

Prepare and maintain fish eggs in a hatchery

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**Overview**

This standard is about the preparation and maintenance of fish eggs in a fish hatchery, pre- and post-hatch. It requires that work is completed in accordance with site standard operating procedures.

This standard is for those who prepare and maintain fish eggs in a hatchery.

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### Performance criteria

You must be able to:

1. carry out work safely in line with relevant health and safety requirements
2. prepare the fish hatchery to a condition suitable for receiving fish eggs
3. wash and disinfect fish eggs in preparation for hatchery
4. estimate fish egg numbers by volume
5. establish fish eggs at specified densities within holding units
6. maintain environmental conditions within holding units to maximise the survival of eggs
7. monitor and report on water temperature within the hatchery
8. remove dead fish eggs from holding units, keeping disturbance of remaining eggs to a minimum
9. provide information to maintain records of hatchery conditions in accordance with legal and site requirements

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### Knowledge and understanding

You need to know and understand:

1. the relevant health and safety requirements associated with fish hatchery work
2. the developmental and environmental requirements of the early life stages of the fish being farmed
3. the legal requirements controlling the movement of fish eggs between different farm sites
4. why it is important to disinfect fish eggs before they are established into a hatchery
5. site procedures for maintaining hygiene and bio-security within a hatchery
6. common health problems and disorders associated with hatcheries, and the signs that identify their presence
7. how to estimate fish egg numbers by volume
8. how to recognise viable fish eggs
9. the term "**degree days**" and how it is calculated
10. why it is important to remove dead eggs from hatcheries and minimise disturbance to other eggs
11. relevant legal requirements controlling the disposal of mortalities and waste
12. hatchery emergencies and the procedures to follow if an emergency is identified
13. the legal and site requirements for maintaining records of hatchery conditions

## Glossary

**degree days** – method of calculating the rate of fish growth by multiplying the number of days by the average water temperature in degrees Celsius for that time period. e.g. 5 days with water temperatures of 10 degrees = 50 degree days. Different species of fish have different "degree day" requirements to reach the required stage of growth.

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<b>Developed by</b>	Lantra
<b>Version Number</b>	2
<b>Date Approved</b>	August 2015
<b>Indicative Review Date</b>	August 2020
<b>Validity</b>	Current
<b>Status</b>	Original
<b>Originating Organisation</b>	Lantra
<b>Original URN</b>	LANAQu17
<b>Relevant Occupations</b>	Fish Farming
<b>Suite</b>	Aquaculture
<b>Keywords</b>	fish eggs; hatchery

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