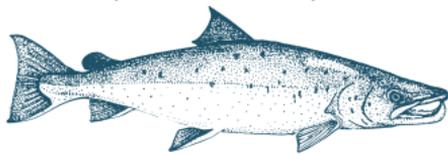


Life Cycle of the Atlantic Salmon

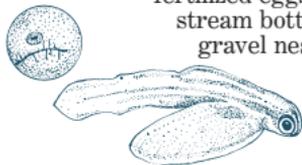
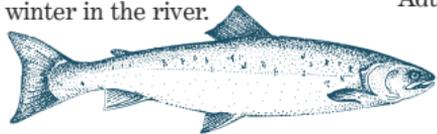
(*Salmo salar*)

Spawned-out salmon return to the ocean or over-winter in the river.



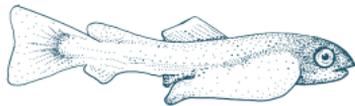
Adult male

In late autumn, the female buries fertilized eggs in stream bottom gravel nests.



The adult salmon begin returning to their native streams in the spring and repeat the spawning cycle.

The eggs hatch in late spring and the yolk sac is gradually absorbed.



In the spring, smolt body chemistry changes; at about 2 ounces they are ready to enter salt water where they will develop into mature salmon in 2 to 3 years.



Fry quickly develop into *parr* with camouflaging vertical stripes. They feed and grow in their stream for 1 to 3 years before becoming *smolts*.