

Two methods of fertilisation have been adopted, the wet and the dry, and the latter has almost universally superseded the former. In the dry method no water is added until some moments after the ova and milt have been mingled and gently stirred with a feather or the fingers. In the early days of Canadian fish-culture the wet method was followed, and the eggs were placed in water before the milt was added, and a proportion of eggs always failed to be fecundated, hence the universal adoption of the so-called dry method.

Some of the different methods followed in obtaining eggs or fry may be here instanced.

(1) The parent fish are secured some time (days or even months) before spawning, and impounded until they become ripe and swollen. Whitefish are often kept in this way, and the plan has been adopted in Canada of confining salmon in tidal ponds for many months, and apparently without harm. Indeed the salt water prevents fungus, and as salmon take no food after leaving the sea, there is no difficulty in retaining them until the spawning season, and then taking the eggs and milt. After being kept from June or July until October or November the parent fish are liberated on being artificially spawned.

(2) The parent fish are netted at the spawning time near the breeding beds. Salmon, in British Columbia, are treated in this way, also Great Lake trout and whitefish. The parent fish are rarely injured, and are thus liberated in their native waters.

(3) Parent fish are captured and the eggs taken and fertilised, but the fish are killed and sent to market. This is the plan adopted in some cases by U. S. fish-culturists, especially with the Great Lake trout. It is unavoidable as a rule, with black bass and sturgeon, even when very ripe, as they refuse to yield their spawn. It is not adopted in Canada.

(4) Parent fish are impounded in ponds or enclosures, where they deposit and fertilise their spawn naturally. The spawn is then transferred to the hatchery and incubated artificially. Bass, maskinonge, perch, carp, sturgeon, etc., have been treated in this way.

(5) A similar plan to the last is followed excepting that the eggs are allowed to hatch out in the ponds where deposited.

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