



The Brood Fish for Early Eggs 2009 have been brought onto Land



The final selection of brood fish which will produce early salmon eggs for the coming egg season 2009/2010 has been carried out. Following this selection process, brood fish both at Aqua Gen Hemne and Tingvoll have been relocated to our land facilities where they will be carefully looked after through to the start of stripping in the middle of September.

The culling out of fish which did not make the grade in the final selection is also being carried out now. The average weight of the first culled group, which consists of uncles and aunts of the next egg generation and which were "weighed and found wanting" to be parent fish, was over 14 kilograms.

In addition to high body weight the report from the slaughterhouse shows that the fish were in very good condition, had a good form, unique quality, good fillet thickness (an indication for good feed utilization) and an even color (28-29 on Salmofan).

Ottar Ulla, Quality Manager at Aalesundfish says that this is a fish which is especially well suited to smoking. There is a great demand for large fish of this quality in the American market, and fish from Aqua Gen which are not good enough for egg production are excellent for consumption, says Ulla.

Biosecurity

In last year's brood fish BKD bacteria were discovered due to our intensive surveillance program. This finding initiated exhaustive efforts to eliminate any further risks by destroying large amounts of eggs, disinfecting and fallowing facilities, and culling out "at risk" brood fish populations. Based on experience and a review of possible risk factors some changes in production have also been carried out. The BKD restrictions were officially lifted in January 2009, following which production has continued normally. As usual this year's brood fish population will undergo thorough BKD examinations.

For the fifth consecutive year we have PCR-screened our brood fish populations in the salt-water phase for both PD and ILA virus without any positive findings. If clients wish to have individual testing for actual disease agents in the parent fish of their specific egg delivery, this can be carried out if requested in advance.

We have a very good insurance program for our brood fish in that several sites are carrying "back-up" fish stocks. Our policy is to produce a minimum of 30 % extra brood fish to insure that there will not be any shortage of eggs should any unexpected crisis occur. Last year we had a demonstration of the wisdom of this policy when "back-up" fish were used.



Summary of Delivery Controls of Eggs in 2008/2009 in Norway

Egg Quality and Hatching Success

Aqua Gen has carried out delivery controls on 48 deliveries with a total volume of 96.6 million eggs during the time period from the middle of November 2008 to the middle of April 2009. At registration of egg quality 1.87 % non-viable eggs were found. Pin-eyed eggs made up the largest component, (1.49 %) of these non-viable eggs. In most cases the delivered overage of 5 % compensated for the amount of non-viable eggs. Survival to end hatch was at 95.5 % and the hatching window was on average five days. The most usual reason for un-hatched eggs was that the embryo did not manage to break through the egg membrane within a reasonable time.

Development in the Early Fry Phase

Start-feeding was very successful and good growth and survival has been reported. There were no cases of IPN in the fry in the period from hatching and up to four weeks after the beginning of start-feeding.