

# Tips For Improving The Survival Rate Of Eggs/Fry

- **Set up equipment 2 weeks prior to egg delivery**

Adequate lead-time will allow the tanks to stabilize reducing the risk of stress to the eggs and fry.

- **Carefully select the proper location for the tank**

It should be out of any direct sun, away from heating (or cooling) vents.

- **Use a temperature controller with the chiller**

The controllers allow the chiller to maintain a more consistent temperature.

- **Maintain a consistent temperature in the tank**

Tank temperatures should be between 52 and 56 degrees Fahrenheit. Colder temperatures will slow development and higher temperatures can damage or kill the fish

- **Handle the eggs gently**

Avoid all unnecessary jarring or sudden movements of the eggs. When placing eggs into the classroom tank, do so as gently as possible.

- **Release the fry sooner than later**

The longer the fish are in your tank, the greater the risk of mortality. Once all the fish have "buttoned up" (completely absorbed the yolk sac), they are ready for release. It is tricky to predict when this will happen as it depends on temperature fluctuations in your tank. Planning a field trip 5 weeks after egg delivery is usually timely.

- **Feed the fish appropriately (if at all)**

If a teacher opts to feed the fish, they should wait until at least 50% have "buttoned up" and use a very small amount of food. Fry can go a week without food. Extra food in the tank and resulting fecal matter greatly increase the risk of mortality

- **Keep your expectations realistic**

Not all the eggs will turn into releasable fry. The survival rate in classroom aquariums is much higher than in nature. If half your eggs make it to releasable fry, you are doing well.

- **Keep your coach's contact information handy**

Your coach is here to help you. Keep contact info readily available and call or email if you have questions that are not addressed in the teachers manual or on the website.

