

TEACHER'S REMINDER

Before December 1st:

- Registration for the program.
- Order the incubator equipment and educational materials upon registration by filling out the order form. Submit your order form to the FQSA, which will take care of placing a group order with Aquamérik, the supplier of the incubation equipment.
 - o Note: If the teacher already has the incubation equipment, some filter components (charcoal) still need to be changed each year.
- Make sure that the FQSA has your thermos on hand for delivery.
- Get some river rocks or gravel for the aquarium. Without using soap, brush and rinse the river rocks thoroughly for a good wash. By placing them in the incubator, the rocks or gravel will provide shelter for the fry. Do not put shells or seashells in the incubator.

Checklist

- Send the registration form and order form
- Make sure the FQSA has your thermos
- Find a few rocks measuring 1 to 4" in size

Two weeks before delivery of the eggs (February):

- Wash all incubator components using a bleach solution (1/10) and rinse thoroughly with water. Do not rinse the filter components using this solution, only use water.
- Install the incubator on a solid surface (table or desk). Do not forget to put the filtering masses back inside the filtration unit.
- Before using the incubator cooler and filter, fill the aquarium with water and let it rest for at least 72 hours to allow the chlorine to evaporate (chlorine evaporates slowly).
- Turn on the incubator system to ensure that the installation is working properly, and gradually lower the temperature (1 °C per day until it reaches 4 to 6 °C). Due to the inaccuracy of the temperature shown on the cooling unit, refer to the temperature reading from the thermometer immersed in the aquarium.

Checklist

- Rinse the incubator, rocks, and filtration components
- Install the incubator components following the protocol
- Fill the aquarium with water and let it rest for 72 hours to let the water dechlorinate
- Start the cooling unit by setting the temperature to 1 °C lower than the current water temperature
- Gradually lower the temperature (1 °C/day) to 4-6°C

The day of the delivery of the eggs (February-March):

- The water temperature must be between 4 and 6 °C and should have been stable for a few days.
- Allow the eggs to acclimatize in a Masson-style jar placed inside the aquarium until the temperature is the same (about 15 to 30 minutes if the temperatures of the delivery thermos and the aquarium are similar, and up to 2 hours if there are a few degrees difference).
- Deposit the eggs inside the incubator

Checklist

- Allow the eggs to acclimatize in a Masson-style jar placed inside the incubator for 15 to 30 minutes
- Deposit the eggs directly inside the incubator

Between the delivery of the eggs and the stocking of fry:

- Remove dead eggs every week (dull and whitish looking) using the aspirator bulb to prevent the spread of fungus.
- After the eggs have hatched, once every two weeks, replace about 20% of the water in the incubator with cool dechlorinated water. Save some of this water for rinsing the foam filter.
 - o Note: To avoid thermal shock, you must allow water to dechlorinate in a container (e.g., a bucket) for 72 hours and keep it refrigerated before pouring it into the aquarium.
- When the fry begin to swim and their egg sacs (orange abdominal pouch) are resorbed, start feeding them in small quantities (a small pinch a day is enough).
 - o Note: it is important not to overfeed them. If excess food accumulates inside the aquarium, then the amount of food given is too much. If the task of feeding the fry is assigned to students, be sure to supervise them, as they tend to give too much food. This can lead to the spread of bacteria and fungi. An incubator polluted with food residue can kill the fry.
- Two weeks before stocking, gradually increase the temperature of the incubator (1 °C per day) to match the temperature of the river (10 to 15 °C). You can contact your river manager or the FQSA to find out the ideal temperature for the day of the stocking.
- Prepare for the stocking of the fry a few weeks in advance: transportation of the students, location. You can refer to the stocking protocol available on our website.

Checklist

- Remove dead eggs regularly

- Once the eggs have hatched, change 20% of the water every two weeks
- After the yolk sacs are resorbed in the fry, remove surface debris, and start feeding the fry with a pinch of food per day
- Determine the fry release date
- Two weeks before stocking, gradually increase the temperature by one degree per day until the river temperature is attained (around 10-15 °C).

The day of the release (end of May-June):

- Collect the fry in the incubator using the hand net. Students can help you with this task, they really enjoy it!
- Keep the fry in fresh water at all times, in a carrier bag or in a clean bucket.
- Release the fry at the authorized location as specified on the permit issued by the Ministère des Forêts, de la Faune et des Parcs (MFFP), provided to you by the FQSA representative upon delivery of the eggs.
- By the end of the school year, complete the fry stocking report form that will be emailed to you by the program manager and return it to him/her.

Checklist

- Put the fry in a carrier bag or bucket
- Release the fry at the authorized stocking location (indicated on the permit)
- Fill out the stocking report form and return it to the FQSA

Cleaning and storage of equipment (June):

- Wash all incubator components thoroughly using running water or a bleach solution (1/10), rinse well and allow to dry. Do not clean the filtering masses (foam filter, carbon, ammonia neutralizer or Biomax) with bleach.
- Store incubator components in a clean, dry, and frost-free environment.
- Ideally store food in the freezer or away from light and moisture

Checklist

- Dispose of coal filtering masses
- Clean and rinse the other filtering masses with water and allow to dry
- Disinfect the aquarium, filter casing, strainer, tubing, hand net, and aspiration bulb (bleach solution 1/10)
- Rinse well with water and allow the material to dry
- Store materials