



Brave New World

After 6–8 weeks the fish, now called **fry**, will emerge from the gravel. Have the students make a final drawing and describe any differences they see between the fry and the alevins.

It is now necessary to provide food for the fish. Wait until the fry are sitting on the gravel and water temperature has been adjusted to stimulate feeding before sprinkling food on the surface of the water. The fish need only small amounts of food at this stage. Give them about .5 ml (1/8 tsp) in the morning. Feed again just before leaving for the day only if you are certain all the food has been consumed.

Overfeeding contaminates the water and will kill the fish. Stay with the regular amount and on schedule. There is no need to feed on weekends or over holidays. Do not feed extra amounts to make up for days missed.

Before the fish are released, the students compare the environment of the aquarium with the natural environment of a stream. They will examine the differences between the two environments in terms of challenges to survival.

In the aquarium, the fish were well protected and taken care of. In a natural stream environment, they will face challenges from predators, pollution, lack of food, storms, drought, etc. This may be a good time to talk again about survival rates in natural environments.

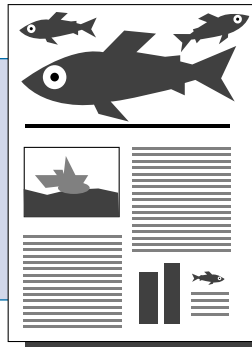
Humans can have both positive and negative impacts on a stream. Many students are well aware of the problems of pollution and habitat destruction from human activities. Encourage them to think of the ways in which people can have a positive influence on the stream environment. Anti-litter campaigns, stream clean-up projects, active protests against the destruction caused by some industrial, forestry and farming practices (large

and small), and education programs can all play a significant role.

A representative from the Atlantic Salmon Federation or one of its affiliates will coordinate the release of the fish into an appropriate stream. This will occur shortly after the fry emerge from the gravel and begin to feed on their own, probably in early to mid June. The release will coincide with the emergence of fry and potential food sources in the natural environment. This is determined by monitoring the water temperature of the stream.

In consultation with the ASF representative, determine the best way to transport the fish to the release site. This will probably be done in one container with water from the classroom aquarium. Individual students can then be given a few fish in a plastic bag to release on their own.

You will have to make the necessary arrangements for transportation to and from the site. Make sure the students are dressed properly, especially with suitable footwear.



Now would be a good time for the students to prepare another newsletter.

Background

Atlantic salmon have a survival rate of about .03% - .04%.

Oct/Nov	7500 eggs are laid
April/May	4500 hatch
May/June	650 reach fry stage
Over 2 to 4 years	200 survive as parr
Next spring	50 migrate to sea as smolt
A year (or more) later.....	2 or 3 adults return to spawn