

**FORMATION OF A FLOCK OF MOTHER FISH AND REPRODUCTION OF FISH**

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**Annotation:**

This article explores the formation of mother fish flocks and their impact on fish reproduction through a combination of observational studies and data analysis. It highlights the ecological significance of this social behavior and the benefits it provides to fish populations.

**Keywords:** Mother fish, flock formation, reproduction, social behavior, ecological significance.

**Introduction**

The phenomenon of mother fish flock formation and its role in fish reproduction has garnered significant attention from researchers and biologists in recent years. Fish, like many other animals, display complex social behaviors that extend beyond individual interactions. The formation of mother fish flocks is one such fascinating behavior that has been observed in various aquatic species. In this article, we will delve into the methods used to study mother fish flocks, the results obtained from these studies, the implications of this behavior on fish reproduction, and the wider ecological significance of such communal behavior.

Studying mother fish flock formation requires a comprehensive approach that combines various techniques, including observational studies, experimental setups, and data analysis. Researchers often employ underwater cameras and remote sensing technologies to observe and document the formation of mother fish flocks in their natural habitats. Additionally, tagging and tracking individual fish within the flock allow researchers to monitor their movements and interactions over time.

The formation of a flock of mother fish typically occurs during their reproductive and spawning period. Fish, like many other animals, exhibit various behaviors to increase the chances of their offspring's survival. The process of forming a flock can involve multiple stages and can vary depending on the species of fish. Let's look at a generalized overview of how a flock of mother fish may form:

- **Spawning:** The first step in the formation of a flock of mother fish is the spawning process. Spawning is the release of eggs by female fish and the subsequent fertilization of these eggs by male fish. This usually takes place in specific areas, such as shallow waters or spawning grounds, where environmental conditions are suitable for egg development and hatching.
- **Nest building or preparation:** In some species, male fish construct nests or provide shelter for the eggs. The males may attract females to these sites to lay their eggs. The gathering of female fish around these nests forms the initial stages of a potential mother fish flock.
- **Aggregation and safety in numbers:** During the reproductive season, female fish may instinctively congregate in groups. Being part of a flock provides certain advantages, such as

better protection against predators, increased chances of successful fertilization, and more significant chances of finding suitable nesting sites.

- **Communication and coordination:** Fish often use visual, chemical, and auditory cues to communicate with one another. This communication is essential for maintaining cohesion within the flock, especially during times of potential danger or when navigating to better environments for spawning and raising their offspring.
- **Parental care:** After the eggs are laid and fertilized, the mother fish may exhibit various parental behaviors, depending on the species. Some mother fish guard the eggs until they hatch, while others may take on a more active role in caring for the fry (baby fish) after hatching.
- **Dissipation of the flock:** Once the spawning and parental care period is over, the mother fish flock may disperse. The fish return to their regular habitats and feeding grounds until the next reproductive season.

It's essential to note that the specific behaviors and formation of a flock can differ significantly among fish species. Some fish may exhibit complex social behaviors and form tight-knit communities, while others may have a more solitary approach to reproduction and parenting. Understanding the specific behavior of a particular fish species requires studying its ecology and natural history.

Through extensive research, scientists have uncovered intriguing patterns regarding the formation of mother fish flocks. These flocks often comprise adult female fish that gather together during specific periods of their reproductive cycle. The formation of flocks seems to be influenced by environmental cues, such as water temperature, availability of food, and presence of predators. The communal behavior provides several benefits to the fish, including increased protection against predators, efficient foraging, and enhanced reproductive success.

The formation of a flock of Mother fish and their reproductive behavior can vary depending on the species. However, I will provide a general overview of fish reproduction and the concept of a "flock" in this context.

#### Fish Reproduction:

reproduction can be broadly classified into two main types: oviparous and viviparous.

- **Oviparous Fish:** These fish lay eggs that are fertilized externally. The female fish releases her eggs into the water, and the male fish releases sperm (milt) to fertilize them. Once fertilized, the eggs are left to develop on their own or may be guarded by one or both parents until they hatch. Examples of oviparous fish include most freshwater fish like salmon, trout, and many marine species like cod and herring.
- **Viviparous Fish:** These fish give birth to live young. The embryos develop inside the mother's body and are nourished through various mechanisms, such as the mother's placenta or yolk sac. The fry are fully developed when born and can swim and fend for themselves shortly after birth. Examples of viviparous fish include guppies, mollies, and some species of sharks.

#### Formation of a Flock of Mother Fish (Schooling Behavior):

A "flock" is a term often used to describe a group of birds. For fish, the term used is "school." Many fish species exhibit schooling behavior, which involves grouping together in coordinated and synchronized movements. Schooling offers several advantages, such as protection from predators, increased foraging efficiency, and social interactions.

In some species, especially oviparous fish that guard their eggs, you may observe a formation of a "school" of mother fish. The mother fish may congregate in groups near a nesting site to lay their eggs. During this time, they might display territorial and aggressive behavior to protect their spawning site. After the eggs are laid, the mother fish may continue to guard them until they hatch, at which point the fry disperse or may continue to stay close to the mother for a short period.

It's essential to remember that not all fish species exhibit schooling behavior, and the reproductive behavior can vary widely among different species. Some fish species are solitary and do not form schools, while others may exhibit different forms of social behavior during reproduction.

Overall, fish reproduction and schooling behavior are fascinating subjects, and there is still much to learn about the intricacies of these behaviors across the diverse range of fish species in the world.

### Discussion

The formation of mother fish flocks is thought to provide various advantages to the fish population. By aggregating in groups, mother fish can reduce their individual risk of predation, as predators may find it challenging to target a single fish amidst a large group. Furthermore, the cooperative nature of these flocks allows for improved foraging efficiency, as the collective can cover a larger area in search of food.

Regarding reproduction, the communal behavior of mother fish flocks plays a vital role. Female fish that gather in flocks benefit from social learning, where they can share information about suitable spawning locations and ideal environmental conditions for their offspring. Additionally, some research suggests that the presence of other female fish can stimulate the release of hormones associated with reproduction, leading to synchronized spawning events within the flock.

### Conclusions and Suggestions

The formation of mother fish flocks showcases the remarkable complexity of fish social behavior and its importance in their reproductive success. Understanding these behaviors is critical for conserving fish populations and ensuring the health of aquatic ecosystems. As further research is needed to unravel the intricacies of mother fish flock formation, researchers should continue to employ advanced technologies and interdisciplinary approaches.

In conclusion, the phenomenon of mother fish flock formation is a fascinating aspect of fish biology that has captivated the scientific community. Through their collective efforts, these mother fish exemplify how social behavior can enhance survival and reproduction in the animal kingdom. By shedding light on this behavior, we can take more informed steps towards the preservation of aquatic biodiversity and the delicate balance of our marine ecosystems.

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