Good afternoon TIC participants!

Your brook trout eggs were successfully “spawned” today, September 28, 2011 at PA Fish and Boat Commission’s Benner Spring Hatchery. Below are some photos of native brook trout spawning and your little brook trout eggs just after they were collected from female brook trout. The eggs will be placed in secure incubators where they will begin to develop. In approximately 29 days we will be able to handle them and prepare them for their adventure to your classroom on November 1, 2011.

**Brook trout: natural spawning**

In nature, brook trout spawn in the fall, from mid-September to early November. The female digs a shallow gravel nest on the stream bottom called a —redd. A redd is located where there is good water flow to bring oxygen to the eggs. After spawning, the eggs receive an additional covering of gravel. Eggs develop over winter and hatch in early spring.

(photos taken by: Ken Undercoffer, PA Trout Unlimited)

Male and female brook trout spawning in a stream. The female is usually a bit larger in size than the male. Female covering the eggs with small Gravel using her tail and body.
Preparing your brook trout eggs the morning of September 28, 2011

Adult female brook trout in preparation tank before we collect their eggs.

Adult male brook trout in preparation tank before we collect their milt. Notice their brilliant color compared to the females at this time of year.

A close up view of brook trout egg collection.

A close up view of egg fertilization using the milt(sperm) from a male brook trout.

After your eggs were fertilized and disinfected they were placed into incubation trays to continue developing. **29 days** until “eyed egg” stage and then they will begin their journey to your classrooms.
Benner Spring hatchery staff who collected and prepared your TIC brook trout eggs

PA Fish and Boat Commission staff wishing all TIC classrooms the best in 2011-2012!