen sources contained in compost and soil given a fertilizer at the beginning of planting are increasingly insufficient to meet the needs of plants, while in the aquaponic system, the nutrients are increasingly reduced enough all the time.

Utilizing biofloc wastewater to raise the catfish provides better productivity than the case using no biofloc at all. However, at doses greater than 50%, the use of biofloc waste as an inoculum can result in high mortality rates in fish fry. Apart from that, although fish productivity when given a dose of 50% is considered good, its effectiveness is still below that of a rearing system that uses media with the addition of new biofloc (**Syam *et al.*, 2019**). The addition of biofloc had no effect on the growth and survival of the tilapia. The growth rate range for the tilapia is 0.21-0.24g/ day and the survival rate for the tilapia is 57-88% (**Septiani *et al.*, 2014**). **Arthanawa *et al.* (2021)** reported that

the catfish aquaculture using biofloc system generates sewage in the form of pond residue which may be favorable for aquaponic using aquaculture system. Combining fermented catfish waste with chicken manure at 1400ppm in an aquaponics system resulted in the highest yields for spinach, the most leaves for pak choy, and the greatest fresh and dry weight for pak choy, with an average fresh weight of 142.39 grams. The best high yields are found in spinach plants. The best number of leaves is found on pak choy plants. In the aquaponics system, pak choy plants showed the best fresh and dry weight results, with the optimal growth achieved at a concentration of 1400 ppm of fermented catfish waste combined with chicken manure; this concentration also yielded the highest average fresh weight of 142.39 grams, while kale, pak choy, and spinach thrived using this nutrient mix, though lettuce exhibited the lowest fresh weight.

Management strategies and reducing environmental impacts from BFT are recommended in aquaculture activities as means toward a sustainable aquaculture and at the same time leading to solving environmental, social and economic problems along with its growth (**Crab *et al.*, 2012**). Based on environmental impact analysis using LCA and sensitivity analysis, there are several points that need to be improved in the management of the climbing perch aquaculture using BFT. The first is related to feed management, which is the biggest source of costs in the aquaculture process. The provision of high protein with a content of 36% should be reduced and replaced by feed with lower protein, or mixed in line with increasing biofloc growth, considering several proximate results of research conducted on the protein value of biofloc reaching 43.0% (**McIntosh *et al.*, 2000**).

In BFT, the carbon sources used are mostly by-products originating from animal and plant-based food industry are available localized. Prior to post larval propagation and while the growth period, inexpensive carbohydrate substances such as the plant-based food molasses and meal are used in order to supply food in the early growing stages and keep up the C:N conversion ratio (**Nisar *et al.*, 2022**). The harvest yield of shrimp could be raised, and feeding conversion rate could be reduced by using corn to promote biofloc formation in mixed aquaculture of shrimp, manure, and kale. The process can subsequently decrease the amount of both gross phosphorus and gross nitrogen in the aquaculture waters (**Liu *et al.*, 2017**). The biofloc-based poly-culture of the tilapia, shrimp, seaweed and shellfish resulted in increased growth levels and decreased nutrient effluent and the microbial mass. Biofloc systems decrease the cost in organic and inorganic manures and offset the cost in terms of the source of carbon (**Ekasari, 2014**). BFT is likewise accountable for decreasing water treating costs by up to 30%, and twice the utilization efficiency of protein as opposed to traditional water processing techniques (**Schryver *et al.*, 2008; Avnimelech & Kocba, 2009**). Additionally, biofloc systems can be integrated with other food production methods to create a more productive and efficient system, maximizing output from the same land area with fewer inputs. It's

crucial that the study findings are communicated to farmers for practical implementation, as biofloc technology requires skill enhancement (**Bossier & Ekasari, 2017**).

Osama *et al.* (2018) found that biofloc systems with specific carbon sources, such as oat bran and cellulosic materials, outperformed controlled systems across all parameters. While the treatment of biofloc showed no significant difference in the tilapia performance; the initial delay in water quality improvement was noted due to the slower breakdown of carbon sources, leading to fewer fluctuations in NO₃ and NH₄⁺ levels. The research highlights that cellulose-based carbon sources are particularly effective in enhancing bacterial numbers, microorganism diversity, and biofloc composition quality. Economically, using inexpensive, cellulose-rich agricultural products as a carbon source is beneficial for both environmental sustainability and system performance. Furthermore, biofloc provides an additional food for aquatic organisms and contributes to cleaner water and higher biosecurity by reducing wastewater pollution and mitigating disease risks (**Arias-Moscoso *et al.*, 2018; Reddy, 2019**).

The strengths of biofloc technology (BFT) in aquaculture are well-established, including its potential for water conservation, reduction of water changes, and stabilization of temperature and heat fluctuations. BFT effectively supports nitrogen removal, even under high organic matter and biochemical oxygen demand conditions (**Avnimelech & Zohar, 1986; Crab *et al.*, 2009**). This leads to decreased pond water pollution and improved water quality by lowering concentrations of hydrogen sulfide, toxic ammonia, and nitrites. Additionally, BFT facilitates the reuse of waste nutrients through microbe proteins, which can meet nearly 50% of fish or shrimp protein needs, thus reducing feed consumption (**Krummenauer *et al.*, 2014**). This approach promotes healthier growth, enhances survival rates, and minimizes pathogen and disease risks without relying on antibiotics, thereby improving meat quality. Furthermore, BFT serves as a natural probiotic and an immunostimulant (**Emerenciano *et al.*, 2013**).

No technique has no challenges, and biofloc technology (BFT) is no exception. A significant barrier to adoption is convincing farmers to embrace BFT, as it contradicts the traditional belief that pond water should be clear (**Avnimelech, 2009**). However, several factors drive the adoption of BFT, including water scarcity; water resources are becoming increasingly scarce or costly, which limits the growth of aquaculture, environmental regulations; many countries have restrictions on the disposal of contaminated waste, making BFT a more attractive option for waste management, and disease control; severe communicable disease outbreaks necessitate stricter biosecurity measures such as reducing water exchange rates (**Avnimelech & Kocba, 2009**). The most obvious disadvantage is that continuous aeration maintains high levels of DO > 5mg/ L, thus

requiring high energy costs. Advanced know-how and better-equipped laboratories are required to efficiently supervise and operate the biofloc system. This system is practicable in both extensive systems and intensive systems. The pond should be covered with HDPE sheets, or a concreted pond, which is necessary for an efficient organization of this system (**Suneetha et al., 2017**).

BFT is increasingly popular because the aquaculture sector faces considerable economic disadvantages resulting from water pollution that causes a variety of pathogens to be present. Due to the increasing healthy fish demand, null water exchanges are heavily utilized in the production of fish and shellfish. This minimizes the discharge of aquaculture effluent water into the water ecosystem, which includes the nutrients, the organic matter, and the pathogens. The system utilized minimum land, thus providing an unbiased benefit-cost balance to preserve social and economic continuity. In addition to being sustainability, fish farmed in BFT also showed a better health status after being challenged by various potential pathogens (**Kumar et al., 2024**).

Aquaculture techniques have become a source of cooling in recent years. For example, many of the world's largest shrimp farms are built in areas that previously had mangrove forests, such as in Indonesia, the Philippines, and Malaysia. These forests have proven to not only provide important protection from floods and storms but also provide important ecosystems for certain species, such as finfish and shellfish (**Naylor et al., 2000**). It has been well documented that traditional fish and shrimp farming systems using flowing water, ponds and cages produce excessive amounts of waste in the form of phosphates and nitrates. This is associated with harmful algal blooms, which can damage and drastically reduce oxygen solubility, making the environment anoxic and resulting in shrimp and fish mortality (**Paez-Osuna et al., 2003; Khan & Mohammad, 2013**).

Compared to traditional fish farming, BFT has several advantages and offers solutions to problems. BFT during the production cycle uses less water volume and, through the help of organisms, is able to recycle nutrients (**Crab et al., 2012**). Total *in situ* nutrient recycling into biomass by microbes not only contributes to biosecurity but also serves to improve FCR values, thereby reducing overall feed production costs. As is commonly known, water costs are around 30% and feed contributes 40- 75% of the total cost, therefore BFT is very useful in reducing these costs (**Crab et al., 2012; Ansari et al., 2021**). Carbon dioxide as a by-product of respiration and heterotrophic activity is one of the major problems in BFT systems. Heterotrophic reduction of ammonia-nitrogen levels produces approximately 65% more carbon dioxide per gram of total ammonia nitrogen (TAN) than production from nitrifying bacteria (**Browdy et al., 2012**). The study analyzed the CO₂ content in 52 BFT shrimp ponds and found that 27 of the 52 ponds were able to absorb carbon, and these ponds were mostly ponds with shorter shrimp cultivation maintenance periods and were found to have more phytoplankton and algae, which are naturally able to absorb CO₂ (**Manan et al., 2019**).

As the biomass of the climbing perch fish increases, the environment's carrying capacity decreases, leading to uneven growth and significant size variations. Fish that are slower to grow at the beginning of rearing due to competition will continue to lag, resulting in size differences by the end of the rearing period. Implementing partial harvesting in stages, once the climbing perch have reached a marketable size (typically after 7 months), is recommended by several researchers and industry experts. This approach offers numerous economic and environmental benefits. Partial harvesting reduces fish density, which decreases competition for space and food, minimizes the risk of disease outbreaks caused by high density, and promotes better growth for the remaining fish. It also lowers feed costs, reduces the accumulation of total ammonia nitrogen (TAN) and other organic materials, and lessens the need for organic carbon and lime for pH balancing, thereby cutting overall production costs. Additionally, waste from the climbing perch in a biofloc system can be repurposed for raising additional fish and vegetable crops.

The price of the climbing perch fish varies at different levels: Rp60,000 per kg at the aquaculture level, Rp70,000 per kg at the collector level, and Rp77,667 per kg at the retailer level. The highest net profit was observed at the aquaculture level (45%), followed by collectors (33%) and retailers (22%). Conversely, restaurants achieve a profit margin of 74%, which is nearly three times higher than that of aquaculture (26%). Marketing margins are 14% for collectors, 23% for retailers, and 50% for restaurants. The highest net profit per kg was obtained by aquaculture, followed by collectors and retailers (**Ahmadi *et al.*, 2022**).

According to **Ratnasari (2022)**, the current aquaculture production of the climbing perch is 500,000 fish, or approximately 1 ton per month. The production prices are Rp80,000 per kg for grade A (8-12 fish per kg), Rp40,000 per kg for grade B (13-15 fish per kg), and Rp25,000 per kg for grade C (≥ 15 fish per kg).

The effectiveness of the biofloc technology (BFT) system in improving water quality and fish growth compared to traditional aquaculture systems is noteworthy. Future research should focus on optimizing biofloc composition and management. BFT is recognized as a promising and sustainable alternative due to its economic feasibility, resource efficiency, positive impacts on water quality, and superior growth performance (**Marie *et al.*, 2024**). For aquaculture businesses to remain profitable, it is crucial to reduce production costs and prioritize environmental protection (**Avnimelech & Kochba, 2009**). The biofloc system enhances fish growth and reduces feed conversion rates, thus increasing profitability and lowering aquaculture costs (**Khanjani, 2015**). **Megahed (2010)** reported that the BFT system reduced production costs by 33% for the tiger prawns (*Penaeus semisulcatus*) and by 10% for the tilapia. **Schryver and Verstraete**

(2009) emphasized that species-specific feed and carbohydrate prices are critical factors to consider when using the BFT system.

Sontakke and Haridas (2018) argued that biofloc technology (BFT) is more effective in increasing growth rates and shortening maintenance periods compared to conventional aquaculture methods. For new technologies like BFT to be successfully adopted and optimized, they need to be embraced by the user community (**Sanches et al., 2014**). **Rego et al. (2017)** found that the financial feasibility of *Litopenaeus vannamei* BFT aquaculture is high, with operational costs per hectare potentially being ten times greater than those of conventional systems. Feed costs contribute significantly to total variable costs in both systems: 54% for BFT and 79% for conventional systems. In intensive shrimp farming in Asia, feed is a major expense, accounting for 23-46% of total costs (**Shang et al., 1998**). **Rego et al. (2017)** reported that the total production cost per cycle and per year were US\$33,294.87 and US\$124,369, respectively, for a BFT system with a stocking density of 113 shrimp per m². The annual operating profit was US\$51,871.54 per productive hectare, which is 141% higher than that of conventional systems. **Hanson (2013)** reported an initial cost of approximately US\$992,000 and a total annual production cost of US\$983,950.00 for a BFT system with a density of 500 shrimp per m³ and 10 rearing tanks covering 500m³ in Texas, USA. The higher overall production costs of the BFT system compared to conventional systems are due to high feed expenditures as well as significant labor and energy costs.

Sontakke and Haridas (2018) also analyzed the production cycle of the milkfish (*Chanos chanos*) in India using three systems: clear water (control), biofloc, and open pond. Their analysis showed a total net profit of US\$6,533 for the BFT system, compared to US\$4,468 for the open pond system and US\$3,779 for the clear water system.

In a recent study, the total production and equipment costs were Rp8,652,718 with total sales of Rp15,400,000. The income for one period (7 months) was Rp6,747,282, with monthly receipts amounting to Rp963,897.43. Based on the South Kalimantan UMR standard in 2024, an income of Rp3,282,812.11 requires a maintenance pool with a diameter of 4 meters, under normal conditions without disease and with high-quality female climbing perch seeds. Thus, the climbing perch aquaculture using a biofloc system is promising. The research indicates that rearing 75-100% of the female climbing perch fish with a biofloc system can positively impact aquaculture production technically, economically, and ecologically. However, further research is needed to understand the factors affecting the stability and function of biofloc systems, as well as the potential for reducing environmental impacts or utilizing waste for other aquaculture activities and as liquid fertilizer for vegetable crops.

CONCLUSION

The average public perception score is 4.3820, which falls within the high range on the Likert scale. This high score indicates strong support for biofloc system aquaculture. For climbing perch waste, this implies that the biofloc system allows for environmentally friendly disposal and repurposing for raising additional fish and vegetable crops. The study reported total production and equipment costs of Rp8,652,718, with total sales amounting to Rp15,400,000. The income obtained over a 7-month period was Rp6,747,282, with monthly receipts averaging Rp963,897.43. According to the 2024 South Kalimantan UMR standard, achieving an income of Rp3,282,812.11 requires a minimum of 4 maintenance ponds, each with a diameter of 2 meters, under normal conditions without disease and with the high-quality female climbing perch seeds. Therefore, the climbing perch aquaculture using a biofloc system is considered a viable pursuit. Research findings suggest that rearing 75-100% of the female climbing perch fish with a seed size of ± 7 cm in a biofloc system, at a density of 1 fish per 1-2 liters, is technically feasible, economically viable, and environmentally friendly.

Conflict of interest

The author team has no conflict of interest to declare in this research and worked with full dedication and responsibility.

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