

The Alan Dymock Guide to REARING

A good spawning run in 2008 saw 280,000 ova laid down in our hatchery. The high number of fish running up the rivers to spawn indicates a good number of fish remaining in the lakes from last fishing season. We trap the fish at Ubley Hatchery in November and December, and from them we select the best fish to strip. 60,000 mixed sex brown trout ova were laid down in the Hatchery and from these we will retain 40,000 feeding fry. These fry will be grown on to the end of their first year when they will be graded, and the best 12,500 will be kept and grown on for another year before being stocked pre-season 2011. These fish should average about 1lb 8oz.

The Rainbows run a little later than brown trout and again, the strongest and best quality fish are selected for spawning. This year we have laid down 100,000 mixed sex and 120,000 all female ova from which, after grading for size and quality, we end up with 50,000 high quality fish. We will also take delivery of 40,000 triploids fry in spring 2009 to supplement our own fish. These will be grown on to stock the lakes in pre-season 2010 at an average weight of 2 lb (1lb 4oz the Barrows).

Alan Dymock joined Bristol Water in 1978 and the Fisheries team in 1983 since when he has become a valuable and versatile member of the staff. Until recently he was the Senior Ranger and ran the Hatchery at Ubley. In March 2008 he took over as Fisheries Manager (Operational) and has since supervised the Ranger staff and all the rearing and stocking programmes for the department. He is also closely



Spawning visit

involved with the planning of the new hatchery and fish farm at Blagdon.

Much of the work done by Alan and his team is overlooked by the anglers but his is one of the most important jobs for the successful running of the fisheries. The following is a very small window into the rearing work carried out by the fisheries staff.

Once again we have had a very busy and productive year. As well as stocking over 95,000 fish last year, the cool, wet summer of 2008 has enabled us to rear some excellent fish for the coming season. The 2009 fishing season will start off with a stocking of at least 35,000 quality rainbow and brown trout. This will then be followed by regular stockings of about 65,000 equally good fighting fish throughout the season, making a total of around 100,000 fish stocked into our lakes. These will either be mixed sex fish, spawned from wild run fish from Blagdon lake, or triploids (sterile fish) bought in as fry and grown on in our stock ponds.



Alan picking eggs

As always we are committed to providing the best possible fish for our fisheries. We believe that the quality, size and fighting ability of our trout are second to none and our aim to is retain and possibly improve that quality. Rearing our own fish remains a high priority and forms a important part of the success of Bristol Water Fisheries.

We are once again looking forward to a successful season and welcoming regular and new anglers.



Rainbow trout ready for stocking

Tight lines
Alan Dymock