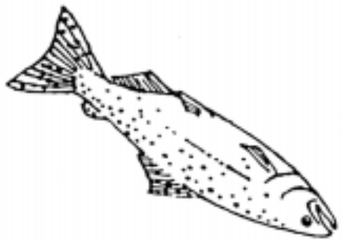
THE LIFE CYCLE OF THE CHINOOK SALMON



EGGS

SEPT - DEC

ALEVIN IN STREAM GRAVEL

JAN - APRIL

FRY

MAY - JUNE

JUVENILE FISH IN FRESH WATER

SMOLT MIGRATE TO OCEAN
APRIL - AUGUST

FISH IN OCEAN

2 - 5 YEARS

ADULTS MIGRATE TO SPAWNING GROUNDS

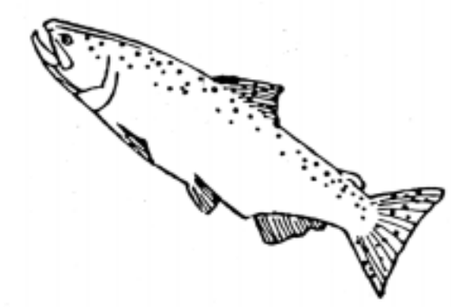
2 - 6 YEARS OLD

FISH SPAWN

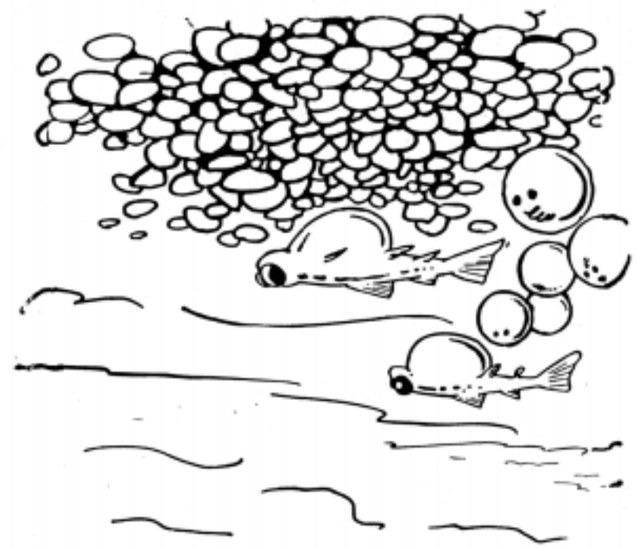
SEPT - DEC

I can help salmon by:

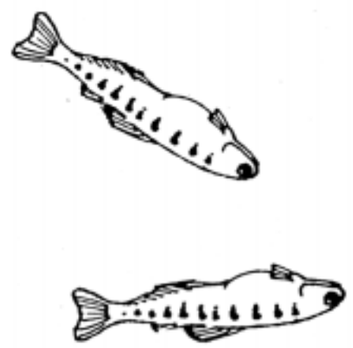
The Story of
Pacific Northwest Salmon



1. Salmon lay their eggs in streams. The eggs look like small red pebbles. They are hidden under the gravel.

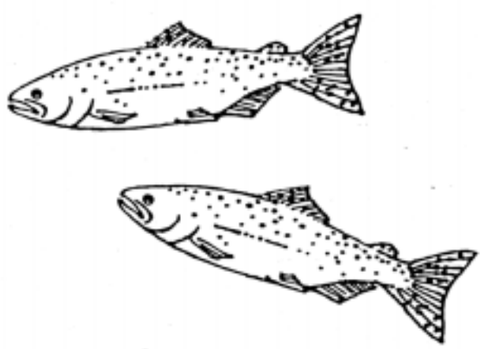


2. In the spring, the eggs hatch. They live under the gravel and are about 1 inch long. The alevin has an orange sack on it's belly.



3. When summer comes, the babies have grown and look like tiny fish. The fry are about 1 inch long and stay in the gravel for safety.

4. The smolts are growing quickly. They are silver and almost 4 inches long. They swim down the Columbia River towards the ocean.



5. Salmon live about 3 years in the Pacific Ocean. They eat and grow into adult salmon.

6. The adult salmon swim back up the Columbia River to the stream where they were born. The salmon lay their eggs in the gravel.