



Delivery Controls and Hatching Results for Salmon Eggs



Svein Hjeldnes from Aqua Gen examines egg quality at delivery.

Throughout the period between week 46, 2008 and week 4, 2009 Aqua Gen has carried out 37 reception controls at the point of delivery of salmon eggs to clients in Norway. The shipment volume that was checked was 73 million eggs, representing 77 % of a total of 94.8 million eggs delivered so far.

The level of non-viable eggs recorded at packing by the egg producer was 1.74 %. This corresponds well with the results from the reception controls which was 1.79 %. The breakdown of non-viable eggs was 1.45 % pin-eyed eggs, 0.18 % unfertilized eggs, 0.02 % dead eggs and 0.14 % other deviations. In the majority of deliveries the 5% overage supplied has compensated for the amount of non-viable eggs.

We have now received feedback on hatching results from 31 deliveries, which showed an average survival to hatch of 95.2 %. Included in this number are 6 deliveries for which we have received reports of an 8.1% failure to hatch by apparently healthy eggs. These numbers were recorded at the end of a one week hatching period. We are closely investigating what can be the cause.

Many have carried out start-feeding of fry, and this has been successful. We have not received any notice of IPN in the first four weeks after start-feeding.

Low Egg Production for Rainbow Trout

The market demand for Rainbow Trout reduced significantly from 2007 to 2008 both in Norway and Chile. In 2009 the market is still at a low level, and for Norway is estimated to be in the region of 30 million eggs.

We have adjusted our brood fish populations down to this level by, among other things, not bringing onshore brood fish at Svanøy Sea Farm. Following a low-level BKD positive detection in part of the Salmon stock at Aqua Gen Hemne in October 2008, we made the decision that no Salmon from this location should be used in egg production this season. During an ongoing risk evaluation it was also decided that we should include Rainbow Trout in this decision. As a result all Rainbow Trout eggs are now produced by Aqua Gen Tingvoll, and production volumes have, until now, been less than those expected.

In order to address the issue and meet the demands for eggs in the spring of 2009, we plan to start to use next year's brood fish population at Tingvoll. To do this we will be placing some of them in fresh water a year earlier than normal. By experience, and recent sampling we know that we will find a certain percentage of sexually mature fish at that stage. We will, however, only use early maturing female fish, while the male fish will be from the population already planned to be used this year. In doing this we aim to minimize the risk of early sexual maturity of the offspring. We have discussed this solution with our clients, and they have accepted this strategy for this season.



Extension of the Season for Rainbow Trout

Customers now have a possibility to stock both early and late Rainbow Trout eggs over a period of five months from January to May. Early eggs (January) will provide a short production period so that these fish can be placed in the sea as early 0-year smolts. Late eggs (May) will provide the sea placement of 1-year smolts.

As a result production capacity can be better exploited by placing a larger percentage of the fish in the sea as 1-year smolts in the spring. This leads in its turn to a more even harvesting of fish for slaughter.