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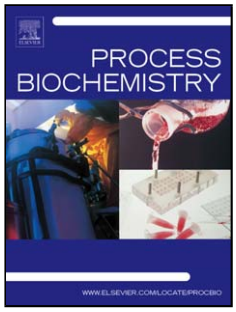

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PII: S1359-5113(08)00066-4
DOI: doi:10.1016/j.procbio.2008.02.007
Reference: PRBI 8373

To appear in: *Process Biochemistry*

Received date: 5-8-2007
Revised date: 8-2-2008
Accepted date: 13-2-2008

Please cite this article as: Visvanathan C, Hung NQ, Jegatheesan V, Hydrogenotrophic denitrification of synthetic aquaculture wastewater using membrane bioreactor, *Process Biochemistry* (2007), doi:10.1016/j.procbio.2008.02.007

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HYDROGENOTROPHIC DENITRIFICATION OF SYNTHETIC AQUACULTURE WASTEWATER USING MEMBRANE BIOREACTOR

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Abstract

A hydrogenotrophic denitrification system was evaluated in removing nitrate from synthetic aquaculture wastewater for recirculation purposes. Two membrane bioreactor (MBR) systems namely, aeration-denitrification system (ADS) and denitrification-aeration system (DAS) were studied with 50 mg/L of influent concentrations for both organic matter and nitrate nitrogen. The DAS achieved better removal efficiency of 91.4% total nitrogen (T-N) and denitrification rate of 363.7 mg/L.day at a HRT of 3 hours compared to ADS. Further, there was no nitrite accumulation in the DAS effluent. The nitrite accumulation in ADS effluent was lesser when CO_2 was used as buffer rather than K_2HPO_4 and KH_2PO_4. Estimation of

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kinetic parameters of hydrogenotrophic bacteria indicated lesser sludge production compared to heterotrophic denitrification. In the DAS, membrane fouling was nonexistent in the aeration reactor that was used to produce the recirculating effluent. On the contrary, membrane fouling was observed in the denitrification reactor that supplied hydrogen to the mixed liquor. Thus, this study demonstrated DAS capability in maintaining the acceptable water quality appropriate for aquaculture, in which a closed recirculating system is typically used.

Keywords: Aquaculture wastewater, effluent re-circulation, hollow fiber membrane, hydrogenotrophic denitrification, membrane bioreactor

1. Introduction

Aquaculture has been developed steadily over the last decade in response to the increasing world market demand for seafood. However, it also discharges an enormous amount of wastewater into the environment which contains high concentration of nitrites, nitrates and phosphorus, which eventually leads to eutrophication on receiving waters. Eutrophication affects benthic fauna, macroalgal growth and diversity, epiphyte communities, phytoplankton, zooplankton and bacterial communities. Concerned agencies have started issuing load-based licenses to aquaculture farmers to minimize discharge of nitrogen and phosphorous into the environment [1]. Consequently, aquaculture industries look for appropriate and better methods in treating wastewater prior to recirculation or discharge into the receiving waters.

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