

# Pigmentation of rainbow trouts (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*) fed two levels of astaxantin in their growing-fattening diets Pigmentación de trucha arco iris (*oncorhynchus mykiss*) tipo mar alimentadas con dos niveles de astaxantina en dietas de crecimiento-engorda

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The color in salmonids is the main condition for an appropriate trading. This color is a result of the retained pigment incorporated to their diets. The present study was conducted to evaluate the pigmentation degree, color, costs of diets and the productive performance of rainbow trouts fed 25 and 80 ppm of astaxantin (AXT), respectively. A total of 200 chilean trouts (Cofradex variety), with an initial weight of 180 g, were used. They were randomly assigned to 2 treatments with 100 fishes each. The group fed 80 ppm of AXT, was considered the control one, because this was the more common level of inclusion when the assay was run. The productive performance was evaluated considering the average weight, feed consumption, feed conversion efficiency, specific growth rate, mortality, factor of condition, growth percentage and pigment retention percentage. The color intensity was evaluated using the "Colour Chart" and "Colour Salmo-Fan by Roche Lab." The pigmentation, the pigment concentrat