SALMON LIFECYCLE

Egg

An egg in a gravel nest takes about fifty days to hatch in 50°F water.

Spawners

Salmon spend one to five years in the

ocean eating squid, small fish and plankton. When they are ready to breed they return to the stream they were

Adult

born in.

As spawners swim upstream their bodies change shape and color. When they reach the spawning ground the female digs a nest called a redd and lays 3000-5000 eggs, then the male fertilizes them. Salmon die after spawning.

Alevin

Alevin hatch from eggs and stay in the gravel nest. They feed off of their yolk sac for about 50 days.

Parr

Parr leave the nest in search of food. They begin to slowly migrate downstream.

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Smolt

Smolt swim downstream into the estuary where fresh and salt water mix. They stay here until their bodies have adjusted to living in salt water.

SEATTLE AQUARIUM