



# Salmon



## Life-cycle:

**Eggs:** female lays 2,000-10,000 eggs ("redd") in gravel after digging a depression with her tail. Hatch after 3-4 months.

**Alevin:** right after hatching, cannot swim. 1 1/2" long with egg sack

**Fry:** After egg sack is gone and they look like small salmon. Chinook head straight for salt water, Coho stay in stream for one year. Some salmon stay in their stream for three years.

**Smolt:** start heading to sea. They hang out in estuaries where they find important foods and can get used to the salt water.

**Adult:** when they reach the ocean. Stay for 6 months to 5 years, some traveling thousands of miles from where they were hatched, eating shrimp, squid and small fish. Return to home stream to spawn by "smelling" their way back.

(SEE DIAGRAM BELOW)

## Habitat:

Salmon need:

- cool, clean water
- appropriate water depth, quantity and flow velocities
- upland and riparian (stream bank) vegetation to stabilize soil and provide shade
- clean gravel for spawning and egg-rearing
- large woody debris to provide resting and hiding places
- adequate food, both aquatic and terrestrial
- varied channel forms

Source: NOAA's NMFS Northwest Regional Office webpage

## Types:

There are five main types of Pacific Salmon, and they are easy to remember by holding up your open hand:

Thumb = Chum

Pointer = Sockeye (like you were to poke/sock someone in the eye)

Middle = Chinook/King (longest finger is "king")

Ring = Coho/Silver (rings are made of silver)

Pinky = Pink



Source: [www.thinksalmon.com](http://www.thinksalmon.com)