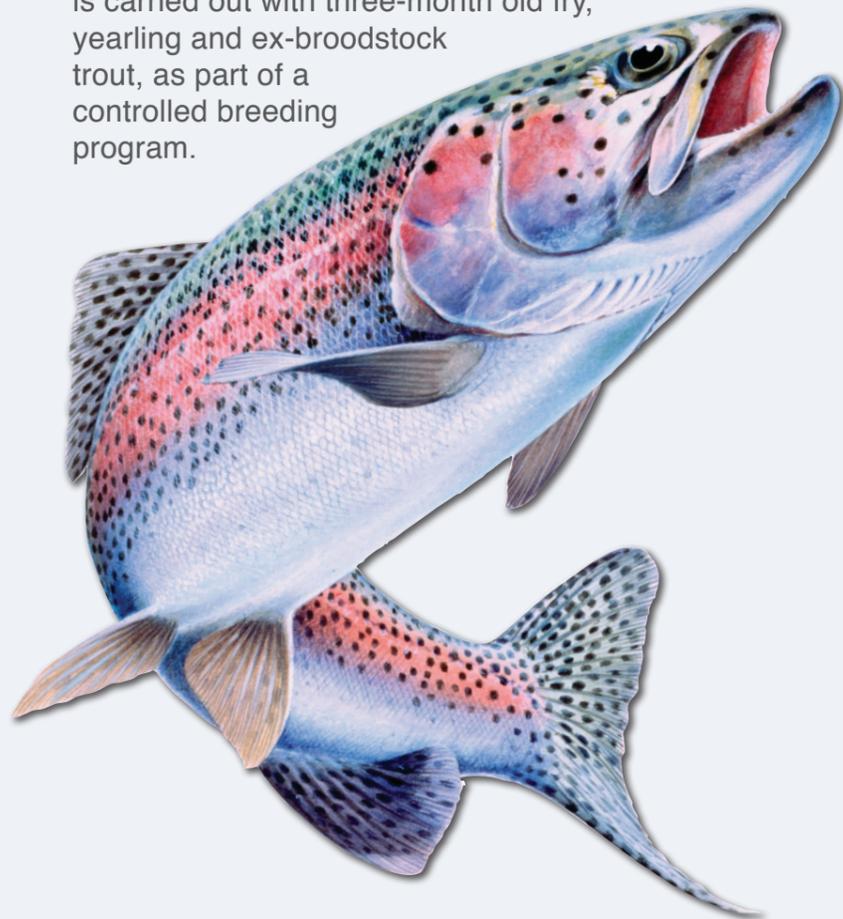


# Restocking trout

A carefully managed trout stocking program has created a sustainable, recreational freshwater fishery in Western Australia's southwest, funded by freshwater angling licence revenue.

We annually restock selected waterways with thousands of rainbow and brown trout, which have been bred and raised at our Pemberton Freshwater Research Centre (PFRC). Our WA trout fishery is based on young, fast growing fish. Restocking is carried out with three-month old fry, yearling and ex-broodstock trout, as part of a controlled breeding program.



## Trout breeding program



**1** Trout are artificially spawned at the PFRC. Fish are graded as 'ripe' or 'unripe', depending on their milt or egg availability.



**2** The ripe fish are carefully removed from the ponds and 'stripped' – their abdomen gently squeezed to release the eggs from females and milt from males.



**3** The eggs and milt are mixed; a ratio of approximately three females to one or two males is used when fertilising the eggs, to maintain genetic variation and fitness.



**4** A solution of flossy salt, triss and glycine is added to prolong sperm life as they fertilise the fragile eggs. Water is then added to harden and seal off the eggs.



**5** The eggs are washed to remove any waste, helping to reduce infection when incubating.



**6** Measured for an incubation ratio of approximately 14,000 eggs per litre, each tray holds three litres of eggs, over which filtered water flows for maximum aeration.



**7** Taking approximately 21 days to incubate, approximately 80 per cent of eggs develop to 'eyed' (fertilised) ova.



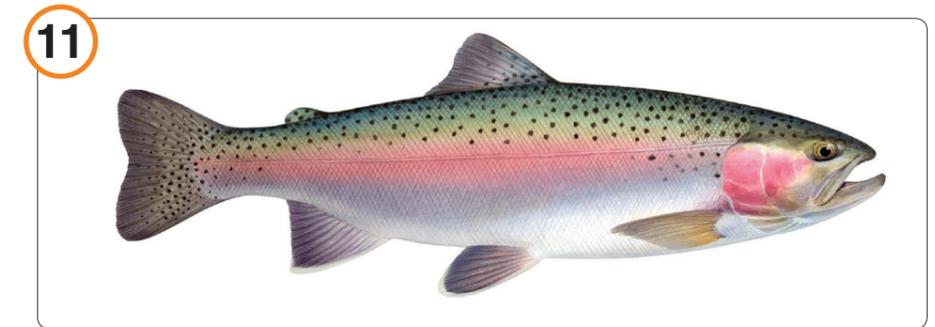
**8** The eggs hatch at approximately 28 to 30 days into larvae called 'alevin'.



**9** The alevin absorb their yolk sac over 7-10 days and are then raised on a special diet.



**10** The fry reach 'fingerling' size (8-10 cm) at approximately six months and become 'yearling' at 8-12 months.



**11** In WA, rainbow trout are ready to breed at about two years of age and are kept for broodstock before being used for restocking.