



Montana Outdoors Magazine Literacy Evaluation Program

"All Hands on Peck"

name: _____

1. Assisted reproduction is important for sustaining walleye populations in Fort Peck Reservoir. What types of conditions hamper natural spawning?

2. List the five basic steps taken during the annual Fort Peck Walleye spawn and the weeks that follow, culminating with the release of juvenile walleye into a lake or reservoir.

3. How many females were caught during the 15-day 2025 spawn, and how many eggs did this yield?

_____ females caught _____ individual walleye eggs

4. The annual spawning event relies heavily on volunteers. If you were a retired person, is this something you would volunteer for? Why, or why not?

5. What are the white structures in the photo atop page 14?

6. How do the hatchery staff harvest the milt (sperm) and eggs here?

7. What is the purpose of mixing the milt and eggs in a bowl, as shown in the photograph atop page 16?

8. Why are wild turkey feathers used to stir the mixture?



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9. What is the annual goal of the Fort Peck walleye spawn?

10. Where are the fertilized eggs taken, and what happens to them there?

11. What is the purpose of the precautions (iodine, ultraviolet light, biopsies) that are taken once the fertilized eggs arrive at the hatchery?

12. What is contained in the coolers shown in the photo atop page 18?

13. What is the difference between walleye fry and fingerling walleye?

14. Why does FWP stock some bodies of water with fingerling walleye rather than walleye fry?

15. Explain what is going on in the photo atop page 19.

16. Read the section about triploids at the bottom of page 17. What is the purpose of the pressure chamber?

17. Why does FWP only release **sterile** walleye into Yellowtail Reservoir (aka Bighorn Lake)?

18. Explain what a “saueye” is. Do not use the word “hybrid” in your answer.



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Teachers:

1. For a possible bell-ringer show students a map of Montana and ask if they know where Ft. Peck Reservoir is.
2. The article contains several terms that may be new to students. It may be helpful to discuss them before they read the article. Here is a list: spawning, stocking a lake with fish, milt, incubated, fish hatchery, sterile, fry, fingerling, pathogen, triploid, hybrid.
3. It may also be helpful to explain the natural process of walleye spawning to students, which involves external fertilization. The vast majority of bony fish use external fertilization.
4. If time allows consider showing students the 5-minute 2025 Montana FWP video titled "Walleye Spawn at Fort Peck Reservoir - See QR code on page 19 of the article.
5. Give students a copy of the article. Have them read it silently, read it as a class, or read it to them.
6. If the assignment seems to be too much for the grade level you teach, consider assigning a certain number of questions (you decide how many, and each student gets to pick which ones they answer). Any questions they answer correctly beyond the required number can count as extra credit.

Answer Key

1. During years when the reservoir level is low the rock and gravel areas where they spawn are high and dry. When the level is high fish go into tributaries, which may not be deep enough for spawning.
2. Capture wild walleye, extract their eggs (and milt), mix the eggs and milt, transport them to hatcheries, incubate (and rear)
3. 400 females caught, 60 million individual walleye eggs
4. Answers will vary.
5. Floating fish spawning huts.
6. They gently squeeze the fish, squirting the eggs or milt into a bucket.
7. Mixing allows the sperm to fertilize the eggs.
8. It mimics the wave action of the reservoir.
9. To gather 60 million fertilized eggs.
10. They are taken to the Ft. Peck Hatchery where they are incubated for several weeks.
11. To avoid introducing a (disease) pathogen into the hatchery ecosystem.
12. The fertilized eggs.
13. Size - The fry are mosquito-size, and the fingerlings are the size of a pinky (little finger).
14. Fry are stocked in water bodies that warm gradually in early spring where there is abundant zooplankton for them to eat. Fingerlings are put in waters where there is much less zooplankton, and predatory fish would quickly devour the slower fry.
15. Fertilized eggs are being put into incubation chambers at the Ft. Peck Hatchery.
16. To produce sterile walleye.
17. To protect the population of native sauger that live in the Yellowtail Reservoir.
18. A saugeye is a cross between a sauger and a walleye.