

CONTRIBUTION OF TROUT YOLK-SAC FRY (SALMO TRUTTA L.) ORIGINATING FROM WILD STOCK TO FISHING IN THE MOSELOTTE RIVER, FRANCE

The Moselotte River has been severely affected by human activity and in some of its stretches this has impaired reproduction of trout, which has added to an adverse effect on the trout population arising from a high fishing pressure by local anglers. To offset this problem, the local anglers annually release about 50,000 yolk-sac fry that have been derived from wild native breeding stock. It was possible to monitor the fry released in 1999 and 2000 using a method of mass marking by immersion in a fluoromarking agent (Alizarin Red S). The trout enter the fishery at 3 years and about 90% of the trout caught are three or four years old. Fish that had been released represented 25.5% and 36.7% of the catches respectively in 2002 and 2003, two percentages that do not differ significantly. This proportion varied according to the location in the river. The age structure of the marked fish that were caught was similar to that of fish hatched in the wild.

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Obtenir le document : EDP Sciences

Mots clés : Salmo trutta, stocking, fluoromarking, otolith, yolk-sac fry, Salmo trutta, alevinage, fluoromarquage, otolithe, alevin à vésicule résorbée

Date : 2008-04-01

Format : text/xml

Source : <https://doi.org/10.1051/kmae:2006002>

Langue : Anglais

Télécharger les documents : <https://www.kmae-journal.org/10.1051/kmae:2006002/pdf>

Permalien : <https://www.documentation.eauetbiodiversite.fr/notice/contribution-of-trout-yolk-sac-fry-salmo-trutta-l-originating-from-wild-stock-to-fishing-in-the-mose0>