

The young fish carry beneath the body a small bag of food yolk, and require no other food until it is used up—a few days sufficing in some species, a few weeks in others. If possible, the fry should all be planted before the store of natural food is exhausted. In stocking lakes or rivers it is best to select inshore shallows not frequented by large fish, or rocky ridges and banks far from shore. The fish travel by rail or team for long distances without serious harm, if ice is used with care. Short distances are, however, best; indeed, Mr. Samuel Wilmot urged the establishment of small supplementary hatcheries, where the advanced eggs could be sent just before hatching, and the fry more safely distributed from them. "This system of carrying, or rather trying to carry, young fry to distant points (particularly where no speedy means of travel by railway is to be found) should be discontinued (said Mr. Wilmot in 1877), because the time almost invariably spent in fruitless journeys of this kind, could be so much better and more profitably applied at nearer points, where the safety of the young salmon in the transit could be relied upon." At times a few thousands of fry have been kept until they are four or five months old; but constant care is necessary, and a large proportion as a rule, die when the fry are kept out of their natural habitat in lakes or rivers. The feeding of fry is not easy, as the quantity and kind of food require regulation, or the results may be fatal. In 1887 eight or ten thousand young salmon were retained in a pond at the Restigouche hatchery, and were fed during the summer, "yet they did not seem to thrive well, as but few were seen in October when the pond froze over (as Mr. Alex. Mowat reported).... I have very little faith in the attempt to grow salmon fry with artificial foods, with a view of realizing any benefit from the proceeding." Last year Mr. Mowat again kept some salmon fry (about 10,000) in outside tanks with an ample stream of water passing through. Mr. Mowat is one of the best practical fish-culturists living, and this experiment was a success owing to special attention, the fry growing satisfactorily until they were nearly six months old. The food consisted of finely ground raw fish and liver; but quite as important a matter was the intelligent manipulation and care of a zealous officer in charge. The fish were well fed, yet not overfed, and kept perfectly clean, by the removal of dead and decayed matter, especially waste food.