

April 8, 2010

Incorporated Administrative Agency, Fisheries Research Agency

The world's first successful closed cycle breeding of freshwater eel
– Paving the way for producing freshwater eels without relying on natural resources –

Points:

- Eel eggs and sperm were obtained from eels that were born and grown in the laboratory.
- Fry under closed cycle breeding were finally obtained by fertilizing and incubating the eggs.

The Fisheries Research Agency attempted to induce maturation of the Japanese eel that were born in the laboratory. Eggs and sperm were collected from these individuals, and artificial fertilization was performed, from which eel larvae hatched on March 27 (Saturday). The larvae have steadily grown, started feeding on April 2, and have since grown steadily. Thus, the complete culture of eels has finally been achieved, a long-term goal that nobody had succeeded in.

These results, which represent a major advance in eel culture, pave the way for reproducing eels without relying on natural resources, thus contributing to the protection of natural eel resources and also eel aquaculture industry.

Maturation technologies for adult and processing artificial food for larvae will be improved based on the information obtained from wild eels and larvae captured in the spawning area.

* The results were obtained by a study project entitled “Development of technologies for artificial seed production in the Japanese eel,” commissioned by the Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries Research Council and funded by the Fisheries Agency, etc.

For more information, call the Fisheries Research Agency at:

TEL: 045-227-2621

Public Relations Section, General Planning and Coordination Department Headquarters

Fuminari Itou TEL: 0599-66-1831 (Director, Division)

Project Management Division, National Research Institute of Aquaculture

Hideki Tanaka TEL: 0599-66-1830 (Head)

Reproduction Research Group, Aquaculture Biology Division, National Research Institute of Aquaculture

Hitoshi Imaizumi TEL: 099-472-0730

Shibushi Station, National Center for Stock Enhancement

15F Queen's Tower B, 2-3-3 Minato Mirai, Nishi-ku, Yokohama 220-6115

TEL: 045-227-2600 FAX: 045-227-2700

<http://www.fra.affrc.go.jp>