

Article

Environmental Footprint of Inland Fisheries: Integrating LCA Analysis to Assess the Potential of Wastewater-Based Microalga Cultivation as a Promising Solution for Animal Feed Production

Antonio Zuorro ^{1,*}, Janet B. García-Martínez ², Andrés F. Barajas-Solano ², Adriana Rodríguez-Lizcano ³ and Viatcheslav Kafarov ⁴

¹ Department of Chemical Engineering, Materials, and Environment, Sapienza University, Via Eudossiana 18, 00184 Roma, Italy

² Department of Environmental Sciences, Universidad Francisco de Paula Santander, Av. Gran Colombia No. 12E-96, Cucuta 540003, Colombia; janetbibianagm@ufps.edu.co (J.B.G.-M.); andresfernandobs@ufps.edu.co (A.F.B.-S.)

³ Department of Civil Construction, Roads, and Transportation, Universidad Francisco de Paula Santander, Av. Gran Colombia No. 12E-96, Cucuta 540003, Colombia; adrianarodriguez@ufps.edu.co

⁴ Program of Chemical Engineering, Research Center for Sustainable Development in Industry and Energy, Universidad Industrial de Santander, Bucaramanga 680003, Colombia; kafarov@uis.edu.co

* Correspondence: antonio.zuorro@uniroma1.it

Abstract: This study evaluated the environmental impacts of producing 1 kg of biomass for animal feed grown in inland fisheries effluents as a culture medium using the ReCiPe method. Four scenarios with two downstream alternatives were modeled using the life cycle assessment method: Algal Life Feed (ALF), Algal Life Feed with Recycled nutrients (ALF+Rn), Pelletized Biomass (PB), and Pelletized Biomass with Recycled nutrients (PB+Rn). The findings reveal a substantial reduction in environmental impacts when wastewater is employed as a water source and nutrient reservoir. However, the eutrophication and toxicity-related categories reported the highest normalized impacts. ALF+Rn emerges as the most promising scenario due to its reduced energy consumption, highlighting the potential for further improvement through alternative energy sources in upstream and downstream processes. Therefore, liquid waste from fish production is a unique opportunity to implement strategies to reduce the emission of nutrients and pollutants by producing microalgae rich in various high-value-added metabolites.

Keywords: microalga; sustainable development; feed sustainability; fish production



Citation: Zuorro, A.; García-Martínez, J.B.; Barajas-Solano, A.F.; Rodríguez-Lizcano, A.; Kafarov, V. Environmental Footprint of Inland Fisheries: Integrating LCA Analysis to Assess the Potential of Wastewater-Based Microalga Cultivation as a Promising Solution for Animal Feed Production.

Processes **2023**, *11*, 3255. <https://doi.org/10.3390/pr11113255>

Academic Editors: Avelino Núñez-Delgado and Marcus Vinicius Tres

Received: 18 September 2023

Revised: 19 October 2023

Accepted: 17 November 2023

Published: 20 November 2023



Copyright: © 2023 by the authors. Licensee MDPI, Basel, Switzerland. This article is an open access article distributed under the terms and conditions of the Creative Commons Attribution (CC BY) license (<https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/>).

1. Introduction

Due to the increasing demand, sustainable animal food production has become a challenge for modern agriculture. Usually, conventional production methods are characterized by a considerable environmental footprint, significantly contributing to water pollution and greenhouse gas emissions [1]. In this case, aquaculture is the leading industry in the production of food and feed-based protein for the consumption of millions of people worldwide [2–4]. In the face of growing global challenges, the aquaculture industry must establish and adopt practices that satisfy the growing appetite for animal-based products and comply with local environmental regulations.

The new trends of sustainable production require new and novel forms of production, which have processes with less impact on the environment [5]. Under this idea, life cycle assessment (LCA) is considered one of the most effective tools for designing, redesigning, and implementing new products or services under an environmental sustainability approach [6–8]. This analysis allows for quantifying the different environmental impacts of the product life cycle (material extraction, transformation, use, and final disposal of the

product). This type of analysis makes it possible to identify the bottlenecks in a production chain [9].

Evaluating the sustainability of a product within a novel production system necessitates a standardized methodology underpinned by thoroughly validated assessments. This encompasses the comprehensive computation of all inbound factors, containing energy and resources, as well as the quantification of outbound elements, specifically emissions, for every stage of production [10]. Following the LCA guidelines delineated in ISO 14040:2006 and ISO 14044:2006 [11,12], these data streams serve as the foundation for constructing a virtual process model, which is subsequently transformed into a set of environmental impacts through mathematical modeling. LCA primarily emphasizes the processes within the Technosphere, which encompasses our economies and societies and their interactions with the surrounding environment. When considering the latter aspect, the impact of natural resource utilization is primarily measured by assessing the equilibrium between the affected and unaffected environmental components [13].

The environmental impacts of traditional fish production include the depletion of local fish populations, the destruction of aquatic habitats, and waterway contamination [14]. Furthermore, initial fish production, often reliant on wild-caught fish, exacerbates the impact on freshwater ecosystems [1]. These impacts are compounded using conventional animal food production methods, heavily dependent on fish meal and fish oil. Such production demands significant energy and water resources, contributing to problems like overfishing and bycatch. Additionally, fish meal and fish oil production generate substantial greenhouse gas emissions, further exacerbating climate change [15]. One potential solution to reduce the environmental impact of such industries is the cultivation of algae on wastewater from fish production [16]. This approach is emerging as a promising sustainable animal food production solution, offering numerous advantages over traditional fish production methods [17]. Firstly, using wastewater as a source of nutrients and water for microalgae cultivation can help conserve freshwater resources and reduce the environmental impact of wastewater discharge [18]. Secondly, some algae (including diatoms) are extensively cultured as a sustainable source of protein and fatty acids to produce fry. Moreover, microalgae can be cultivated using various wastewater, including municipal, industrial, and agricultural wastewater [19]. Thus, the implementation of this system not only reduces the environmental impact of traditional fish production and provides a sustainable solution for wastewater treatment [18].

The industrial production of microalgae and cyanobacteria has taken off worldwide recently [20–24]. This is due to a greater acceptance by different industries and end consumers for high-value-added products derived from renewable sources [25,26]. According to Araujo et al. [27], in the European Union alone, at the end of 2019, there were over 200 companies producing biomass from both microalgae and cyanobacteria for different industries such as cosmetics, pharmaceuticals, human food, feed and nutraceuticals. Large-scale production is separated into processes with associated input requirements (energy consumption, nutrients, fresh or sea water, and others). The most common processes are cultivation, dehydration, harvesting, drying, and further processing (extraction, stabilization, and packaging), which has an environmental footprint [28–32].

While cultivating microalgae from wastewater offers many environmental benefits, several challenges are associated with scaling up this technology for commercial use [19,33]. A significant challenge is the environmental impact of microalgae cultivation systems, particularly in terms of energy consumption and climate change [18]. Additionally, the technic and economic viability of this method compared to traditional animal food production methods is a critical consideration, since not all algal species can be produced under intensive conditions. Conducting an LCA investigation facilitates the identification of critical areas of concern within an algae production chain, pinpointing where issues may arise [34,35]. Adopting life cycle assessment (LCA) methodology within the algae industry has witnessed a growing prevalence, particularly in assessing products and services within the food and energy sector [14,36–42]. The LCA tool enables precise quantifica-

tion of environmental emissions, pinpointing vital aspects, contrasting processes, and appraising the potential for adopting innovative production methods in contrast to current alternatives [10].

According to an analysis of bibliographic production in the SCOPUS database (made in November 2023) using the following search query (TITLE-ABS-KEY (microalgae OR microalga AND life AND cycle AND assessment OR LCA), between 2001 and 2023, 585 papers were published (Figure 1). Of these, only 18 papers address the issue of LCA in microalgae production to partially replace feed in fish farming and aquaculture processes.

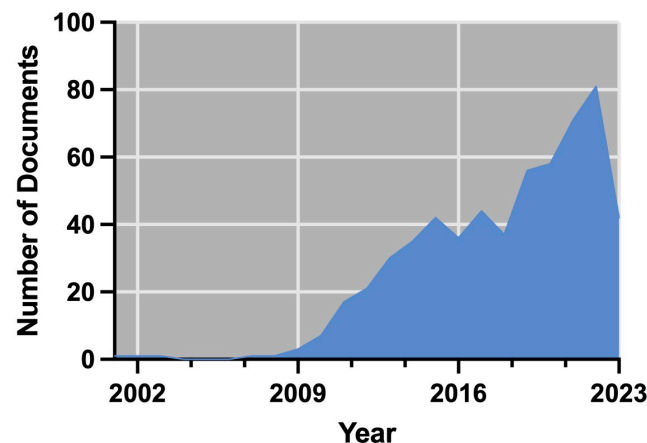


Figure 1. The number of papers published on LCA-based microalgal production.

According to the literature, most LCA studies applied to producing different microalgae products employ data obtained on a small scale [43–45]. Some of these papers focus on the production chain, evaluating the relationship between the raw material, its refining into high-value-added metabolites, and the energy required to achieve the above [18,46,47]. In contrast, others have focused on determining the impact of emissions of certain chemicals of environmental concern (such as NH_4 and N_2O) that are common during the upstream [48,49]. Although specific LCA investigations express optimism regarding the future potential and attractiveness of microalgae cultivation for primary uses, such as energy production [50,51], and as feedstock for other industrial services [52], others are more cautious in defining and constraining the role algal production may have in the future [35,49,53–55]. The main countries where LCA has been applied as an exciting tool to identify the sustainability of microalgal biotechnology are the United States, followed by China, Brazil, Italy, Germany, and others (Figure 2).

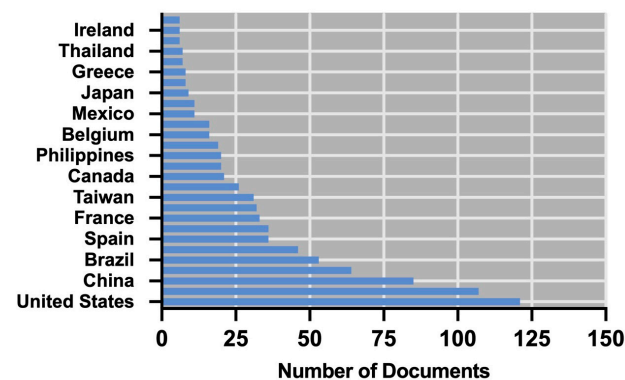


Figure 2. Number of papers by country.

So far, only eight papers can be found for the specific case of LCA applied to microalgae production as a sustainable alternative for partially substituting fish feed in fish farming

and aquaculture. Table 1 summarizes these papers, including their goal, functional unit, strain used, and country of origin.

Table 1. Summary of LCA studies related to algal production.

Goal	Functional Unit	Strain	Country	Reference
Assessment of the environmental impacts of algae-based bio-stimulants and aquaculture feed.	1 kg of dried biomass	n/a	Spain	[10]
Quantifying the environmental footprint of ω -3 oil from algae.	1 kg of ω -3 oil	<i>Schizochytrium</i> sp.	The Netherlands	[36]
Comparison of life cycle impacts between fish and algal oil for aquafeed.	1 kg of oil		United States	[37]
Assessment of the impact of fish oil substitute produced by algae.	1 ton of DHA oil	<i>Cryptocodinium cohnii</i>	Germany	[14]
Environmental impact assessment of the algae at the industrial scale for food production.	1 kg of dried biomass	<i>Nannochloropsis</i> sp.		[38]
Using LCA, compare a set of protein sources (including algae) as substitutes for fishmeal.	1 ton of crude protein	<i>Tisochrysis lutea</i>	Italy	[39]
Large-scale production of algae.	1 kg of dried biomass	<i>Tetraselmis suecica</i>	France	[40]
Analyze the feasibility of linking an FMFO facility and an algae production plant.	Algae-based flour (ton/h)	<i>Scenedesmus almeriensis</i>	Argentina	[41]

Considering the above, this work evaluates the environmental impacts of producing 1 kg of biomass for animal feed in fish farming, cultivated in fish farming effluents as a culture medium, for which four scenarios with two downstream alternatives were modeled using the LCA methodology.

2. Materials and Methods

2.1. Goal and Scope Definition

This work aims to model the environmental impact of 1 kg of microalgal biomass production using post-culture wastewater from inland fish farming as a sustainable alternative for feed generation for fish farming.

2.2. Functional Unit

The functional unit (FU) used is 1 kg of processed biomass under four scenarios in Figure 3, Pelletized Biomass (PB) (Figure 3a), Algal Life Feed (ALF) (Figure 3b), Pelletized Biomass with Recycled nutrients (PB+Rn) (Figure 3c), and Algal Life Feed with Recycled nutrients (ALF+Rn) (Figure 3d). The system boundaries included “gate to gate”, starting from the inoculation and bioaugmentation of the algae, followed by their production in raceway reactors and their harvesting and packing (Figure 3).

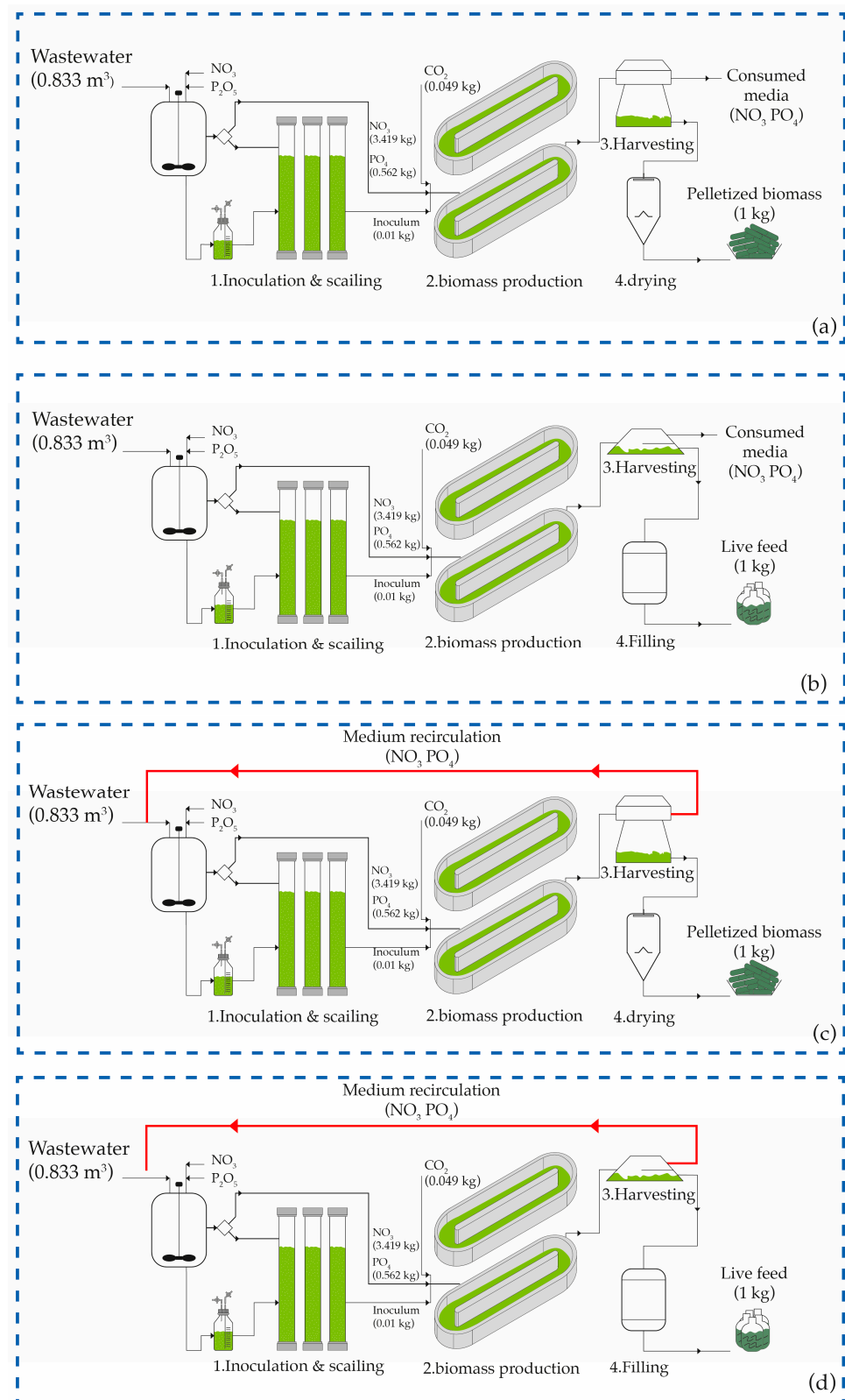


Figure 3. Scenarios evaluated in LCA, Pelletized Biomass (a), Algal Life Feed (b), Pelletized Biomass with Recycled nutrients (c), and Algal Life Feed with Recycled nutrients (d).

2.3. Production Process

The alga used in this study is a strain of *Chlorella* sp. (CHLO_UFPS010), previously isolated in another study [32]. The biomass production kinetics, NO₃⁻ and PO₄⁻ consump-

tion kinetics were obtained from García-Martínez et al. [32] and the data on CO₂ removal, energy consumption, mass transfer, and wastewater were obtained from García-Martínez et al. [31].

2.4. Life Cycle Impact Assessment

The Life Cycle Inventory Assessment (LCIA) developed considers all foreground system processes. The primary data (inputs and outputs) were experimentally obtained from pilot-scale scenarios. The secondary data were obtained from the Ecoinvent database [56]. The LCIA analysis considered one year of plant operation. The LCIA data and the assessment model were compiled using SimaPro[®] software (version 9.4). The ReCiPe 2016 midpoint technique (hierarchical approach) [57], which focuses on environmental concerns, was used to quantify potential environmental consequences and is the best method for this study. The categories evaluated were freshwater eutrophication, global warming, stratospheric ozone depletion, terrestrial ecotoxicity, human carcinogenic toxicity, marine eutrophication, marine ecotoxicity, shortage of fossil resources, water consumption, and freshwater ecotoxicity. These classifications are suitable for the study and have been used in other microalgae biomass studies [18,58]. Additionally, neither scenario considered long-term emissions.

2.5. Data Normalization

The normalization involves dividing the characterized results by an estimate of the total emissions or per capita equivalent emissions associated with a specific geographical region. In LCIA (Life Cycle Impact Assessment) methods, there are provisions to normalize midpoint characterized results using external references. In this case, the ReCiPe midpoint H method offers European and World normalization references. These references enable the comparison of results based on estimates of annual per capita emissions in either the European or global context.

$$NI_{a,i} = \frac{CI_{a,i}}{NR_i} \quad (1)$$

where:

$NI_{a,i}$ represents the yearly normalized impact of alternative a within impact category i .

$CI_{a,i}$ denotes the characterized impact of alternative a within impact category i .

NR_i serves as the normalization reference for a particular geographical region concerning impact category i , expressed in physical units (per year), aligning with the characterized impact $CI_{a,i}$.

2.6. ReCiPe Endpoint

The ReCiPe Endpoint (H) assessed three categories: human health, ecosystems, and resources. These categories are derived from midpoint indicators. This assessment provides a more straightforward understanding and a complete picture of the environmental impacts of the process [59–62].

3. Results

3.1. Life-Cycle Inventory

The four scenarios analyzed for the life cycle inventory are presented in Figure 3. The first part summarizes the processes for the inoculation, production, and harvesting of Algal Life Feed (ALF) (Figure 3a) and Pelletized Biomass (PB) (Figure 3b). The second part of the figure summarizes the proposed scenarios: Algal Life Feed with Recycled nutrients (ALF+Rn) (Figure 3c) and Pelletized Biomass with Recycled nutrients (PB+Rn) (Figure 3d). At the end of biomass production, two main output streams will be produced: microalgal biomass (solid) and a post-culture medium (or wastewater); each of these streams can be considered as co-product, which considers them responsible for the environmental impacts produced. To avoid assigning these impacts, the system boundary was expanded [63,64] by ISO 14040. By expanding the boundary, the multifunctional system is treated as mono-

functional [53]; therefore, as the microalgal biomass is the main target of the process, the utilization of wastewater from the whole system is considered as a way to reduce the impact of producing the algal biomass. In the case were wastewater is not used as a source of nutrients, the culture media must be enriched with industrial-grade fertilizers, which will add the required N and P to allow a proper algal growth. Therefore, N and P assimilated by microalgae and transformed into biomass and metabolites of interest were considered avoided products [63–65].

3.2. Impact Evaluation

The analysis of the different environmental impacts assessed for the four proposed scenarios is presented in Figure 4. The ten categories considered were freshwater ecotoxicity (kg 1,4-DCB), terrestrial ecotoxicity (kg 1,4-DCB), freshwater eutrophication (kg P eq), global warming (kg CO₂ eq), fossil resource scarcity (kg oil eq), marine ecotoxicity (kg 1,4-DCB), stratospheric ozone depletion (kg CFC11 eq), marine eutrophication (kg N eq), water consumption (m³), and human carcinogenic toxicity (kg 1,4-DCB). These categories have been widely used to analyze the impact of both algae and fish production systems [18,38,55,58]. The results obtained show the contribution of sodium nitrate (NaNO₃) in freshwater ecotoxicity (0.009 kg 11,4-DCB), marine eutrophication (0.01271 kg N eq), ozone depletion (0.0001309 kg CFC11 eq), global warming (15.29 kg CO₂), terrestrial ecotoxicity (55.334 kg 1,4-DCB), marine ecotoxicity (0.0396 kg 11, 4-DCB), scarcity of fossil resources (2.7054 kg oil eq), and carcinogenic toxicity in humans (0.1448 kg 11,4-DCB) for both Life Feed and Pelletized Biomass systems. In these systems, NaNO₃ is supplied as a nutrient required for the correct growth of algal biomass to enrich the fish farming wastewater used as a culture medium. However, NO₃⁻ enhances the proliferation of hazardous microorganisms, which increases the risk of eutrophication in water bodies [66]. This shows the adverse effect of this component on the environment and the need to look for alternatives, such as using nitrate-rich waste components from the same fish farming system or other waste sources.

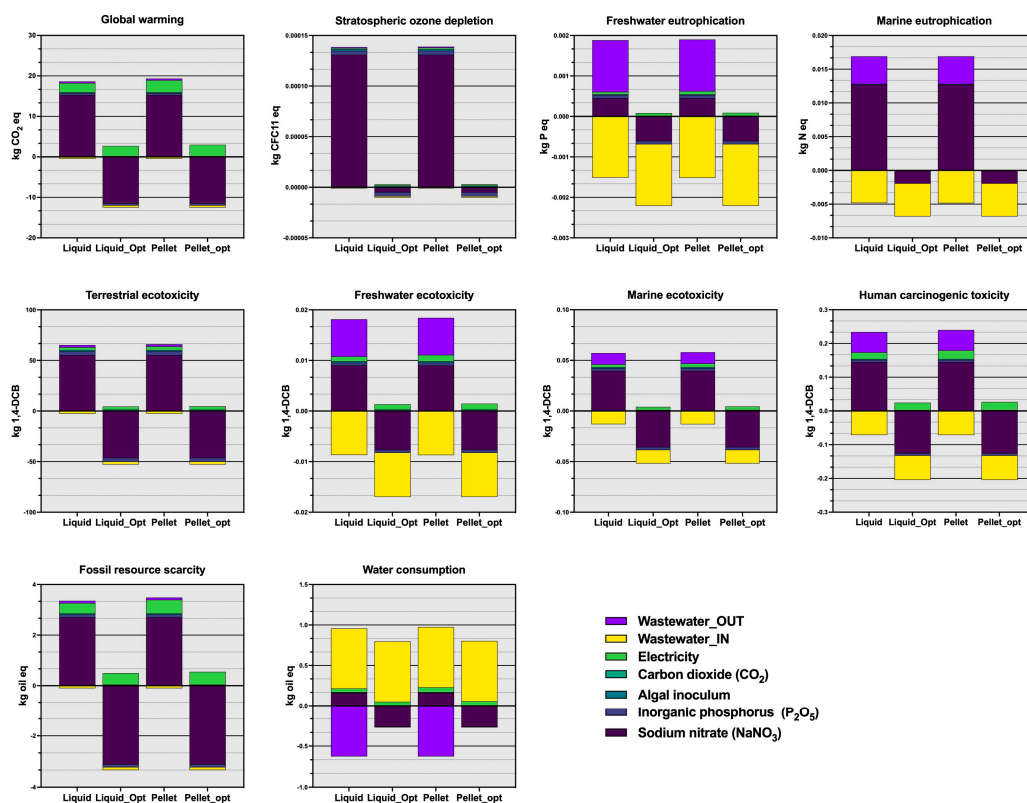


Figure 4. Assessment of environmental impacts.

3.3. Normalization

The normalization of the ten categories is shown in Figure 5, as these categories were expressed in different reference units. Normalization is an essential component of life cycle assessment (LCA), a methodology commonly employed in environmental and sustainability analysis. This step serves to enhance the interpretability and comparability of LCA results. Normalization aims to provide a reference point for the results obtained in LCA. It helps stakeholders understand the significance of impact category indicators by placing them in a common, easily interpretable context. This methodology establishes a reference, often a unit or a benchmark, against which the impact category indicator results are measured. By using normalization, impact category indicators with differing units, scales, and magnitudes become comparable. This facilitates straightforward comparisons between different environmental impacts [67]. ISO 14040 and ISO 14044 are international standards that provide guidelines for conducting LCA studies. They are widely used to ensure consistency and quality in LCA methodologies. Normalization in LCA help make the results more understandable and relevant to decision-makers. Normalization enables comparability by providing a common reference.

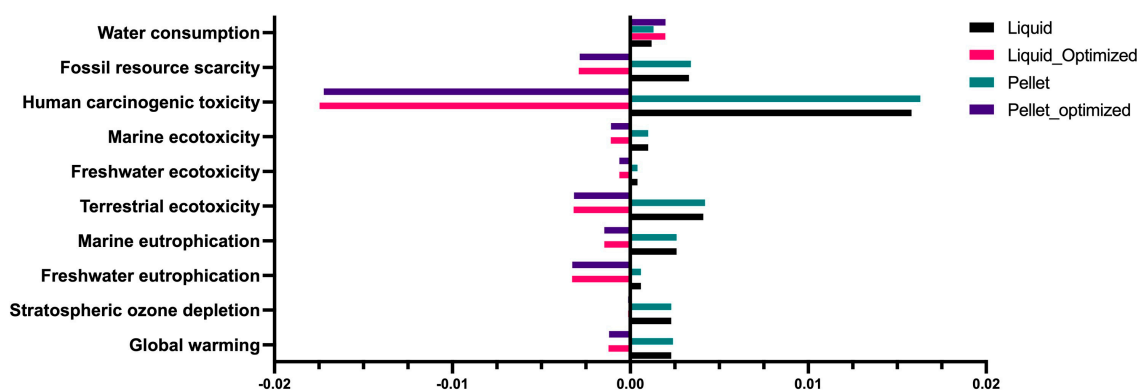


Figure 5. Normalization of environmental impacts.

Each of the scenarios studied has significantly high contributions in the different categories. Both scenarios have significant contributions in various categories, and it is essential to know which of them causes the most pressure on the environment; it should be noted that a negative value indicates little or no environmental impact. For the optimized scenarios, all impact categories report a negative value except for water consumption, which suggests that most of the categories in the optimized scenarios have little or no environmental impact. The latter occurs even though wastewater is used in the process; this also implies water resource use and, therefore, this impact is reported to the system.

3.4. ReCiPe Endpoint

Figure 6 presents the results for the ReCiPe endpoint method, in which it is possible to describe the influence by impact category of each of the midpoint indicators that end up impacting the endpoint categories. Both “Global Warming” and the formation of fine particles have a contribution that exceeds 80% towards Human Health in the non-optimized scenarios. In contrast, these impacts are presented in negative values in the optimized processes, indicating a lower impact assessment. This supports the sound decision of the optimization process. Another relevant impact category in human health measurement focuses on water consumption. Although the cultivation system is oriented to the use of fish wastewater, it is identified that water consumption still generates a weight in the evaluated impact, influenced by the service and availability of this resource. One metric worth mentioning the Disability-Adjusted Life Years (DALYs), which include the effects of mortality and morbidity and are an essential public health indicator used to measure disease burden. It thoroughly assesses the state of health within a population by measuring the total disease burden by considering the years of life lost to early death and the years

lived with disability. DALYs provide a standard method for comparing the effects of different illnesses or ailments since they consider death and non-fatal consequences. In this case, the higher impacts can be found under the processes without wastewater recirculation (Pellet and Liquid).

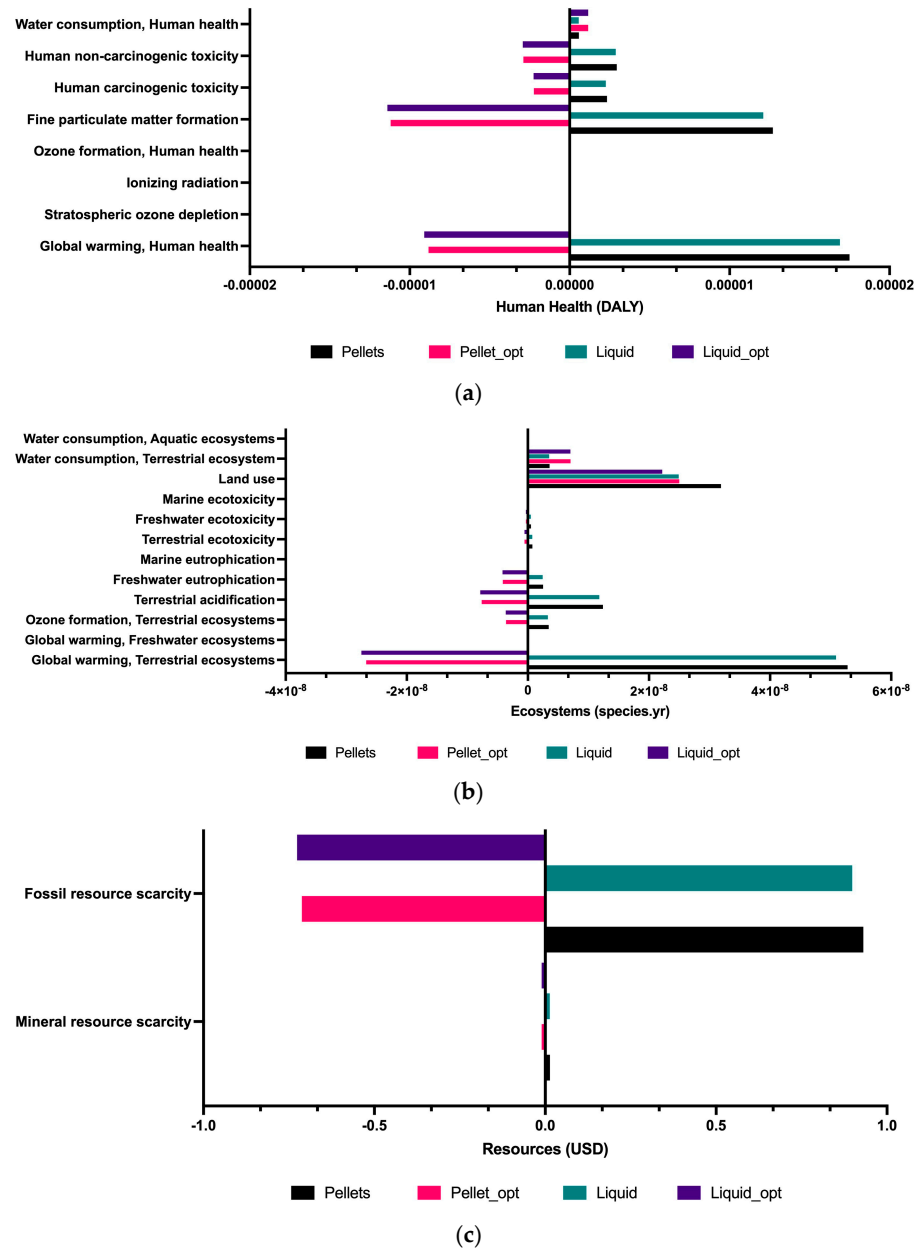


Figure 6. ReCiPe endpoint for human health (a), ecosystem (b), and resources (c).

Regarding the “Ecosystem” endpoint category, it is crucial to highlight the impacts derived from global warming, with approximately 50% contribution in the non-optimized scenarios, and land use, with a contribution between 25% and 30% for the Pellet and liquid scenarios, respectively. These phenomena have significant consequences on the health and stability of ecosystems, underscoring the importance of addressing these problems comprehensively. In the case of the land use category, evaluated in the resource indicator, a considerable impact is observed in all the scenarios analyzed, mainly associated with the land extension needed for the implementation of microalgae crops required for the cultivation of the algae in question. This aspect is of utmost relevance since the allocation of extensive areas for such crops can directly affect the availability of land for other

purposes and the preservation of natural ecosystems. In addition, resources were also affected, following the same trend, primarily due to the energy needs of the cultivation phase and the use of nutrients, specifically sodium nitrate. Notably, the Colombian energetic matrix mainly comprises electricity generated by hydroelectric plants, a source of energy commonly considered clean. However, it is imperative to recognize that this perception does not imply that it lacks significant contributions to the impacts assessed. An example of this is evidenced in the context of global warming, explicitly concerning methane (CH₄) and carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions from biogenic carbon degradation in hydropower reservoirs [68]. Research indicates that global average emissions associated with hydropower generation are around 85 gCO₂/kWh and three gCH₄/kWh. Notably, greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from hydropower could be significantly reduced by refraining from building hydropower plants that require high land use per unit of electricity generated [69]. This finding underscores the importance of comprehensively considering the environmental impacts of energy sources, even those traditionally recognized as clean. Accurate assessment of greenhouse gas emissions associated with hydropower generation helps to inform energy decisions and guide efforts more fully toward solutions that minimize the environmental impacts of climate change.

4. Discussion

LCA can provide valuable information about algal production's potential environmental benefits and disadvantages of using wastewater as culture media [18]. Several LCA studies have shown that microalgae cultivation can have a reduced environmental footprint compared to traditional animal food production methods. For example, cultivating microalgae from wastewater could be integrated with other agricultural practices, such as aquaponics, to create a closed-loop system that reduces waste and improves resource efficiency [14,70] while producing new raw materials that can be used within the aquaponics production facility as plant fertilizer or bio-stimulants. Another significant environmental challenge relates to greenhouse gas emissions. While microalgae have the potential to capture carbon dioxide during their growth, they also generate emissions during their processing and conversion into final products. Evaluating and reducing these emissions such as CO₂, N₂, and others is essential to ensure that microalgae are a sustainable alternative to reduce the initial environmental impact of the production chain.

According to the literature, over the years, the focus of the application of microalgal biomass has shifted significantly. Some studies have focused on the sustainability of algal-based feed produced on wastewater [14,37,54]. In contrast, others have analyzed the generation of multiple value-added components, including protein for animal feed [10,55], and various studies focused solely on algae-based algae for partial or total substitution in animal feed, especially in fish farming [41,56].

One of the main problems in the sustainable usage of inland fisheries wastewater is its low nitrogen concentration (especially nitrate) and phosphate (orthophosphate) bio-available to produce large concentrations of algal biomass [31,32]. Therefore, there is a chance that the extra addition of NO₃⁻ and PO₄⁻ into the production system may be found in the exhausted media, which, in turn, can contribute directly to freshwater eutrophication and marine eutrophication indicators, generating a high pollution load to the system under assessment (Figure 4). In the optimized scenarios for Pelletized Biomass (Figure 3c) and live feed (Figure 3d), the recirculation of the exhausted media into the system reduces the concentration of NO₃⁻ and PO₄⁻ up to 96% (*w/w*), significantly reducing the environmental impact. According to Thielemann et al. [71], cultivating red algae in heterotrophic systems combined with recirculating the consumed culture medium presents a crucial opportunity to contribute to mitigating environmental impacts while improving the consumption of critical resources. Therefore, producing microalgal biomass in wastewater can significantly enhance the economic and sustainability aspects of producing high-value metabolites by decreasing the demand for external nutrient inputs and reducing the freshwater footprint [72]. When comparing the systems for producing

microalgae biomass from fish farming wastewater, it can be identified that nutrient reuse had the lowest environmental impacts for the categories mentioned above. These results are like those reported by Nasir et al. [73], where all the evaluated scenarios that added algal biomass into the feedstock presented negative values for the eutrophication categories, including freshwater and marine eutrophication.

Similarly, Mu et al. [74] obtained negative values for eutrophication (-0.052 kg N-eq/km vehicle transport) when producing algal biomass for energy purposes (fuels from pyrolytic processes). The above establishes that algal biomass produced using wastewater is a critical player in the sustained reduction of eutrophication impacts (especially N and P nutrients) from waste effluents. Another significant aspect is evaluating the water resource and the necessary adjustment for its reuse within the process. The input water (wastewater_IN) and the process output water (wastewater_OUT) were evaluated, and the impacts that these generate for the scenarios proposed. Figure 4 shows the effects of these flows, highlighting the negative values for the input water, both for the liquid and pellet systems as well as for the optimized version, specifically in freshwater and marine eutrophication, human carcinogenic toxicity, and freshwater and marine ecotoxicity due to the use of wastewater and its removal from the environment. Similar studies found that mineral resource scarcity, stratospheric ozone depletion, and water consumption categories were favored due to the reduction in clean water and fertilizers for algal growth, which reduced the overall impacts of the process [75].

On the other hand, Schneider et al. [76] compared the impact between wastewater and a synthetic culture medium (NPK) on microalgae growth, where the scenario that used wastewater had a lesser impact in 17 out of 18 categories analyzed. Similarly, Raghuvanshi et al. [77] compared the production of algal-based biodiesel between clean and wastewater, finding lower environmental impacts when wastewater was used. It should be noted that wastewater treatment has a high impact but cannot be avoided; therefore, the different negative impacts should be reduced through water reuse, energy production, and nutrient recovery [78]. As the demand for sustainable animal food production increases, the economic viability of cultivating microalgae from wastewater is likely to improve. Furthermore, expanding the cultivation of microalgae from wastewater to reduce the environmental footprint of animal food production on a larger scale presents opportunities for innovation and collaboration. It can be identified that for the four scenarios evaluated, the liquid and pellet systems show adverse environmental effects in all impact categories, especially carcinogenic toxicity in humans, while the liquid-optimized and pellet-optimized systems offer positive effects, which allows selecting these scenarios as the ones with the minor adverse impact on the environment. Thus, it is understood that using fish farming wastewater becomes a fundamental element that improves the production process of microalgal biomass and has a positive impact on fish farming systems, generating a sustainable process framed within a circular economy.

5. Conclusions

The life cycle analysis carried out identified that the addition of NaNO_3 into the wastewater is the component that generates the most pressure on the environment in both liquid and pellet systems. However, recirculating the liquid waste reduces the impacts in both liquid and pellet optimized scenarios. Future studies should focus on alternatives to improve the concentration of critical nutrients in the wastewater to maximize biomass production without affecting the environmental impact of the proposed process.

Author Contributions: Conceptualization, J.B.G.-M. and A.Z.; methodology, A.R.-L. and V.K.; software, A.F.B.-S. and J.B.G.-M.; validation, A.Z. and A.R.-L.; formal analysis, J.B.G.-M., A.Z. and A.F.B.-S.; investigation, J.B.G.-M.; resources, A.F.B.-S. and V.K.; data curation, A.Z. and A.R.-L.; writing—original draft preparation, A.F.B.-S. and J.B.G.-M.; writing—review and editing, J.B.G.-M. and A.Z.; visualization, A.F.B.-S.; supervision, A.R.-L.; project administration, J.B.G.-M.; funding acquisition, A.F.B.-S. and A.Z. All authors have read and agreed to the published version of the manuscript.

Funding: This paper was supported by Universidad Francisco de Paula Santander with the project FINU 016-2022. Sapienza also funded it for Academic Mid Projects 2021 n. RM12117A8B58023A.

Institutional Review Board Statement: Not applicable.

Informed Consent Statement: Not applicable.

Data Availability Statement: Data are contained within the article.

Acknowledgments: We would like to express our sincere gratitude to Sapienza University of Rome (Italy) and Universidad Francisco de Paula Santander (Colombia). We also thank the Colombian Ministry of Science, Technology, and Innovation MINCIENCIAS.

Conflicts of Interest: The authors declare no conflict of interest.

Nomenclature

LCA	Life Cycle Assessment
ALF	Algal Life Feed
ALF+Rn	Algal Life Feed with Recycled nutrients
PB	Pelletized Biomass
PB+Rn	Pelletized Biomass with Recycled nutrients
LCIA	Life Cycle Inventory Assessment
kg 1,4-DCB	kg 1,4 dichlorobenzene
kg CO ₂ eq	kg of carbon dioxide
kg oil eq	kg of oil
kg N eq	kg of Nitrogen
kg P eq	kg of Phosphate
kg CFC11 eq	Kg of fluorocarbonate

References

1. Carballeira Braña, C.B.; Cerbule, K.; Senff, P.; Stolz, I.K. Towards Environmental Sustainability in Marine Finfish Aquaculture. *Front. Mar. Sci.* **2021**, *8*, 666662. [[CrossRef](#)]
2. Rossignoli, C.M.; Manyise, T.; Shikuku, K.M.; Nasr-Allah, A.M.; Dompok, E.B.; Henriksson, P.J.G.; Lam, R.D.; Lozano Lazo, D.; Tran, N.; Roem, A.; et al. Tilapia Aquaculture Systems in Egypt: Characteristics, Sustainability Outcomes and Entry Points for Sustainable Aquatic Food Systems. *Aquaculture* **2023**, *577*, 739952. [[CrossRef](#)]
3. Kibria, G. Impacts of Microplastic on Fisheries and Seafood Security—Global Analysis and Synthesis. *Sci. Total Environ.* **2023**, *904*, 166652. [[CrossRef](#)] [[PubMed](#)]
4. Zhang, J.; Akyol, Ç.; Meers, E. Nutrient Recovery and Recycling from Fishery Waste and By-Products. *J. Environ. Manag.* **2023**, *348*, 119266. [[CrossRef](#)]
5. Sarasini, F.; Tirillò, J.; Zuorro, A.; Maffei, G.; Lavecchia, R.; Puglia, D.; Dominici, F.; Luzi, F.; Valente, T.; Torre, L. Recycling Coffee Silverskin in Sustainable Composites Based on a Poly(Butylene Adipate-Co-Terephthalate)/Poly(3-Hydroxybutyrate-Co-3-Hydroxyvalerate) Matrix. *Ind. Crops Prod.* **2018**, *118*, 311–320. [[CrossRef](#)]
6. Degieter, M.; Gellynck, X.; Goyal, S.; Ott, D.; De Steur, H. Life Cycle Cost Analysis of Agri-Food Products: A Systematic Review. *Sci. Total Environ.* **2022**, *850*, 158012. [[CrossRef](#)]
7. Ubando, A.T.; Anderson, S.; Ng, E.; Chen, W.-H.; Culaba, A.B.; Kwon, E.E. Life Cycle Assessment of Microalgal Biorefinery: A State-of-the-Art Review. *Bioresour. Technol.* **2022**, *360*, 127615. [[CrossRef](#)]
8. Kumar, B.; Verma, P. Life Cycle Assessment: Blazing a Trail for Bioresources Management. *Energy Convers. Manag. X* **2021**, *10*, 100063. [[CrossRef](#)]
9. Magalhães, I.B.; Ferreira, J.; de Siqueira Castro, J.; de Assis, L.R.; Calijuri, M.L. Agro-Industrial Wastewater-Grown Microalgae: A Techno-Environmental Assessment of Open and Closed Systems. *Sci. Total Environ.* **2022**, *834*, 155282. [[CrossRef](#)]
10. Herrera, A.; D'Imporzano, G.; Acien Fernandez, F.G.; Adani, F. Sustainable Production of Microalgae in Raceways: Nutrients and Water Management as Key Factors Influencing Environmental Impacts. *J. Clean. Prod.* **2021**, *287*, 125005. [[CrossRef](#)]
11. ISO 14040:2006; Environmental Management—Life Cycle Assessment—Principles and Framework. International Organization for Standardization: Geneva, Switzerland, 2006.
12. ISO 14044:2006; Environmental Management—Life Cycle Assessment—Requirements and Guidelines. International Organization for Standardization: Geneva, Switzerland, 2006.
13. Maiolo, S.; Cristiano, S.; Gonella, F.; Pastres, R. Ecological Sustainability of Aquafeed: An Emergy Assessment of Novel or Underexploited Ingredients. *J. Clean. Prod.* **2021**, *294*, 126266. [[CrossRef](#)]
14. Bartek, L.; Strid, I.; Henryson, K.; Junne, S.; Rasi, S.; Eriksson, M. Life Cycle Assessment of Fish Oil Substitute Produced by Microalgae Using Food Waste. *Sustain. Prod. Consum.* **2021**, *27*, 2002–2021. [[CrossRef](#)]

15. Kashem, A.H.M.; Das, P.; Hawari, A.H.; Mehariya, S.; Thaher, M.I.; Khan, S.; Abduquadir, M.; Al-Jabri, H. Aquaculture from Inland Fish Cultivation to Wastewater Treatment: A Review. *Rev. Environ. Sci. Bio/Technol.* **2023**, *22*, 969–1008. [[CrossRef](#)]
16. Gurreri, L.; Calanni Rindina, M.; Luciano, A.; Lima, S.; Scargiali, F.; Fino, D.; Mancini, G. Environmental Sustainability of Microalgae-Based Production Systems: Roadmap and Challenges towards the Industrial Implementation. *Sustain. Chem. Pharm.* **2023**, *35*, 101191. [[CrossRef](#)]
17. Jayaseelan, M.; Usman, M.; Somanathan, A.; Palani, S.; Muniappan, G.; Jeyakumar, R.B. Microalgal Production of Biofuels Integrated with Wastewater Treatment. *Sustainability* **2021**, *13*, 8797. [[CrossRef](#)]
18. Arashiro, L.T.; Josa, I.; Ferrer, I.; Van Hulle, S.W.H.; Rousseau, D.P.L.; Garfi, M. Life Cycle Assessment of Microalgae Systems for Wastewater Treatment and Bioproducts Recovery: Natural Pigments, Biofertilizer and Biogas. *Sci. Total Environ.* **2022**, *847*, 157615. [[CrossRef](#)] [[PubMed](#)]
19. Wimmerova, L.; Keken, Z.; Solcova, O.; Vavrova, K. A Comparative Analysis of Environmental Impacts of Operational Phases of Three Selected Microalgal Cultivation Systems. *Sustainability* **2022**, *15*, 769. [[CrossRef](#)]
20. Zuorro, A.; García-Martínez, J.B.; Barajas-Solano, A.F. The Application of Catalytic Processes on the Production of Algae-Based Biofuels: A Review. *Catalysts* **2021**, *11*, 22. [[CrossRef](#)]
21. García-Martínez, J.B.; Ayala-Torres, E.; Reyes-Gómez, O.; Zuorro, A.; Andrés, F.; Barajas-Solano, B.; Crisóstomo, C.; Barajas-Ferreira, B. Evaluation of a Two-Phase Extraction System of Carbohydrates and Proteins from *Chlorella Vulgaris* UTEX 1803. *Chem. Eng. Trans.* **2016**, *49*, 355–360. [[CrossRef](#)]
22. Jankowska, E.; Sahu, A.K.; Oleskowicz-Popiel, P. Biogas from Microalgae: Review on Microalgae's Cultivation, Harvesting and Pretreatment for Anaerobic Digestion. *Renew. Sustain. Energy Rev.* **2017**, *75*, 692–709. [[CrossRef](#)]
23. Sakarika, M.; Koutra, E.; Tsafrakidou, P.; Terpou, A.; Kornaros, M. *Microalgae-Based Remediation of Wastewaters*; Elsevier Inc.: Amsterdam, The Netherlands, 2020; ISBN 9780128175361.
24. Chen, C.-Y.; Zhao, X.-Q.; Yen, H.-W.; Ho, S.-H.; Cheng, C.-L.; Lee, D.-J.; Bai, F.-W.; Chang, J.-S. Microalgae-Based Carbohydrates for Biofuel Production. *Biochem. Eng. J.* **2013**, *78*, 1–10. [[CrossRef](#)]
25. Zuorro, A.; Leal-Jerez, A.G.; Morales-Rivas, L.K.; Mogollón-Londoño, S.O.; Sanchez-Galvis, E.M.; García-Martínez, J.B.; Barajas-Solano, A.F. Enhancement of Phycobiliprotein Accumulation in Thermotolerant *Oscillatoria* Sp. through Media Optimization. *ACS Omega* **2021**, *6*, 10527–10536. [[CrossRef](#)] [[PubMed](#)]
26. Zuorro, A.; Malavasi, V.; Cao, G.; Lavecchia, R. Use of Cell Wall Degrading Enzymes to Improve the Recovery of Lipids from *Chlorella Sorokiniana*. *Chem. Eng. J.* **2019**, *377*, 120325. [[CrossRef](#)]
27. Araújo, R.; Vázquez Calderón, F.; Sánchez López, J.; Azevedo, I.C.; Bruhn, A.; Fluch, S.; Garcia Tasende, M.; Ghaderiardakani, F.; Ilmjärvi, T.; Laurans, M.; et al. Current Status of the Algae Production Industry in Europe: An Emerging Sector of the Blue Bioeconomy. *Front. Mar. Sci.* **2021**, *7*, 626389. [[CrossRef](#)]
28. Chia, S.R.; Chew, K.W.; Leong, H.Y.; Ho, S.-H.; Munawaroh, H.S.H.; Show, P.L. CO₂ Mitigation and Phycoremediation of Industrial Flue Gas and Wastewater via Microalgae-Bacteria Consortium: Possibilities and Challenges. *Chem. Eng. J.* **2021**, *425*, 131436. [[CrossRef](#)]
29. Mehariya, S.; Goswami, R.K.; Verma, P.; Lavecchia, R.; Zuorro, A. Integrated Approach for Wastewater Treatment and Biofuel Production in Microalgae Biorefineries. *Energies* **2021**, *14*, 2282. [[CrossRef](#)]
30. Rani, A.; Saini, K.; Bast, F.; Mehariya, S.; Bhatia, S.; Lavecchia, R.; Zuorro, A. Microorganisms: A Potential Source of Bioactive Molecules for Antioxidant Applications. *Molecules* **2021**, *26*, 1142. [[CrossRef](#)]
31. García-Martínez, J.B.; Contreras-Ropero, J.E.; Urbina-Suarez, N.A.; López-Barrera, G.L.; Barajas-Solano, A.F.; Kafarov, V.; Barajas-Ferreira, C.; Ibarra-Mojica, D.M.; Zuorro, A. A Simulation Analysis of a Microalgal-Production Plant for the Transformation of Inland-Fisheries Wastewater in Sustainable Feed. *Water* **2022**, *14*, 250. [[CrossRef](#)]
32. García-Martínez, J.B.; Sanchez-Tobos, L.P.; Carvajal-Albarracín, N.A.; Barajas-Solano, A.F.; Barajas-Ferreira, C.; Kafarov, V.; Zuorro, A. The Circular Economy Approach to Improving CNP Ratio in Inland Fishery Wastewater for Increasing Algal Biomass Production. *Water* **2022**, *14*, 749. [[CrossRef](#)]
33. Tan, Y.H.; Chai, M.K.; Na, J.Y.; Wong, L.S. Microalgal Growth and Nutrient Removal Efficiency in Non-Sterilised Primary Domestic Wastewater. *Sustainability* **2023**, *15*, 6601. [[CrossRef](#)]
34. Urbina-Suarez, N.A.; Barajas-Solano, A.F.; Garcia-Martinez, J.B.; Lopez-Barrera, G.L.; González-Delgado, A.D. Prospects for Using Wastewater from a Farm for Algae Cultivation: The Case of Eastern Colombia. *J. Water Land Dev.* **2022**, 172–179. [[CrossRef](#)]
35. Yadav, G.; Dubey, B.K.; Sen, R. A Comparative Life Cycle Assessment of Microalgae Production by CO₂ Sequestration from Flue Gas in Outdoor Raceway Ponds under Batch and Semi-Continuous Regime. *J. Clean. Prod.* **2020**, *258*, 120703. [[CrossRef](#)]
36. Davis, D.; Morão, A.; Johnson, J.K.; Shen, L. Life Cycle Assessment of Heterotrophic Algae Omega-3. *Algal Res.* **2021**, *60*, 102494. [[CrossRef](#)]
37. McKuin, B.L.; Kapuscinski, A.R.; Sarker, P.K.; Cheek, N.; Colwell, A.; Schoffstall, B.; Greenwood, C. Comparative Life Cycle Assessment of Heterotrophic Microalgae Schizochytrium and Fish Oil in Sustainable Aquaculture Feeds. *Elem. Sci. Anthr.* **2022**, *10*, 98. [[CrossRef](#)]
38. Schade, S.; Meier, T. Distinct Microalgae Species for Food—Part 1: A Methodological (Top-down) Approach for the Life Cycle Assessment of Microalgae Cultivation in Tubular Photobioreactors. *J. Appl. Phycol.* **2020**, *32*, 2977–2995. [[CrossRef](#)]
39. Maiolo, S.; Parisi, G.; Biondi, N.; Lunelli, F.; Tibaldi, E.; Pastres, R. Fishmeal Partial Substitution within Aquafeed Formulations: Life Cycle Assessment of Four Alternative Protein Sources. *Int. J. Life Cycle Assess.* **2020**, *25*, 1455–1471. [[CrossRef](#)]

40. Morales, M.; Bonnefond, H.; Bernard, O. Rotating Algal Biofilm versus Planktonic Cultivation: LCA Perspective. *J. Clean. Prod.* **2020**, *257*, 120547. [[CrossRef](#)]
41. Rodríguez, P.D.; Arce Bastias, F.; Arena, A.P. Modeling and Environmental Evaluation of a System Linking a Fishmeal Facility with a Microalgae Plant within a Circular Economy Context. *Sustain. Prod. Consum.* **2019**, *20*, 356–364. [[CrossRef](#)]
42. Castellanos-Estupinan, M.; Sanchez-Galvis, M.; Garcia-Martinez, J.B.; Barajas-Ferreira, C.; Zuorro, A.; Barajas-Solano, A.F. Design of an Electroflotation System for the Concentration and Harvesting of Freshwater Microalgae. *Chem. Eng. Trans.* **2018**, *64*, 1–6. [[CrossRef](#)]
43. D'Imporzano, G.; Veronesi, D.; Salati, S.; Adani, F. Carbon and Nutrient Recovery in the Cultivation of *Chlorella Vulgaris*: A Life Cycle Assessment Approach to Comparing Environmental Performance. *J. Clean. Prod.* **2018**, *194*, 685–694. [[CrossRef](#)]
44. Nigam, H.; Jain, R.; Malik, A.; Singh, V. Comparative Life-Cycle Assessment of Microalgal Biomass Production in Conventional Growth Media versus Newly Developed Nanoemulsion Media. *Bioresour. Technol.* **2022**, *352*, 127069. [[CrossRef](#)] [[PubMed](#)]
45. Zhao, X.; Meng, X.; Liu, Y.; Bai, S.; Li, B.; Li, H.; Hou, N.; Li, C. Single-Cell Sorting of Microalgae and Identification of Optimal Conditions by Using Response Surface Methodology Coupled with Life-Cycle Approaches. *Sci. Total Environ.* **2022**, *832*, 155061. [[CrossRef](#)] [[PubMed](#)]
46. Pegallapati, A.K.; Frank, E.D. Energy Use and Greenhouse Gas Emissions from an Algae Fractionation Process for Producing Renewable Diesel. *Algal Res.* **2016**, *18*, 235–240. [[CrossRef](#)]
47. Sun, J.; Yang, L.; Xiao, S.; Chu, H.; Jiang, S.; Yu, Z.; Zhou, X.; Zhang, Y. A Promising Microalgal Wastewater Cyclic Cultivation Technology: Dynamic Simulations, Economic Viability, and Environmental Suitability. *Water Res.* **2022**, *217*, 118411. [[CrossRef](#)] [[PubMed](#)]
48. Peter, A.P.; Tan, X.; Lim, J.Y.; Chew, K.W.; Koyande, A.K.; Show, P.L. Environmental Analysis of *Chlorella Vulgaris* Cultivation in Large Scale Closed System under Waste Nutrient Source. *Chem. Eng. J.* **2022**, *433*, 134254. [[CrossRef](#)]
49. Pérez-López, P.; de Vree, J.H.; Feijoo, G.; Bosma, R.; Barbosa, M.J.; Moreira, M.T.; Wijffels, R.H.; van Boxtel, A.J.B.; Kleinegris, D.M.M. Comparative Life Cycle Assessment of Real Pilot Reactors for Microalgae Cultivation in Different Seasons. *Appl. Energy* **2017**, *205*, 1151–1164. [[CrossRef](#)]
50. Moshood, T.D.; Nawanir, G.; Ahmad, M.H.; Lee, K.L.; Hussain, S. Sustainable Business Model Innovation and Perspective of Using Microalgae to Produce Biofuel: A Systematic Literature Review. *J. Sustain. Sci. Manag.* **2022**, *17*, 291–312. [[CrossRef](#)]
51. Hossain, N.; Zaini, J.; Indra Mahlia, T.M. Life Cycle Assessment, Energy Balance and Sensitivity Analysis of Bioethanol Production from Microalgae in a Tropical Country. *Renew. Sustain. Energy Rev.* **2019**, *115*, 109371. [[CrossRef](#)]
52. Bussa, M.; Zollfrank, C.; Röder, H. Life-Cycle Assessment and Geospatial Analysis of Integrating Microalgae Cultivation into a Regional Economy. *J. Clean. Prod.* **2020**, *243*, 118630. [[CrossRef](#)]
53. Branco-Vieira, M.; Costa, D.; Mata, T.M.; Martins, A.A.; Freitas, M.A.V.; Caetano, N.S. A Life Cycle Inventory of Microalgae-Based Biofuels Production in an Industrial Plant Concept. *Energy Rep.* **2020**, *6*, 397–402. [[CrossRef](#)]
54. Sfez, S.; Van Den Hende, S.; Taelman, S.E.; De Meester, S.; Dewulf, J. Environmental Sustainability Assessment of a Microalgae Raceway Pond Treating Aquaculture Wastewater: From up-Scaling to System Integration. *Bioresour. Technol.* **2015**, *190*, 321–331. [[CrossRef](#)] [[PubMed](#)]
55. Sills, D.L.; Van Doren, L.G.; Beal, C.; Raynor, E. The Effect of Functional Unit and Co-Product Handling Methods on Life Cycle Assessment of an Algal Biorefinery. *Algal Res.* **2020**, *46*, 101770. [[CrossRef](#)]
56. Wernet, G.; Bauer, C.; Steubing, B.; Reinhard, J.; Moreno-Ruiz, E.; Weidema, B. The Ecoinvent Database Version 3 (Part I): Overview and Methodology. *Int. J. Life Cycle Assess.* **2016**, *21*, 1218–1230. [[CrossRef](#)]
57. Huijbregts, M.A.J.; Steinmann, Z.J.N.; Elshout, P.M.F.; Stam, G.; Veronesi, F.; Vieira, M.; Zijp, M.; Hollander, A.; van Zelm, R. ReCiPe2016: A Harmonised Life Cycle Impact Assessment Method at Midpoint and Endpoint Level. *Int. J. Life Cycle Assess.* **2017**, *22*, 138–147. [[CrossRef](#)]
58. de Souza, M.H.B.; Calijuri, M.L.; Assemany, P.P.; de Siqueira Castro, J.; de Oliveira, A.C.M. Soil Application of Microalgae for Nitrogen Recovery: A Life-Cycle Approach. *J. Clean. Prod. D* **2019**, *211*, 342–349. [[CrossRef](#)]
59. Cheng, J.; Wang, Q.; Yu, J. Life Cycle Assessment of Potential Environmental Burden and Human Capital Loss Caused by Apple Production System in China. *Environ. Sci. Pollut. Res.* **2023**, *30*, 62015–62031. [[CrossRef](#)]
60. Sillcox, R.; Gitonga, B.; Meiklejohn, D.A.; Wright, A.S.; Oelschlager, B.K.; Bryant, M.K.; Tarefder, R.; Khan, Z.; Zhu, J. The Environmental Impact of Surgical Telemedicine: Life Cycle Assessment of Virtual vs. in-Person Preoperative Evaluations for Benign Foregut Disease. *Surg. Endosc.* **2023**, *37*, 5696–5702. [[CrossRef](#)]
61. Hassan, M.; Usman, N.; Hussain, M.; Yousaf, A.; Khattak, M.A.; Yousaf, S.; Mishr, R.S.; Ahmad, S.; Rehman, F.; Rashedi, A. Environmental and Socio-Economic Assessment of Biomass Pellets Biofuel in Hazara Division, Pakistan. *Sustainability* **2023**, *15*, 12089. [[CrossRef](#)]
62. Asadollahfardi, G.; Noghani, S.; Panahandeh, A.; Samadi, A.; Asnaashari, E. Evaluation of Environmental Sustainability of the Construction and Operation Phases of Man-made Lakes; A Case Study: Chitgar Lake. *Environ. Prog. Sustain. Energy* **2023**, *42*, e14160. [[CrossRef](#)]
63. Arashiro, L.T.; Montero, N.; Ferrer, I.; Acien, F.G.; Gómez, C.; Garfí, M. Life Cycle Assessment of High Rate Algal Ponds for Wastewater Treatment and Resource Recovery. *Sci. Total Environ.* **2018**, *622–623*, 1118–1130. [[CrossRef](#)]
64. Colzi Lopes, A.; Valente, A.; Iribarren, D.; González-Fernández, C. Energy Balance and Life Cycle Assessment of a Microalgae-Based Wastewater Treatment Plant: A Focus on Alternative Biogas Uses. *Bioresour. Technol.* **2018**, *270*, 138–146. [[CrossRef](#)]

65. de Siqueira Castro, J.; Calijuri, M.L.; Ferreira, J.; Assemany, P.P.; Ribeiro, V.J. Microalgae Based Biofertilizer: A Life Cycle Approach. *Sci. Total Environ.* **2020**, *724*, 138138. [[CrossRef](#)]
66. Payen, S.; Ledgard, S.F. Aquatic Eutrophication Indicators in LCA: Methodological Challenges Illustrated Using a Case Study in New Zealand. *J. Clean. Prod.* **2017**, *168*, 1463–1472. [[CrossRef](#)]
67. Mio, A.; Fermeglia, M.; Favi, C. A Critical Review and Normalization of the Life Cycle Assessment Outcomes in the Naval Sector. Bibliometric Analysis and Characteristics of the Studies. *J. Clean. Prod.* **2022**, *371*, 133268. [[CrossRef](#)]
68. de Souza Ferreira, M.; Dodds, W.K.; Fernandes Cunha, D.G. Carbon Dioxide and Methane Emissions across Tropical and Subtropical Inland Water Ecosystems in Brazil: Meta-Analysis of General Patterns and Potential Drivers. *Limnetica* **2023**, *43*, 1. [[CrossRef](#)]
69. Gómez-Gener, L.; Gubau, M.; von Schiller, D.; Marcé, R.; Obrador, B. Integrated Assessment of the Net Carbon Footprint of Small Hydropower Plants. *Environ. Res. Lett.* **2023**, *18*, 084015. [[CrossRef](#)]
70. Taelman, S.E.; De Meester, S.; Roef, L.; Michiels, M.; Dewulf, J. The Environmental Sustainability of Microalgae as Feed for Aquaculture: A Life Cycle Perspective. *Bioresour. Technol.* **2013**, *150*, 513–522. [[CrossRef](#)]
71. Thielemann, A.K.; Smetana, S.; Pleissner, D. Cultivation of the Heterotrophic Microalga *Galdieria Sulphuraria* on Food Waste: A Life Cycle Assessment. *Bioresour. Technol.* **2021**, *340*, 125637. [[CrossRef](#)]
72. Nishshanka, G.K.S.H.; Liyanaarachchi, V.C.; Premaratne, M.; Nimarshana, P.H.V.; Ariyadasa, T.U.; Kornaros, M. Wastewater-Based Microalgal Biorefineries for the Production of Astaxanthin and Co-Products: Current Status, Challenges and Future Perspectives. *Bioresour. Technol.* **2021**, *342*, 126018. [[CrossRef](#)]
73. Nasir, N.M.; Bakar, N.S.A.; Lananan, F.; Abdul Hamid, S.H.; Lam, S.S.; Jusoh, A. Treatment of African Catfish, *Clarias gariepinus* Wastewater Utilizing Phytoremediation of Microalgae, *Chlorella* sp. with *Aspergillus niger* Bio-Harvesting. *Bioresour. Technol.* **2015**, *190*, 492–498. [[CrossRef](#)]
74. Mu, D.; Min, M.; Krohn, B.; Mullins, K.A.; Ruan, R.; Hill, J. Life Cycle Environmental Impacts of Wastewater-Based Algal Biofuels. *Environ. Sci. Technol.* **2014**, *48*, 11696–11704. [[CrossRef](#)]
75. Marangon, B.B.; Calijuri, M.L.; de Siqueira Castro, J.; Assemany, P.P. A Life Cycle Assessment of Energy Recovery Using Briquette from Wastewater Grown Microalgae Biomass. *J. Environ. Manag.* **2021**, *285*, 112171. [[CrossRef](#)]
76. Schneider, R.d.C.d.S.; de Moura Lima, M.; Hoeltz, M.; de Farias Neves, F.; John, D.K.; de Azevedo, A. Life Cycle Assessment of Microalgae Production in a Raceway Pond with Alternative Culture Media. *Algal Res.* **2018**, *32*, 280–292. [[CrossRef](#)]
77. Raghuvanshi, S.; Bhakar, V.; Chava, R.; Sangwan, K.S. Comparative Study Using Life Cycle Approach for the Biodiesel Production from Microalgae Grown in Wastewater and Fresh Water. *Procedia CIRP* **2018**, *69*, 568–572. [[CrossRef](#)]
78. Hao, X.; Wang, X.; Liu, R.; Li, S.; van Loosdrecht, M.C.M.; Jiang, H. Environmental Impacts of Resource Recovery from Wastewater Treatment Plants. *Water Res.* **2019**, *160*, 268–277. [[CrossRef](#)]

Disclaimer/Publisher’s Note: The statements, opinions and data contained in all publications are solely those of the individual author(s) and contributor(s) and not of MDPI and/or the editor(s). MDPI and/or the editor(s) disclaim responsibility for any injury to people or property resulting from any ideas, methods, instructions or products referred to in the content.