



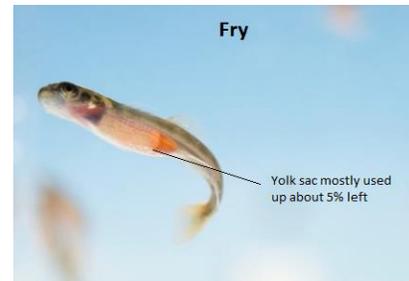
Atlantic salmon development is dictated by water temperature; low (temperature) and slow (development) is best for your fry. Plan your release date ahead of time and plan to have the water temperature in the aquarium increase by 1 or 2 degrees a week until it reaches 50 °F on or near your selected date. In most cases the fry will *not* need to be fed prior to release. It is best if the fry can be released with some yolk sac still remaining. Think of it as packing them a lunch! However, if the fry hatch significantly ahead of the anticipated release date you may need to provide supplemental feed following the information in this document.

### Lifestages

The earliest lifestage of Atlantic salmon, call sac-fry or alevins, do not require any feed. They have a large, distinguishable yolk sac attached to their stomach where they get all the nutrients needed for the next several weeks (below left). As the fry grow their yolk sacs will be absorbed. Even when fry are 100% developed they still have a small yolk sac that may not be externally visible (below right).



A sac-fry, also called an alevin, showing the large yolk sac.



A fry showing a yolk sac that has been nearly completely absorbed

### When to Feed

It is very important to coordinate the development of the fry with the increase in water temperature. Alevins may swim up and down but they still do not have the strength to stay in the water column for long during this stage of development. Fry will start actively seeking food to supplement their yolk sacs when the water temperature reaches 50 °F. Examine your fry closely at this stage. If your fry are actively swimming up in the water column, they have little or no yolk sac remaining *and* your aquarium temperature is at least 50 °F, you should feed them.

### How to Feed

In the morning sprinkle no more than 1/8 tsp of feed on the water; spread it out to avoid the feed clumping. You may feed them at the end of the day if you are certain they consumed most the food as evidenced by little or no feed seen at the bottom of the aquarium. You may find the fry initially ‘play’ with the food, taking it in and spitting it out repeatedly. Once they begin feeding you should observe fish feces, called castings, at the bottom of the aquarium. Castings can be differentiated from uneaten food by their longer and more cylindrical shape.

It is important to avoid over feeding. Overfeeding can lead to contamination of the water quality and kill fish. Do not feed extra if days are missed and there is no need to feed on weekends.

### How to Keep the Tank Clean During Feeding

When salmon start feeding, they will also start producing waste. Keeping the water clean is important for keeping them healthy. If you start to notice the water getting cloudy or murky, scoop out some water with a clean container and then replace it with clean water of the same temperature as your tank water temperature. You can do this every other day or so. This water replacement will help to mitigate the effects of cloudiness and any waste buildup.