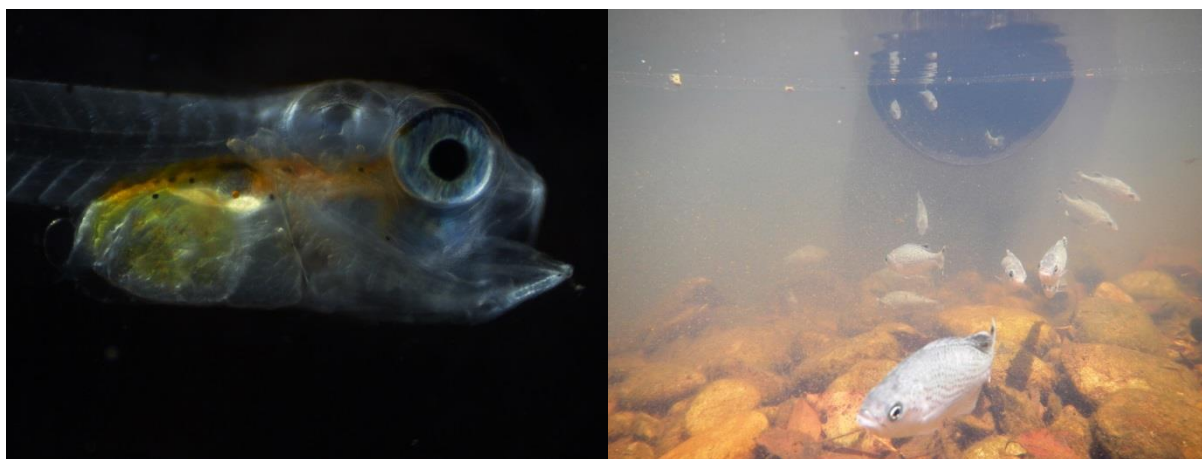


Developing jungle perch fingerling production:

FRDC Project No 2012/213 Summary

Following three years of research, production of jungle perch fingerlings has been solved. Jungle perch larvae need copepod nauplii (the larval stages of a small type of crustacean) as a first feed. They then require copepod nauplii and adult copepods as food for several weeks, before transitioning to brine shrimp and commercial feed preparations. Larvae need to be reared in seawater under bright light. The easiest way to rear larvae through to fingerlings is to rear them in outdoor saltwater ponds with natural copepod blooms. It is important to wait until copepod densities in ponds are high enough to support jungle perch larvae, before spawning any fish.



An 8 day old jungle perch larva close up (left) and releasing fingerlings as part of a trial re-introduction (right).

Trial reintroductions of jungle perch have taken place in three small catchments. Two catchments are in south-east Queensland and one is near Mackay. Stocked fingerlings were detected up to 10 months after release. Some released fish reached more than 200 mm in length. The majority of fingerlings detected had moved upstream of their release sites. A major flood in May 2015 may have negatively impacted fingerlings stocked into south-east Queensland. Fingerlings were detected prior to the flood but none have been detected since. It is possible they may have moved on the flood event to sites we cannot access to sample. It is too early to determine if the reintroductions have been successful or not. Successful reintroductions will result in natural spawnings and subsequent recruitment of fingerlings. Jungle perch need to be two to three years old before they can breed.

A jungle perch production manual has been produced for commercial hatcheries. This manual should enable hatcheries to successfully produce fingerlings. Jungle perch are currently not a permitted species for stocking. Any fingerlings produced by hatcheries in the short term will be for the aquarium trade only.