

SEASONAL FLUCTUATIONS IN FOOD AND FEEDING HABIT IN REFERENCE TO PREFERENTIAL INTEREST IN *MYSTUS SEENGHLA* (SYKES)

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ABSTRACT – The freshwater catfish *Mystus seenghala* is highly carnivorous in nature, and there is not any change of its feeding nature during various stages of life. Fish, insects crustaceans, annelids and molluscs are the main food this fish. Feeding intensity in relation to season, maturity stages and food items are investigated. Feeding intensity was high during October and November and reduce in monsoon period (July –August). Maximum value of feeding intensity in both male and female was observed in ripening stage and remarkably reduce in immature stage. The shape of mouth, structure of buccopharynx, strong dentition, gill rakers, well developed stomach, a short intestine and dominance of body part in gut content are related to its food and feeding habit.

Key words : *Mystus seenghala*, selective feeding, predacious, highly carnivorous, Gomti River.