Total replacement of fish oil by soybean or linseed oil with a return to fish oil in Turbot (Psetta maxima) 2. Flesh quality properties

C. Regost^a, J. Arzel^a, M. Cardinal^b, G. Rosenlund^c and S. J. Kaushik^{d,*}

a Fish Nutrition Laboratory, Unité mixte INRA-IFREMER, Centre de Brest IFREMER, 29280 Plouzané, France b Food Engineering Laboratory, IFREMER Centre de Nantes, BP 21105, 44311, Nantes, France c Nutreco, Aquaculture Research Centre (ARC), P.O. Box 48, 4001, Stavanger, Norway d Fish Nutrition Laboratory, Unité mixte INRA-IFREMER, 64310 Saint Pée-sur-Nivelle, France

*: Corresponding author :kaushik@st-pee.inra.fr

Abstract:

The aim of this study was to evaluate (1) the effects of replacement of fish oil by vegetable oils on flesh quality and (2) the effects of a washout with a return to fish oil on flesh quality of turbot. In a first period of 3 months, three isonitrogenous and isolipidic diets containing 9% of added marine fish oil (FO), soybean oil (SO) or linseed oil (LO) were fed to triplicate groups of 25 marketable size turbot (initial body weight: 579±1 g) grown in sea water at the temperature of 17 °C. At the end of the first period, all groups of turbot were fed with the diet containing fish oil (diet FO) for a further period of 2 months. The gutted and fillet yields were not affected by the incorporation of vegetable oils. However, soybean or linseed oils significantly affected the organoleptic quality of flesh particularly odour, colour and texture. A more pronounced potatoes odour and a lower fat texture were observed in dorsal fillet of turbot fed soybean oil diet. During the washout period, the differences observed between treatments in first period on sensory attributes disappeared. This study showed that the changes in organoleptic properties occurring due to the intake of vegetable oils can be reduced with a return to a fish-oil-based diet.

1. INTRODUCTION

Incorporation of vegetable oils in diets is known to influence the nutritional quality of fish flesh in salmonids (Reinitz and Yu, 1981; Hardy et al., 1987; Arzel et al., 1994; Skonberg et al., 1994) and in marine fish like gilthead bream, European sea bass or turbot (Kalogeropoulos et al. 1992; Bell et al., 1994; 1999; Yildiz and Sener, 1997). Fatty acid composition of fish flesh generally reflects dietary fatty acid composition (Dosanjh et al., 1988, 1998; Greene and Selivonchick, 1990). In fact, the substitution of vegetable oils for fish oil induced an increase of linoleic acid in case of soybean or rapeseed oils or an increase of linolenic acid in case of linoleed oil and consequently a decrease of highly unsaturated fatty acids (Mugrditchian et al., 1981; Greene and Selivonchick, 1990; Sowizral et al., 1990; Bell et al., 1994), known for their health benefits in humans (De Deckere et al., 1998; Sargent et al., 2001).

Available data on the effects of dietary fat sources on organoleptic qualities of the flesh of cultured fish are often contradictory. Soybean oil in diets did not significantly affect taste of flesh of brook charr (Guillou et al., 1995) or flesh flavour of Atlantic salmon (Hardy et al., 1987) whereas significant effects of soybean oil were observed on odour, taste and colour intensity in Atlantic salmon (Thomassen and Røsjø, 1989). In turbot, to our knowledge, no study has reported the effects of vegetable oils on parameters of flesh quality except the study of Sérot et al. (2001) on volatile aroma compounds.

In an earlier study (Regost et al. 2002, in press), we reported the effects of dietary vegetable oils and of a wash-out with fish oil on growth performance and fatty acid composition of turbot. Here, we present data related to physical and organoleptic quality of flesh.

2. MATERIAL AND METHODS

2.1. Experimental diets

Three isonitrogenous and isolipidic practical diets were formulated to contain 9% of fish oil (FO), soybean oil (SO) or linseed oil (LO). Diets were manufactured industrially (Aquaculture Research Centre, Stavanger, Norway). Ingredient and chemical compositions of the diets are reported in Table 1 and the principal fatty acid composition in Table 2. For further description of the diets, see Regost et al. (2002, in press).

2.2. Growth trial

The growth trial was conducted in the experimental facilities of IFREMER (Brest, France) at a constant seawater temperature of $17 \pm 0.5^{\circ}$ C with a salinity of 35‰ in a flow through system for a period of 13 weeks. Twenty-five turbot, *Psetta maxima*, having a mean initial body weight of 579 ± 10 g (mean \pm sd) were randomly allotted to each tank ($1m^3$ tank with a water flow rate of 14 l.min⁻¹) and a 12/12h light/dark cycle was adopted. The three experimental diets were each randomly allocated to triplicate groups which were fed by hand once a day to visual satiety.

2.3. Washout with fish oil

At the end of growth trial and after samplings, there were 12 fish per tank having a mean individual body weight of 882 ± 17 g. All groups of turbot were fed with diet FO for a period of 8 weeks. At the end of this period, each group of fish was weighed and sampled.

2.4 Samplings

At the end of growth trial, the same protocol of slaughter was strictly applied to all groups. Fish were fasted two days before slaughtering. Fish were stunned and bled to death in cold water before dissection. After slaughter, gutting was done immediately and filleting (four fillets: dorsal-ventral and inferior-superior fillets) was done within 30 min. Three fish (fillets with skin) per tank were withdrawn for sensory analyses and two fish (fillets without skin) per tank for instrumental texture analyses. At the end of the finishing trial, four fish per tank were withdrawn (fillets with skin) for sensory analyses.

2.5. Flesh quality evaluation

Sensory profiling (Stone et al., 1974; ISO 11035) was performed two days after slaughtering on dorsal and ventral cooked fillets by an internal sensory panel (IFREMER, Nantes, France) consisting of 20 individuals selected for their interest, availability and sensorial capacities of memorising stimuli or discriminating intensities. All were volunteers and received regular training sessions to develop their sensory performances and knowledge of marine products. Sessions were conducted in an air-conditioned room designed for sensory analysis divided into ten individual boxes with standardized light (T=6500°K) and equipped with a computerised system (Fizz Biosystèmes, Dijon, France). These conditions were conducive to concentration and avoided communication between assessors and disturbance by external factors (AFNOR , 1995). The samples with skin were cooked for 2.5 min in a microwave oven (Panasonic NN8550, 850W) in closed bowl before analyses. Products were assigned 3digit numbers, randomised and served simultaneously. The samples were evaluated using a continuous scale presented on a computer screen from 0 (low intensity) to 10 (high intensity) for the following attributes: intensity, potatoes, fatty fish, marine-iodine and milky for odour; whiteness and fatness for visual aspect; intensity, fatty fish, marine-iodine, sweet, acid flavour and bitter aftertaste for flavour; and firmness, elasticity, moisture, fat, exudation and sticky for texture in mouth. The odour and aspect attributes were assessed immediately after opening the bowl, while the flavour and texture in mouth attributes were evaluated after cutting the samples. Data were immediately transferred to a central computer for statistical treatment.

2.6. Instrumental texture analyses

Instrumental texture analyses were performed at INRA (Rennes, France) on raw fillets 7 days after slaughter, on fillets kept in ice in sealed vacuum packing at 4°C. A Kramer shear press (64mm × 64mm) was used with compression up to breaking using a universal testing machine (INSTRON, model 5544) with a load cell of 5kN and during this test, a constant speed of 1 mms⁻¹ into the fillets was adopted. Samples were withdrawn from the caudal part of fish and measured 64 mm long and fillet size in width. The weight of each Kramer sample was recorded to avoid possible size differences (Szczesniack et al., 1970). The pH of fillets was measured using a pH meter on minced muscle. The instrumental analyses followed procedures described by Laroche et al. (1996).

2.7. Statistical analysis

The data of yields, pH and instrumental texture analyses were subjected to one-way analysis of variance to test the effects of experimental diets. In cases where significant differences occurred (significance level =0.05), the Newman-Keuls test was used to compare the means. These statistical tests were performed using the STAT-ITCF (1998) software. The results of sensory analyses were subjected to two-way analysis of variance to test the effects of experimental diets and assessors. In cases where significant differences occurred, the means were compared using Duncan test with the FIZZ, Biosystèmes software (Dijon, France).

3. RESULTS

3.1. Effects of dietary oil sources

Although gutted yield were very high in turbot (>0.90), fillet yield were very low near 0.26. There was no significant difference in the gutted and fillet yields of turbot fed the different oil sources.

Sensory analyses were performed on dorsal and ventral fillets separately (Tables 3 and 4). On dorsal fillets, potatoes odour was more pronounced in fillets of turbot fed diet SO than in the other groups. Odour of fish fed diet FO was more intense than that of the other groups but not different statistically (P=0.08). No significant difference was observed in the attributes of aspect and flavour of dorsal fillets. Concerning texture in mouth, flesh moisture of fish fed diet SO and diet LO were inferior to those of fish fed diet FO. Fat texture was significantly different among groups, fish fed diet FO having a fatter texture. For exudation, fish fed diet LO had the lowest value while those fed diet SO had the highest value. On ventral fillets, only attributes of odour presented significant differences among treatments (Table 4). Intensity and fat fish odour were more pronounced in fillets of fish fed diet LO and the values of these fish were different than those of fish fed diet FO. Milky odour was stronger in fish fed diet LO than in those fed diet SO. On dorsal and ventral fillets, the marine flavour appeared to be more pronounced in turbot fed linseed oil but the values were not statistically different (P = 0.07 and 0.08, respectively).

The measures of pH in flesh were not statistically different between treatments (Table 5). The instrumental texture analyses were performed on the four fillets per fish. The values of

maximal force were high, but there were no significant differences between treatments and between the different fillet position (P > 0.05).

3.2. Effects of finishing with fish oil

In the second part on the experimentation, all fish were fed the fish-oil based diet (FO). Sensory analyses of dorsal and ventral fillets are reported in Tables 6 and 7, respectively. In dorsal muscle, there was no difference among treatments in the attributes of odour and visual aspect. Fillets of turbot fed only diet FO had a fatty fish flavour significantly more pronounced than in those previously fed diet LO. Fillets of fish fed only diet FO were less firm than those of fish fed previously diet SO. Texture in mouth of fish fed diet SO and then diet FO had lower moisture than in the other groups. In ventral fillets, no difference was found for attributes of odour and texture in mouth (Table 7). Fatty aspect appeared lower in fish fed previously diet LO than in the other groups. Sweet flavour of fish fed only diet FO was significantly different than those of fish fed diet LO previously. The instrumental texture analyses were not made in the finishing period.

4. DISCUSSION

Slaughter and fillet yields of turbot were not significantly affected by the addition of vegetable oils in diets, and the values were similar to those found by Regost et al. (2001). The inclusion of soybean or linseed oils in diets however influenced the organoleptic properties of the flesh of turbot particularly with regard to parameters of odour and texture. The incorporation of soybean oil in diet of turbot induced on dorsal fillets a more pronounced

potatoes odour, a lower fat texture and a higher exudation than in fish fed diet with fish oil. The replacement of fish oil by linseed oil also led to a lower fat texture of dorsal and ventral fillets, a more intense odour and a high fatty fish odour compared to fish fed diet with fish oil. With the same diets, it was observed earlier that the volatile aromatic compounds and also the odour descriptors varied according to oil sources due to the variation of muscle fatty acid profile, which reflected those of the diet (Sérot et al., 2001; Regost et al., in press). Sérot et al. (2001) described turbot odour in terms of fatty fish, fresh fish or milky descriptors very similar to the attributes used in the present study. The differences perceived here in texture in mouth of dorsal fillets were often of low range and were not observed in ventral fillets or with the instrumental analyses. This is attributable to the very low fat content in turbot muscle (1.5% in wet weight), which is also not significantly affected by dietary oil sources (Regost et al., 2002, in press) and by the size of the ventral muscle (smaller and thinner). The more pronounced odour of ventral fillets than the odour of dorsal fillets could also be due to the relatively higher fat content of ventral fillet (2.2% of wet weight, Regost et al., in press), lipids being known to participate in the flavour characteristics of fish flesh. The effects of dietary vegetable oils on organoleptic properties are also sometimes contradictory. In brook charr, Guillou et al. (1995) found no significant difference in taste but found that texture of fish fed soybean oil was less firm than those of fish fed a diet containing fish oil. Arzel et al. (1994) found that brown trout fed with corn oil had a fattier texture in mouth than trout fed with fish oil. On the other hand, Thomassen and Røsjø (1989) observed in rainbow trout, differences in taste, odour and colour in fish fed a diet containing soybean oil, the results of colour on sensory analyses being confirmed by instrumental data. Similar observations were made by Waagbø et al. (1993) in Atlantic salmon fed a diet containing rapeseed oil. No difference and no relationship were found between sensory quality parameters and dietary fat sources by Boggio et al. (1985) in rainbow trout or by Hardy et al. (1987) and Koshio et al. (1994) in Atlantic salmon fed diets containing fish or vegetable oils. Indeed, it is difficult to compare the organoleptic properties reported in different studies, since a number of parameters vary: different levels of inclusion of vegetable oils in the diets, methods of cooking or storage, time interval between slaughter and analyses, besides differences in age or species of fish. Moreover, since sensory analyses were conducted on cooked samples, taste and aroma differences may be more difficult to detect than in raw samples (Skonberg et al., 1993).

In the second part of the experimentation (finishing trial), all fish were fed the same fish oil based diet during eight weeks. With regard to organoleptic properties, there was no difference in the attributes of odour and the differences found at the end of the first period disappeared after two months on the fish oil diet. Dorsal fillets of fish fed only the FO diet had a more pronounced fatty fish flavour and a lower firmness than the fish fed vegetable oils previously. The higher muscle fat content of ventral fillets could explain the stronger fat aspect, observed in fish fed only FO diet (Regost et al., 2002, in press). The criteria for which significant differences occurred were not the same at the end of the finishing trial as at the end of the growth trial. The characteristics, which may be previously attributed to dietary sources, were not recognised at the end of the washout period with the fish oil based diet. This suggests that, although the fatty acid composition is not completely restored (Regost et al. 2002, in press), flesh quality attributes are generally restored after two months of recovery with a fish oil based diet.

5. CONCLUSION

Three months of feeding turbot with diets containing vegetable oils led to changes in some of the organoleptic properties of the flesh. On subsequent feeding with a fish-oil based diet, the differences between treatments, in terms of organoleptic properties observed previously disappeared. It seems thus possible to reduce the effects on organoleptic properties observed in turbot fed dietary vegetable oils by a return to diets containing only fish oil, two months before harvest.

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	Experimental die	ets	
	FO	SO	LO
Ingredients (g/kg)			
Fish meal (Norseamink)	500	500	500
Soluble fish protein concentrate (CPSP, Sopropêhe, France)	50	50	50
Marine fish oil	90	-	-
Soybean oil	-	90	-
Linseed oil	-	-	90
Whole wheat	183	183	183
Wheat gluten	147	147	147
Mineral + vitamin mixes ^a	20	20	20
Binder + yttrium oxide	10	10	10
Proximate composition			
Dry matter (DM),%	89.1	90.2	90.3
Ash (% DM)	9.2	9.1	9.1
Crude protein (% DM)	57.4	57.6	57.6
Crude fat (% DM)	16.6	16.5	16.5
Gross energy (kJ/g DM)	23.5	23.4	23.1

Table 1. Ingredients and proximate composition of the experimental diets.

^aProprietary mixtures (Nutreco, ARC) providing levels meeting requirements as proposed by NRC (1993)

	Experimental diets			
Fatty acids (FA)	FO	SO	LO	
\sum Saturated FA	22.5	18.5	14.3	
18:1 n-9	11.9	17.1	15.0	
22:1n-11	15.1	4.3	3.3	
\sum Monounsaturated FA	47.1	29.8	25.5	
18:2n-6	5.2	35.6	15.5	
20:4n-6	0.5	0.3	0.2	
∑ n-6 FA	6.3	36.2	16.3	
18:3n-3	1.3	4.6	33.3	
20:5n-3	7.9	3.7	3.6	
22:6n-3	10.6	5.6	5.5	
∑ n-3 FA	24.1	15.5	43.9	

Table 2. Main fatty acid composition of experimental diets (% of methyl esters)

		Experimental diets			ANOVA
	Attributes	FO	SO	LO	P values
	intensity	6.3	5.5	5.9	0.08
	potatoes	2.0^{b}	3.1 ^a	2.1 ^b	0.002
ODOUR	fatty fish	2.3	1.8	2.1	0.40
	marine-iodine	3.1	2.9	3.2	0.83
	milky	3.3	2.8	2.6	0.37
ASPECT	whiteness	5.0	5.7	5.4	0.32
	fatness	3.3	3.3	3.5	0.88
	intensity	5.0	4.9	5.4	0.41
	fatty fish	2.5	1.8	2.6	0.13
FLAVOUR	marine	3.7	3.5	4.3	0.07
	sweet	1.7	1.8	1.5	0.51
	acid	0.3	0.2	0.3	0.78
	bitter aftertaste	0.8	0.9	0.5	0.27
	firmness	5.1	5.5	5.9	0.06
TEXTURE	elasticity	4.2	4.1	4.2	0.96
IN	moisture	5.2 ^a	4.3 ^b	4.2 ^b	0.03
MOUTH	fat	2.7^{a}	1.6 ^c	2.1 ^b	0.0002
	exudation	2.8 ^{ab}	3.1 ^a	2.3b	0.03
	sticky	2.6	2.4	2.9	0.55

Table 3. Sensory analyses of dorsal fillets of turbot at the end of growth trial

Values in the same row with different superscripts are significantly different (P< 0.05).

		Ex	Experimental diets		
	Attributes	FO	SO	LO	P values
	intensity	5.0 ^b	5.6 ^{ab}	6.1 ^a	0.012
	potatoes	1.5	1.7	1.7	0.91
ODOUR	fatty fish	1.4 ^b	1.9 ^{ab}	2.9^{a}	0.02
	marine-iodine	2.4	2.5	2.6	0.88
	milky	2.1 ^{ab}	1.6 ^b	2.4^{a}	0.03
ASPECT	whiteness	5.4	4.8	4.6	0.25
	fatness	3.0	3.3	3.3	0.67
	intensity	5.2	5.1	5.2	0.99
	fatty fish	2.6	2.5	2.3	0.69
FLAVOUR	marine	2.4	2.8	3.4	0.08
	sweet	1.8	2.5	1.6	0.07
	acid	0.3	0.5	0.5	0.32
	bitter aftertaste	1.1	0.4	0.8	0.08
	firmness	5.7	5.8	5.9	0.82
TEXTURE	elasticity	3.8	4.3	4.1	0.39
IN	moisture	4.3	5.1	4.5	0.27
MOUTH	fat	2.9	2.4	2.1	0.13
	exudation	2.8	3.3	3.0	0.40
	sticky	2.4	2.5	2.9	0.35

Table 4. Sensory analyses of ventral fillets of turbot at the end of growth trial

Values in the same row with different superscripts are significantly different (P < 0.05).

	Experimental diets				
	FO	SO	LO		
РН	6.54 ± 0.03	6.53±0.02	6.51±0.02		
Maximal force (N/g)					
Dorsal superior	58.7 ± 2.4	52.8 ± 2.9	59.1±4.4		
Ventral superior	60.7 ± 2.9	56.1±3.8	59.1±4.2		
Dorsal inferior	63.5±4.3	55.4±3.9	66.6±5.6		
Ventral inferior	68.7±3.9	59.3±4.7	68.2 ± 2.9		

Table 5. pH and instrumental texture analyses of raw fillets of turbot at the end of growth trial

Values are means \pm standard deviation (n=6).

All values are not significantly different (P > 0.05).

		Ex	Experimental diets		
	Attributes	FO	FO (SO)	FO (LO)	P values
	intensity	5.6	6.1	5.7	0.28
	potatoes	3.0	3.3	2.4	0.13
ODOUR	fatty fish	2.6	2.8	2.0	0.09
	marine-iodine	3.4	3.2	3.4	0.81
	milky	3.4	2.4	3.0	0.09
ASPECT	whiteness	6.0	5.1	5.7	0.09
	fatness	3.7	4.0	3.4	0.09
	intensity	5.7	5.5	5.2	0.30
	fatty fish	2.7 ^a	2.2^{ab}	1.8 ^b	0.02
FLAVOUR	marine	4.0	4.3	4.2	0.65
	sweet	2.4	2.3	2.3	0.94
	acid	0.7	0.7	0.5	0.57
	bitter aftertaste	0.9	0.8	0.7	0.62
	firmness	5.0 ^b	6.0 ^a	5.7 ^{ab}	0.04
TEXTURE	elasticity	4.2	3.7	3.8	0.41
IN	moisture	4.8^{a}	3.1 ^b	4.2^{a}	0.0001
MOUTH	fat	2.9	3.0	2.6	0.28
	exudation	3.0	2.5	3.0	0.27
	sticky	2.6	2.9	2.9	0.66

Table 6. Sensory analyses of dorsal fillets of turbot at the end of finishing trial

Values in the same row with different superscripts are significantly different (P < 0.05).

		Ex	Experimental diets		
	Attributes	FO	FO (SO)	FO (LO)	P values
	intensity	5.7	5.6	5.6	0.99
	potatoes	3.5	2.4	3.1	0.08
ODOUR	fatty fish	2.6	2.7	2.3	0.73
	marine-iodine	3.5	3.4	3.6	0.86
	milky	2.9	2.6	3.3	0.24
ASPECT	whiteness	5.4	5.4	6.0	0.19
	fatness	3.8 ^a	3.3 ^a	2.5 ^b	0.005
	intensity	5.3	5.0	5.5	0.45
	fatty fish	2.8	2.5	2.9	0.50
FLAVOUR	marine	4.4	4.3	4.4	0.96
	sweet	2.2 ^b	2.5 ^{ab}	3.3 ^a	0.04
	acid	1.0	0.7	0.5	0.19
	bitter aftertaste	1.1	0.8	0.8	0.62
	firmness	5.0	5.3	5.0	0.65
TEXTURE	elasticity	3.7	3.9	3.4	0.35
IN	moisture	4.5	3.7	4.5	0.06
MOUTH	fat	2.8	2.9	2.9	0.95
	exudation	2.9	2.5	2.9	0.40
	sticky	3.3	3.1	2.7	0.39

Table 7. Sensory analyses of ventral fillets of turbot at the end of finishing trial

Values in the same row with different superscripts are significantly different (P < 0.05).