

TIC Update: Sac Fry

11.16.2011

By now your brook trout have hatched and are healthy little sac fry. Congratulations on making it to sac fry stage in the brook trout life cycle!

I have attached the “Brook Trout life cycle approximate dates” for your files. This document shares the “approximate date of hatch and swim up”. Remember, these dates will change depending on your water temperatures (cooler temperatures = slower development; warmer temperatures = faster development).

Trout In the Office (TIO) update:

This year, the TIO brook trout seem to be developing a bit faster than normal even with our temperature at 52 F. They began hatching November 4th and ended on November 7th. That was approximately 8-5 days earlier than planned; as a result, our trout might absorb their yolk sacs (also known as button up/swim-up) sooner than predicted. This may mean that the TIO brook trout will begin looking for food (Swim-up fry stage) on or few days before the week of November 28th or the week of December 5th, again this will depend heavily on our water temperatures.

What does the TIO update mean for your classroom brook trout?

Depending on when your trout hatched, they might begin looking for food at or near the same dates as our office brook trout (week of November 28th or the week of December 5th)

To figure out when your trout might begin to look for food as “swim-up fry” :

1. Record the date that your trout began to hatch and the date they were done hatching
2. Count out 3-4 weeks or 28 days from their hatch date(s)
3. Place a temporary mark on your calendar for the potential “swim-up” date
4. A few days before that date make sure you are paying close attention to your trout.
5. When you see trout swimming around, looking for food, sprinkle just a few grains of **SIZE 0** food near them and see if they eat. ***At this time, if your trout are in a nesting basket you can drop the basket down into the aquarium. The adventurous ones will swim out, others may stay in the basket a bit longer.***

NOTE: When feeding your trout, you should either swirl the water around the food placed on the surface or use a spoon to get the food to sink. This should be done for SIZE 0 and SIZE 1 food as the oils on the

food may prevent it from sinking right away. This will help in getting the food to your trout. Once your trout understand where to find the food, you WILL NOT need to continue “sinking” the food.

NOTE: When you notice one or two trout “swimming up” and searching for food it is a good time to take off the front insulation panel if you haven’t already. More light in the aquarium will encourage your little trout to search for food. In our hatcheries, once the trout have begun to swim-up the lights are left on for them. This encourages the trout, when they are ready, to begin coming to the surface in search for food. When the trout are in the dark they tend to hang down toward the bottom of the aquarium or nesting basket and do not actively search for the food.

TIO sac fry photos (11.15.2011) BELOW:

This year we placed all of our eggs into a “redd” (*small depression in the gravel; also known as a trout “nest”*) we created in the gravel. The trout hatched and are nestling down into the gravel seeking darkness/safety until their yolk sacs are completely absorbed. This is what they would be doing in a natural stream setting!

Trout In the Office

Sac fry photos

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