



# What are the Differences?

## Wild Brook Trout


### FALL

- Adult females (2 to 5 years of age) select clean gravel to create a nest called a redd. 
- Female trout lay less than 100 to 1,000 eggs.
- About 1 to 2 percent of the eggs will survive.


### WINTER

- The fertilized eggs develop. 
- Within about two weeks, the egg develops eyes (eyed egg-stage).
- The egg gets oxygen from the water flow around it.
- Nutrition for the trout comes from the egg yolk.
- At this stage, the trout are very sensitive to changes in water temperature and quality.

### SPRING

- Developing eggs, still in the redd, hatch from February to March. 
- Fry live off the yolk sac.
- Between March and April, after absorbing the yolk sac, the "swim-up" fry emerge from the gravel to begin eating small insects and plankton.

### SUMMER

- Young trout are active along calm edges of runs and riffles and hide among rocks, tree roots and grasses. 
- Trout are 2 to 3 inches long by the end of summer.

## Hatchery-Raised Brook Trout

### FALL

- Pennsylvania Fish & Boat Commission hatcheries collect eggs from 2- to 4-year-old "brood stock" trout.
- On average, about 4,000 eggs are produced from a female trout.
- Eggs are mixed with sperm/"milt" from a male trout.
- Eggs are placed in indoor hatching trays.
- Eggs hatch in about 44 days in 50-degree F water.

### WINTER/EARLY SPRING

- It takes 2 to 4 weeks for the sac fry to absorb the yolk sac.
- When the yolk sac is absorbed, the "swim-up" fry are moved to indoor tanks
- Tanks hold about 50,000 fry.

### SPRING

- After 8 to 10 weeks, most of the young trout are moved outside into raceways.

### SPRING/WINTER

- Trout are fed pellets for 12 months and grow 11 to 12 inches long.

### THE FOLLOWING SPRING

- Trout are weighed, counted and loaded into stocking trucks.
- Trucks hold a maximum of 3,500 10-inch trout.
- Waterways Conservation Officers stock the trout with help from volunteers.

## Answers to Life of a Trout

**Life Cycle Match:** (First page of stream, from top to bottom) Fertilized Egg, Sac Fry, Fry, Fingerling; (second page of stream) Adult.

Key Habitat 1 is **Riffle**; Key Habitat 2 is **Run**;  
Key Habitat 3 is **Pool**.

Rainbow Trout is **NON-NATIVE**  
Brook Trout is **NATIVE**  
Steelhead is **NON-NATIVE**  
Brown Trout is **NON-NATIVE**