Table 2 Growth, production, feed conversion ratio and survival rate, for Nile tilapia *O. niloticus* (Average initial wt. 30.2 g/fish) reared in floating cages for a period of 196 days at different stocking rates

Item	Stocking density (fish/m^3)			
	25 (S1)	50 (S2)	100 (S3)	150 (S4)
Initial Avg. wt., g/fish	30.01 ± 9.4	30.08 ± 7.6	30.20 ± 8.5	30.10 ± 9.2
Avg. Final weight[1], g/fish	174.8 ± 63.2[a]	163.5 ± 41.3[ab]	151.7 ± 40.6[b]	147.2 ± 42.3[b]
Gain in weight, g/fish	144.7 ± 54.1[a]	133.4 ± 33.7[ab]	121.5 ± 32.3[b]	117.1 ± 33.9[b]
Daily gain[2] (g/fish)	0.86 ± 0.32[a]	0.79 ± 0.20[ab]	0.72 ± 0.19[b]	0.60 ± 0.17[c]
Avg. Gain in weight %	478.2 ± 57.8[a]	443.3 ± 52.3[b]	406.9 ± 31.3[c]	392.9 ± 57.6[c]
Initial avg. length (cm)	12.41 ± 1.12	12.14 ± 0.74	12.39 ± 1.14	12.24 ± 0.83
Final Avg. length (cm)	19.62 ± 2.62[a]	19.10 ± 1.24[ab]	18.46 ± 1.78[bc]	18.07 ± 1.62[c]
Gain in length (cm)	7.21 ± 1.55[a]	6.97 ± 0.59[a]	6.08 ± 0.70[b]	5.83 ± 0.81[b]
Gain in length %	57.5 ± 7.60[a]	57.40 ± 3.20[a]	49.1 ± 3.10[b]	47.5 ± 3.50[b]
Initial biomass/cage kg	0.750 ± 0.06	1.505 ± 0.07	3.020 ± 0.11	4.515 ± 0.15
Total crop /cage kg	4.371 ± 1.60[d]	8.173 ± 2.10[c]	15.171 ± 4.10[b]	22.086 ± 6.30[a]
Net production / m^3	3.620 ± 1.40[d]	6.668 ± 1.70[c]	12.154 ± 3.20[b]	17.571 ± 5.10[a]
Total feed intake (g/fish)	260.6 ± 14.7[a]	242.7 ± 19.7[ab]	225.2 ± 15.5[b]	222.6 ± 12.6[c]
Feed conversion ratio[5], FCR	1.80 ± 0.10[c]	1.82 ± 0.06[b]	1.85 ± 0.01[a]	1.90 ± 0.03[a]
Specific growth rate[4],SGR % /day	1.04 ± 0.06[a]	1.01 ± 0.06[b]	0.97 ± 0.04[c]	0.95 ± 0.07[c]
Condition factor[5] (K)	2.23 ± 0.16[c]	2.31 ± 0.23[bc]	2.37 ± 0.18[ab]	2.43 ± 0.13[a]
No. of fish / cage	25	50	100	150
Survival rate[6], SR %	100	100	100	100

*Means in the same rows having different superscript letters were significantly different at 0.05 levels.

1. AFW (g/fish) =Average final weight (g) – Average initial weight (g).

2. ADG (g/fish/day) = 100[AFW (g)/experimental period (d)].

3. FCR = DM Feed Intake (g)/Live weight gain (g).

4. SGR (%/day) = 100(Ln final weight–Ln initial weight)/experimental period (d)).

5. Condition factor "K", $K=W/L^3 \times 100$,where: W= weight of fish, g L= total length, cm

6. SR =100[Total No of fish at the end of the experiment/Total No of fish at the start of the experiment]