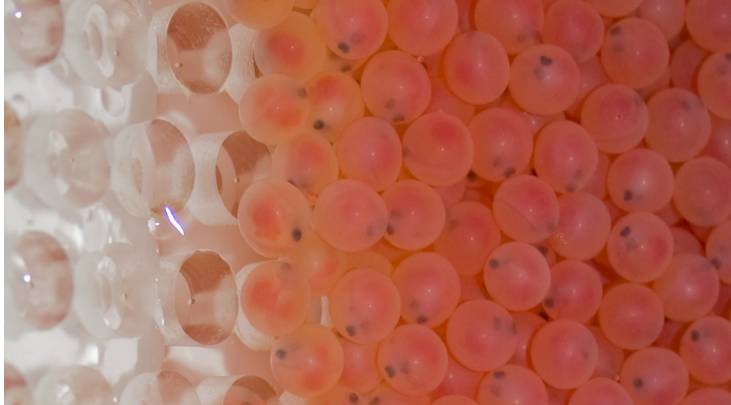




Very Good Egg Quality This Season



Egg deliveries for the egg season 2009/2010 have been going on for eight weeks. Since starting in week 44 we have delivered a total of 116 million eggs to the Norwegian market and have carried out delivery controls on 64 % of this amount.

The results from 33 delivery controls carried out in weeks 44-50 show that egg quality has been very good. The percentage of non-viable eggs was at an average of 0.43 % of which pin-eyed eggs composed

0.35 %, unfertilized eggs 0.02 %, dead eggs 0.01 % and "other" non-conformance was 0.04 %. This is the best result which has been recorded since we began our delivery controls in 2004.

The main reason for the good quality is very successful brood fish and egg production. This has resulted in a very high percentage of viable eggs right from the start, following on from which the newly developed egg sorting machine removes most of the non-viable eggs before packing.

The first eleven reports from hatching have also arrived, and hatching results show an average of 98.9 % survival at 500 day-degrees within a hatching window of 3.0 days. Our customers describe these results as impressively good for early eggs.

Early Eggs have Many Advantages

Aqua Gen now delivers more than half of the eggs in the season as early eggs (week 44-50). This is possible because the best breeding candidates are produced through an "elite generation". In this way the best genetics are mass-produced and all hatcheries have access to the "same" material at an optimum point in time.

Production of S0 smolts, based on the intakes of early eggs, can be transferred to sea as early as July and August and harvested in January-March about 1.5 years later. This production schedule is advantageous because:

- The fish has only one whole summer and autumn in the sea, where the risk is highest for infection from various sources.
- The fish is harvested at the time of migration of wild smolt from the rivers in May, and so the danger of lice infection from large farmed fish is thereby reduced.
- The harvest point is in a period during which fewer salmon are harvested than in other parts of the year, this contributes to a more even harvest in general, and may benefit from higher prices.