

Harvesting Rotifers (12L cone)

We use a S-type rotifer, Brachionus rotundiformis

Water Quality:

- Temperature: 90 F set point (range 85-90F)
 - Salinity: ~9-10 ppt using Instant Ocean [120g/12L of RO H₂O]
 - Ph: 7.9-8.1
1. Unplug the heater and remove the bubbler, airstone, floss, lid, heater and temperature sensor to the sink. Wash everything well with hot water and scrub with a brush. Clean the floss with high water pressure (turn on both cold and hot tap water full blast) until you can kind of tell that the original color was white.
 2. Strain 80% (or whatever percentage decided) of the cone into sieve with the nylon mesh. Remove the strained rotifers into a squeeze bottle with RO water, bring up to ~1L and put them on a bubbler immediately.
 3. Strain the 20% (or all of remaining) rotifers left in the cone into sieve with nylon mesh. Remove the strained rotifers into another bottle (or beaker) with RO water and put them on a bubbler immediately.
 4. Close the water valve at the bottom of the cone and fill up the cone with hot tap water. Scrub the inside of the cone well with a brush. Drain the cone. Rinse the cone again with RO water, but no need to fill the cone back up.
 5. Close the water valve at the bottom of the cone. Fill the cone up with 12 liters of RO water. Put the bubbler, airstone, floss, lid, heater and temperature sensor back into the cone. **Make sure the long bubbler is stuck in the hole at the bottom of the cone.** Once the cone is filled up with 12 liters RO water, plug the heater back in. Add **130** grams of Instant Ocean aquarium salt. Mix and dissolve the salt with pressure from the RO water hose.
 6. Once most of the aquarium salt has dissolved, put the bottle that contains 20% of rotifers back in the cone. Feed out rotifers to the fish. You can save some rotifers for later as long as they remain on bubbler.

How to Prepare Rotifer Food (12L cone)

- You will be using two 250 ml beakers in the styrofoam box to store diluted food on ice.
- Use a 50 ml graduated cylinder to measure **11ml** of Rotifer food and dilute it with with 239 ml of RO water to make a 250 ml solution and keep the solution on ice.
- Place the lid back on the Styrofoam box. Make sure the tubes attached to the pumps are touching the bottom of the 250ml beakers. Make sure the other ends of the food tubes are inside the rotifer cones.
- Prime both pumps to ensure that the algae is taken up into the tubing and to clear air out of the system. Always the recently cleaned cone to feed out to a light green color.
- Turn off pumps and make sure they are set to AUTO.
- We feed our rotifer cultures for 2mins every 3 hours.

Equipment:

Pumps: Peristaltic Metering Timer Pump, 5 GPD (Grainger # 38M003)

Sieve mesh: McMaster-Carr #9318T51, Nylon Mesh 376 x 376 .0011

Rotifer cone (12L): (Pentair Aquatic Ecosystems, Inc. # j30)

Algae: (Reed Mariculture Inc. Rotifer Diet)