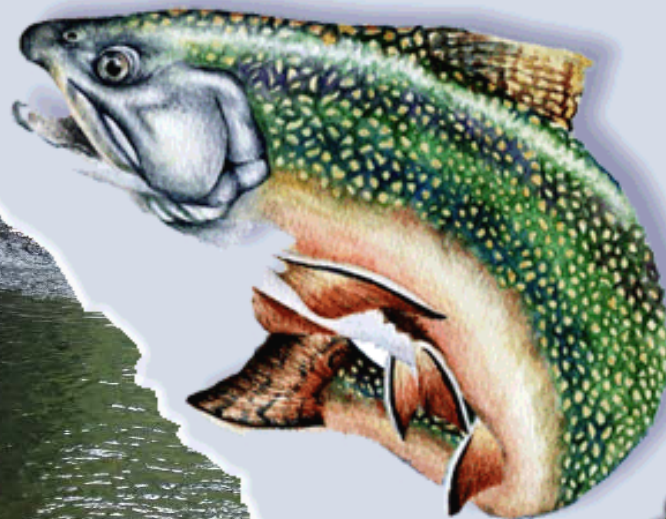


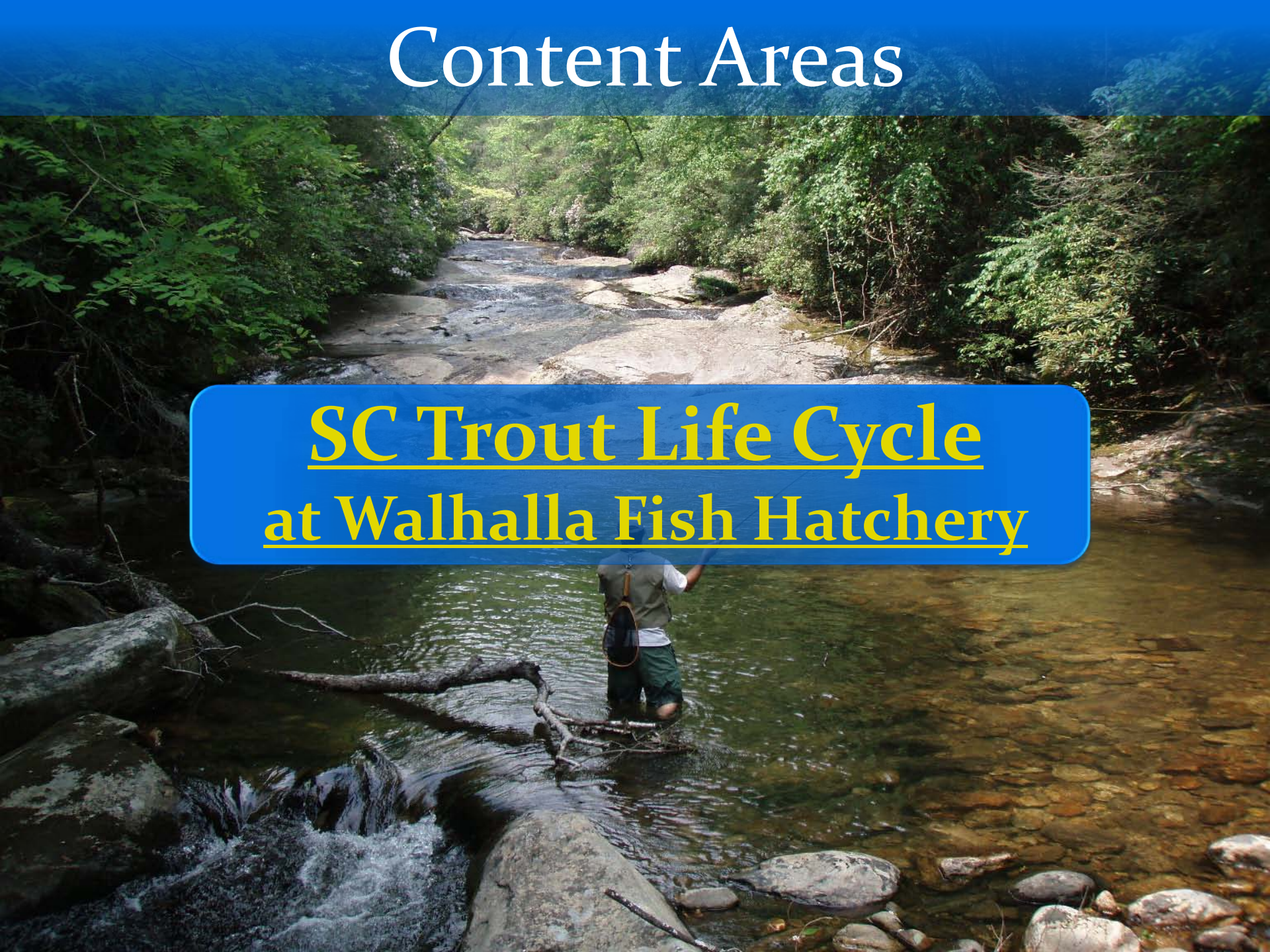
TROUT IN THE CLASS ROOM



DNR

Content Areas

SC Trout Life Cycle at Walhalla Fish Hatchery



SC Trout Life Cycle at Walhalla Fish Hatchery



Walhalla State Fish Hatchery

- Built in the 1930s by the Civilian Conservation Corps
- This is the only cold water hatchery in South Carolina
- Approximately 500,000 trout are produced and stocked annually by the WSHF.
- The hatchery raise rainbow, brown and brook trout



Rainbow



Brown



Brook

SC Trout Life Cycle at Walhalla Fish Hatchery

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.



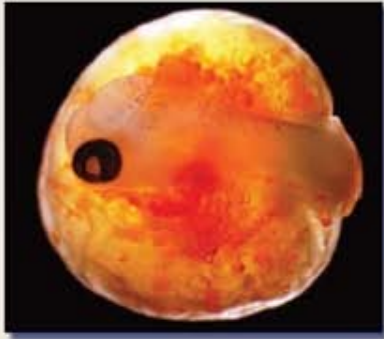
SC Trout Life Cycle at Walhalla Fish Hatchery



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



SC Trout Life Cycle at Walhalla Fish Hatchery



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**.

SC Trout Life Cycle at Walhalla Fish Hatchery



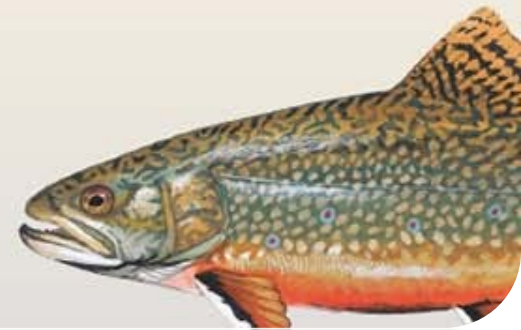
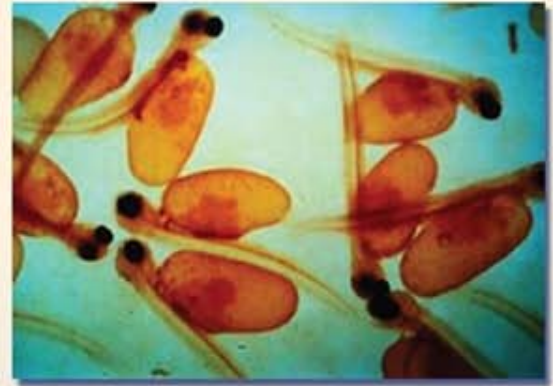
Halfway through incubation, **eyes** of the developing embryo can be seen through the transparent egg shell. This is called the **“eyed” stage**. At this time, eggs can be handled and transported without harm to the fish.



SC Trout Life Cycle at Walhalla Fish Hatchery



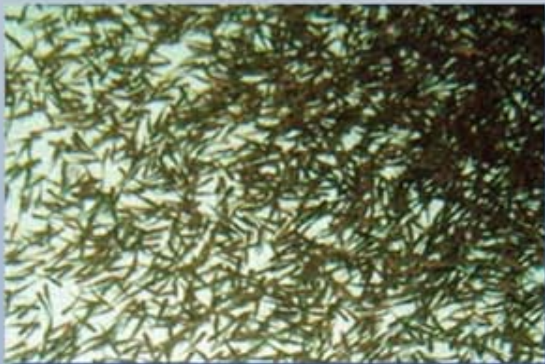
After **hatching**, the **small fry** have their own food supply in the form of a **yolk sac** which is still attached and visible. The yolk sac is the young fish's only source of food for the first **two or three weeks** of life. As time goes by, the yolk sac is absorbed or used and the fish are ready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



SC Trout Life Cycle at Walhalla Fish Hatchery



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



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.

SC Trout Life Cycle at Walhalla Fish Hatchery



The fingerlings are allowed to grow for **14 to 16 months** until they reach the **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 travel to streams with **adequate habitat and temperatures** to stock the fish. Trout stocking helps **reduce pressure on existing trout populations** and establishes more **trout-fishing opportunities** for anglers.



TROUT IN THE CLASS ROOM



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