

August 31, 2010

Incorporated Administrative Agency, Fisheries Research Agency

Eel larvae produced by complete culture grow into glass eel
– Progress toward mass production of artificial eel seeds –

Points:

- The first eel larvae born under complete culture have grown into glass eel.
- The period for eel larvae to grow into glass eel was reduced by three weeks, making progress toward mass production of artificial eel seeds.

1. In March 2010, the Fisheries Research Agency achieved the complete culture of freshwater eels by obtaining larvae from eels that were born in the laboratory. The larvae have grown steadily thereafter, and on August 5, the first one metamorphosed into a glass eel. Many more are now successively turning into glass eel.

2. In previous rearing trials, it took at least 153 days for hatched larvae to grow into glass eel. This time, the first one became glass eel in 131 days, shortening the period by three weeks. This reduction in the rearing period is expected to increase the survival rate, marking a step toward the mass production of artificial eel seeds.

3. The survival rate until glass eel will be investigated by continuing the rearing trials, and mass production technologies for producing offspring from these glass eels will be developed.

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

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