



DNR

Walhalla Fish Hatchery



Trout Life Cycle

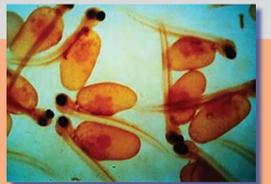
Trout broodstock or parent fish live at the hatchery. Female trout produce eggs that are manually stripped from the fish in October or November for production of fry.



The eggs are then placed in special incubators where they receive a constant supply of oxygen rich water. At the early stage, the eggs are very tender and cannot be handled. Total incubation time from spawning to hatch is normally 4 to 6 weeks depending upon temperature.

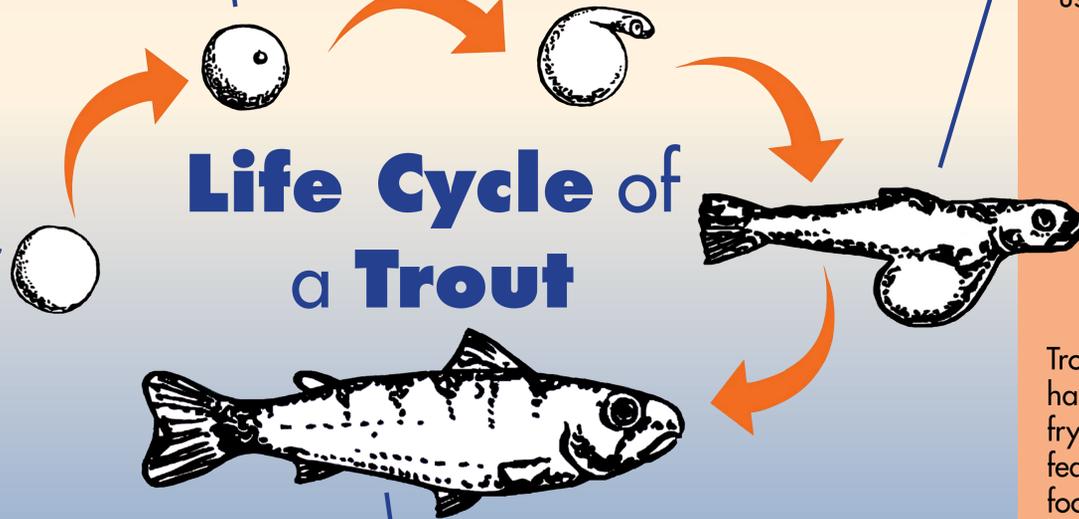


Halfway through incubation, eyes of the developing embryo can be seen through the transparent egg shell. This is called the "eyed" stage. At this time, eggs can be handled and transported without harm to the fish.



After hatching, the young fry have their own food supply in the form of a yolk sac which is still attached and visible. The yolk sac is the young fish's only source of food for the first two or three weeks of life. As time goes by, the yolk sac is absorbed or used and the fish are ready to feed.

The eggs are fertilized with milt (sperm) from male trout.



Trout at the hatchery in the fry stage are fed a special food that is high in protein and other nutrients.



The fingerlings are allowed to grow for 14 to 16 months until they reach the average stocking size of 9 inches in length. The fish are loaded onto a truck with a hauling tank and leave the Walhalla Fish Hatchery. The biologists haul the fish to streams with adequate habitat and temperatures for stocking. Trout stocking helps reduce pressure on existing trout populations and establishes more trout-fishing opportunities for anglers.



The fry live in the hatchery building until they reach about 2 inches in length and they are considered "fingerlings." The fingerlings are then moved to the outdoor raceways for continued growth.

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