

# Traunsee Fish Hatchery Altmünster



Traunsee water filter station

The fish hatchery hut, built by the **Rettet den Traunsee-fisch** association, went into operation in 2004. The aim is to save the native fish of Lake Traunsee, especially the Reinanke (whitefish) and the native Saibling (char). The fish are threatened by several factors: Climate as well as geological changes, industrial waste, the sharp increase in private boats on the lake and, most recently, the pumped storage power plant in Ebensee on the Sonnstein.

In 2021, the loss of 3 generations of fish was recorded, which also led to a 3-year cessation of fishing for the Riedling.

The fish hatchery is unique in the region. Most hatcheries in Austria are owned by the Austrian Federal Forestry Office. The technical system for the Altmünster fish hatchery is an in-house design, including mouth-blown containers for the first fish egg hatchery.

## Timing in the fish hatchery house

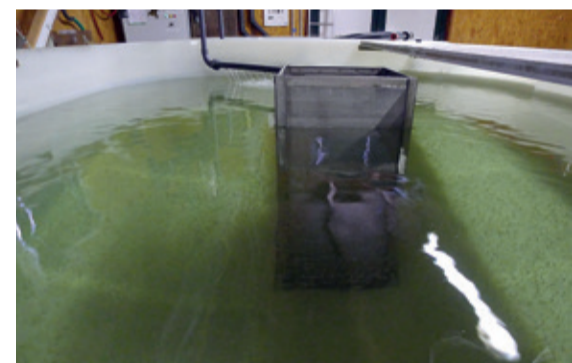
**End of Nov -** spawning fishing.  
**beginning of Dec** Start of fish hatchery operation.

**February - April** Hatching time, depending on weather and plankton availability, the hatching time is delayed by additionally cooling the Traunsee water. If plankton fishing fails for 24 hours, some of the hatched fish are released into the lake as an emergency solution.

**March - April** Hatched fish are released into Lake Traunsee



First stop in the fish hatchery hut - Reinanken (whitefish) eggs



Hatched Reinanken (whitefish) in the breeding tank

While the fish hatchery house is in operation, the lake water is filtered for the eggs glass containers and the hatched fish tanks. This leaves a 1:1 imprint on the filter material of the changes in weather, currents, sediments and minerals.

Without native fish in the Traunsee, the life of commercial fishing dies. Historically, the right to fish was granted by the Traunkirchen monastery in the year 900. In 1448, the right to fish was recognized as a hereditary right.

The Trawöger family, who initiated the hatchery with other Traunsee fishermen/women and also look after it, can trace their fishing rights to 1500. Three generations of the Trawöger family are currently professional fishermen/women - Johann III, Monika, who became Traunsee's first female "master" fisherwoman in 2007, and her daughter Gerlinde, who became a master fisherwoman in 2016. Gerlinde took over the company in 2022.