

Research on the Tilapias in the Republics of the Former Soviet Union

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Abstract - Research on the tilapia *Oreochromis mossambicus* in the former Soviet Union is briefly reviewed. The subjects covered are wide and tilapias are also cultured commercially. Over 125 references to this research are listed.

The history of tilapia research in Russia covers three decades. *Oreochromis mossambicus* was first introduced via North Vietnam in 1961. Initially, this fish was to be used in aquaculture in warmwaters of thermal and atomic power stations. The absence of winter water-utilization systems, however, prevented putting this idea into practice.

Later, various tilapias were made objects of laboratory research in different aspects of biology, genetics, physiology and allied subjects. Considerable success was achieved in studying reproductive physiology and ecology and the growth of these fishes.

In the early 1980s interest in tilapias as objects of aquaculture was revived. Fish farming with cycling water supply sprang up on the basis of industrial and power systems possessing heat resources. Owing to its unique reproductive abilities, resistance to disease and good flavor, tilapia proved to be an ideal object of commercial aquaculture. Investigations devoted to aquaculture of tilapia were widely practiced.

In Russia today, tilapia is gradually being acknowledged as a species with an excellent potential for intensive commercial culture and the range of its use in fish farming is widening. About 200 tonnes of cultured tilapia are produced annually in Russia.

A bibliography of scientific articles is given below. The titles have been translated into English and the journal titles are

transliterated. An attempt has been made to make the references as complete as possible for ease of location.

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