

# TROUT IN THE CLASSROOM



NYC students watched a trout egg stripping demonstration at the Newtown Creek Wastewater Resource Recovery Facility on November 7 ([view photos](#)). Check out [this video](#) to see trout spawning in the wild.

## Fry Feeding Tips

Your hatchlings do not require feeding for 7-14 days after hatching. In the alevin stage, they will feed from their yolk sac as they stay low at the bottom of the hatching basket. After the yolk sacs are absorbed and the fry begin to rise off the bottom (swim up stage), start providing a very small amount of Size 0 food. Here are some additional reminders for feeding your trout:

- ◆ Offering food early helps with trout development but ALL uneaten food must be removed. A turkey baster can be helpful for this.
- ◆ Only feed as much as your trout can eat at one time.
- ◆ It is better to feed less food, more often, than a lot of food all at once.
- ◆ Note that a small mortality rate is expected since some fry never learn to eat.

## Trout Care During the Holidays

Thanksgiving Recess is rapidly approaching, with longer winter breaks soon after! Before you leave for the upcoming break, or any time you may be away from the classroom and unable to complete day-to-day tank care, please note the following:

- ◆ Feed less on the day before the break begins. They will be fine without food over the break.
- ◆ Do a water change: vacuum the gravel using a siphon as usual and add new de-chlorinated water into the tank.

Additional tank maintenance tips can be found on the [TIC Website](#). We hope you enjoy a safe holiday with your friends and family!

## Tips for Preventing Trout Tragedy

Trout are very sensitive to changes in water temperature and quality. While the loss of trout can be upsetting, it is important to understand that even in the wild the majority of trout eggs and fry do not reach adulthood. Here are just a few tips to prevent and address a large loss of trout:

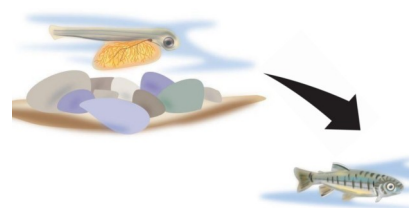
- ◆ Remember to continue covering your tank with insulation during nights, weekends, and holidays to prevent the water from warming up in the event of a power outage.
- ◆ Before letting the trout out of the nest basket, cover all filter and chiller intakes with mesh to prevent trout intake. Smaller fish may need to stay in the basket until they gain mass and learn to eat.
- ◆ Remove dead eggs (white or very dark colored) or fry from the tank as soon as possible. Try to keep a record of the mortality rate as well as physical changes on the fish.
- ◆ Use a water quality test kit to measure and track the pH, ammonia, nitrite, and nitrate levels.
- ◆ Adding Novaqua to the tank can help trout be more resilient to ammonia spikes when you start to feed. When measuring any amount of ammonia it is best to start doing 20% water changes 2-3x per week.

Don't fret, some mysteries are never solved! The national [TIC/SIC Google Group](#) is an excellent resource for getting answers to the toughest TIC questions. Learn more here: [Troubleshooting FAQ's](#).

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## Lesson of the Month: Trout Life Cycle

Introduce students to the trout life cycle! The [Connecting the Trout Life Cycle](#) and [Moving through the Trout Life Cycle](#) lessons help students discover the various stages of the life cycle and interconnections to our environment by completing a trout life cycle puzzle and using physical movement and storytelling. Download additional TIC lessons, resources, and presentations on [DEP's website](#).



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## Explore the Watershed

Explore our incredible water resources using DEP's virtual tour of the [NYC Watershed!](#) Featuring staff interviews, in the field footage, interactive maps, and historical images, this resource will help students discover where our drinking water comes and how we can protect it. At the beginning of the tour, find a Student Worksheet for following along. Recommended for 6-12 grade, as well as 3-5 grade guided by an educator or family member. Adults will enjoy these fun, digital resources too!

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## TIC Grant Deadlines

- ◆ Catskill Watershed Corporation (CWC)'s [Watershed Education Grant](#) application period for Round 29 is now open! If you are hoping to start a TIC program, or need new TIC equipment for next school year, make sure you apply by **Friday, February 6, 2026 at 4 pm**.
- ◆ Watershed Agricultural Council (WAC)'s [Watershed Forestry Field Trip Grant](#) application period is open; apply for help funding transportation for your spring trout release trips. The deadline is **Friday, January 9, 2026 by 5 pm**.



*Students make forest filters on a WAC trout release field trip.*