## Salmon Lifecycle

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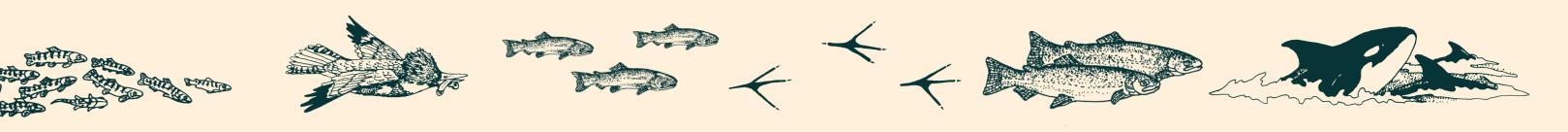
acific salmon travel thousands of miles to complete their lifecycle. The salmon's life begins in freshwater streams like Icicle Creek. As they mature, they travel approximately 500 miles to the Pacific Ocean where they spend two to four years at sea before returning to fresh water to spawn. During this epic migration from the Pacific, through the Columbia and Wenatchee Rivers, salmon must avoid



**2** Once the nutrient rich yolk sac is asorbed, fry, free swimming and feeding salmon, emerge from the red.

**3** Fry eat tiny plants and insects as they begin their journey downstream. When the fry are ready to enter the ocean, their skin turns silver and they're called a **smolt**.

> 4 As smolts near the ocean, they spend time in **estuaries** (where fresh and salt water mix) to physiologically adapt to salt water, feeding and growing to young adults.



still attached, hatch within a gravel nest called a **redd.** The alevin remains in the redd up to three months, feeding on the yolk sac.



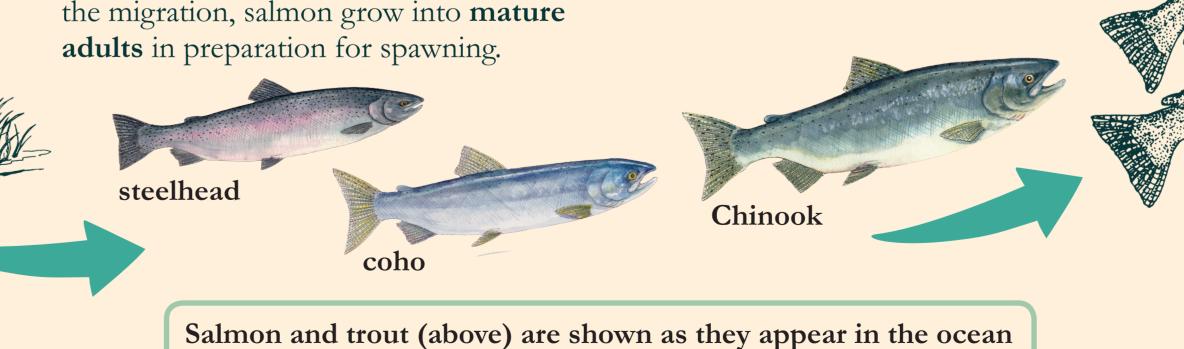
predation and fishing, navigate eight dams, and cope with degraded habitat. More than 100 species of wildlife including bears, wolves, orcas, seals, otters, eagles, salamanders, and fish are known to feed on salmon throughout the salmon's lifecycle. Less than 1% of the eggs make it back as spawning adults.

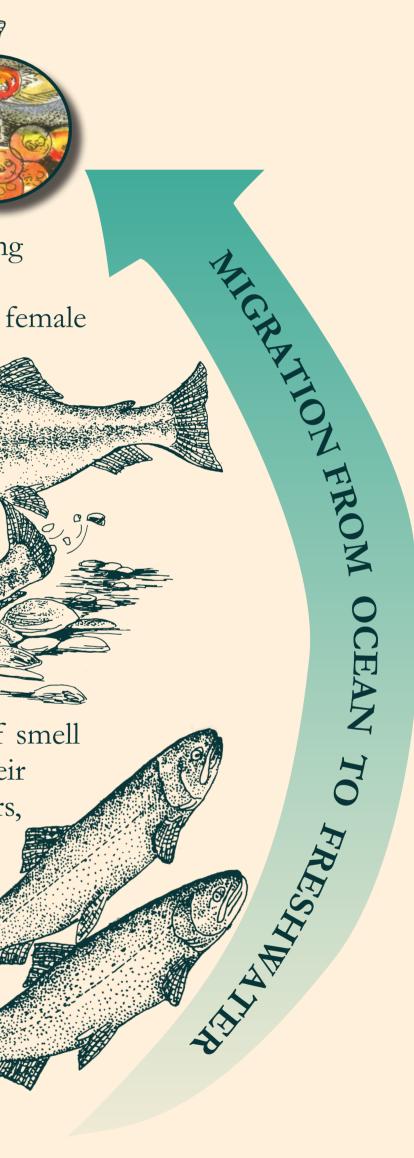
> • After a female adult selects the perfect spawning habitat, she digs a redd. Males compete to court females for spawning rights. Once she's ready, the female releases her eggs while the male simultaneously covers the eggs with mat.

8 Adult salmon die after spawning; their carcasses decay, providing food and vital nutrients to other creatures in the watershed. Although salmon make their spawning journey only once, steelhead may return to spawn multiple times.

> **•** Young adult salmon enter the salt water and travel north to rich feeding areas. During the migration, salmon grow into mature

6 Mature adults use their acute sense of smell and sense of direction to swim back to their natal streams to spawn. Once in the rivers, migrating salmon do not eat, but live off the fat and protein stored in their bodies.





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