

# ASSESSMENT OF CURRENT UTILIZATIONS OF REST MATERIALS IN TRA CATFISH (*PANGASIUS HYPOPHTHALMUS*) PROCESSING INDUSTRY IN VIETNAM

*Nguyen Van Minh<sup>1</sup>*

## ABSTRACT

Tra catfish is one of the most important fresh water fish species in Vietnam. The aquaculture production of Tra catfish increased significantly during the last decade. In 2012, the production of Tra catfish was about 1.25 million metric tons with the exported value of US\$1.74 billion. Through September 2013, Vietnam exported US\$1.27 billion of Tra catfish products. The rest materials generated from Tra catfish processing industry account for about 60-65%, including heads, skin, viscera, cut-off and inedible portions. This study was conducted in order to assess the current utilizations of rest materials from Tra catfish processing industry. The results showed that most of the rest materials from Tra catfish processing industry are today used for fishmeal production. A small part of bladders and stomachs of fish is exported to China and Taiwan in forms of frozen products. In addition, the cut-off is now used for processing of sausage in combination with other meats and ingredients in some processing plants. Some studies have been carried out on utilization of rest materials for higher value products such as biodiesel, fish oil, collagen and gelatin. However, these researches were in laboratorial scales and it takes time to be scaled up to industrial scales. It is expected that Tra catfish producers should pay more attention on utilization of rest materials to produce value added products. This leads to increase the income for both Tra catfish farmers and producers.

**Keywords:** *Tra catfish, rest material, utilization*

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<sup>1</sup> Faculty of Food Technology, Nha Trang University  
Email: minhiceland@yahoo.com