

BREEDING STRATEGIES IN FISH

EGG SCATTERING



Egg scattering involves the female being chased by the male and involves the male nipping the vent area of the female to stimulate the release of eggs. Whilst the eggs are being released the male will fertilise them as they fall and the eggs will be scattered throughout the environment.

There is no parental care involved with egg scattering fish.

OVOVIVIPAROUS



With Ovoviviparous live bearers the eggs are fertilised internally and they will then hatch inside the female and she will give birth to them. Viviparous live bearers will have their young develop internally without an egg and are nourished by an umbilical cord.

NEST BUILDERS



Nest building fish make what are known as bubble nests on the surface of the water made up of mucous and sometimes plant matter.

SUBSTRATE SPAWNERS



Open substrate spawners lay their eggs on objects like a flat stone and will guard them ferociously until the fry has hatched.

Cave substrate spawners will lay their eggs in caves and crevices and will still heavily guard their eggs against predators.

MOUTH BROODING



Mouth Brooding: This breeding strategy involves the female laying a single egg at a time and the male will then fertilise the egg, the female will then collect the egg and the process repeats until all the eggs are fertilised. The eggs will develop for around 3 weeks until they are independent. This breeding strategy involves a lot of parental care.

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