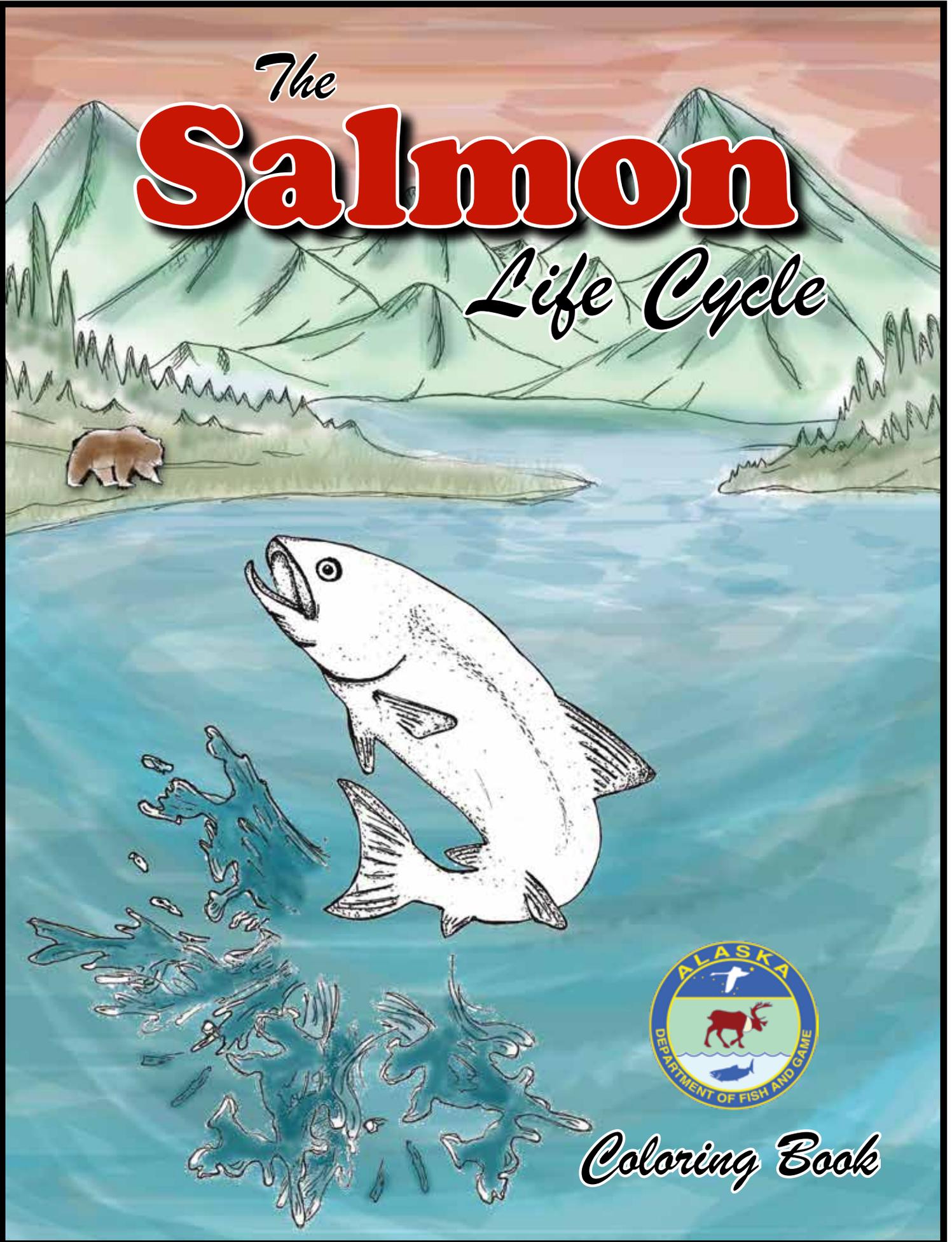


*The*  
**Salmon**  
*Life Cycle*



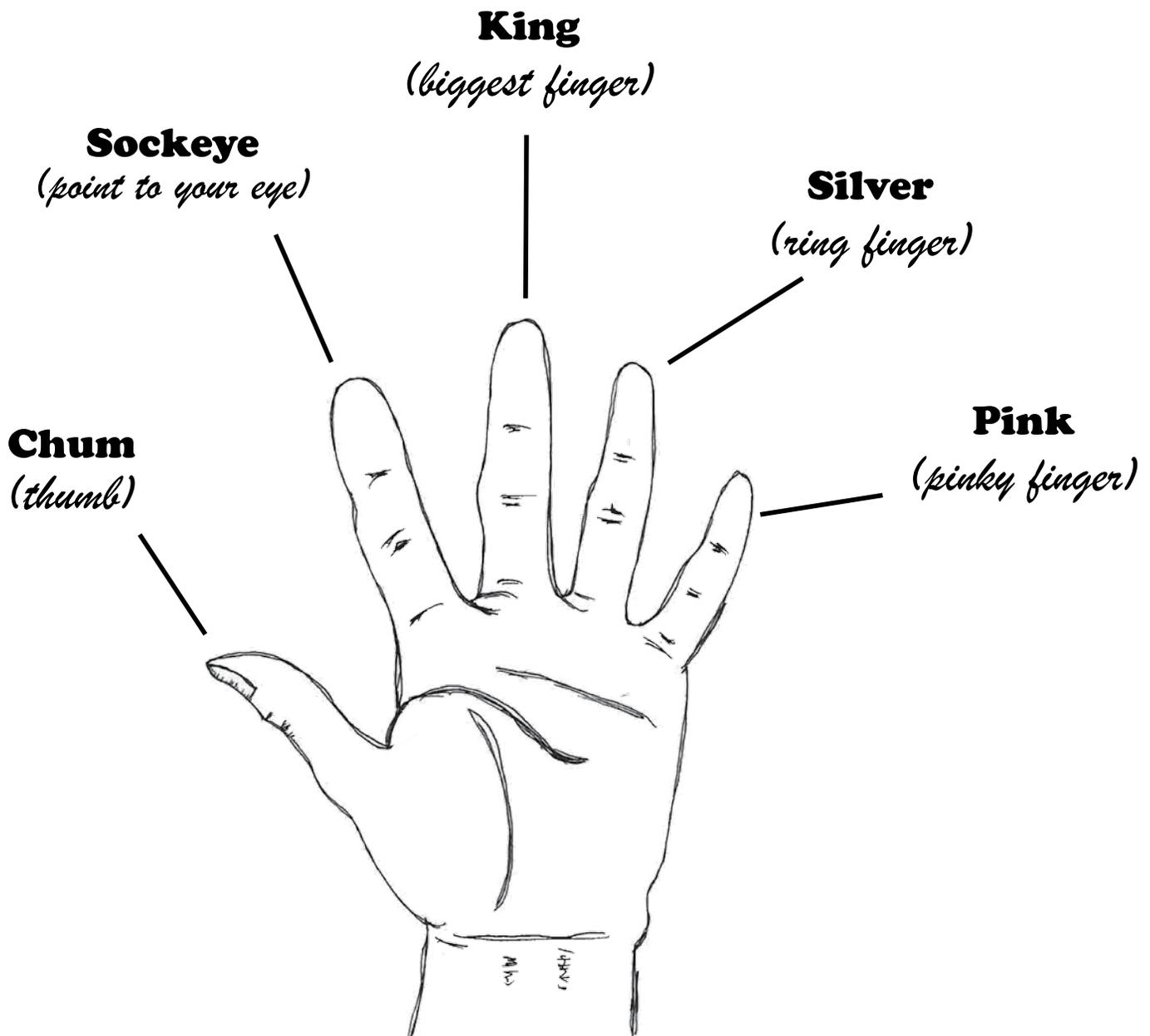
*Coloring Book*

# Did you know?

There are 5 species  
of Pacific Salmon in Alaska?

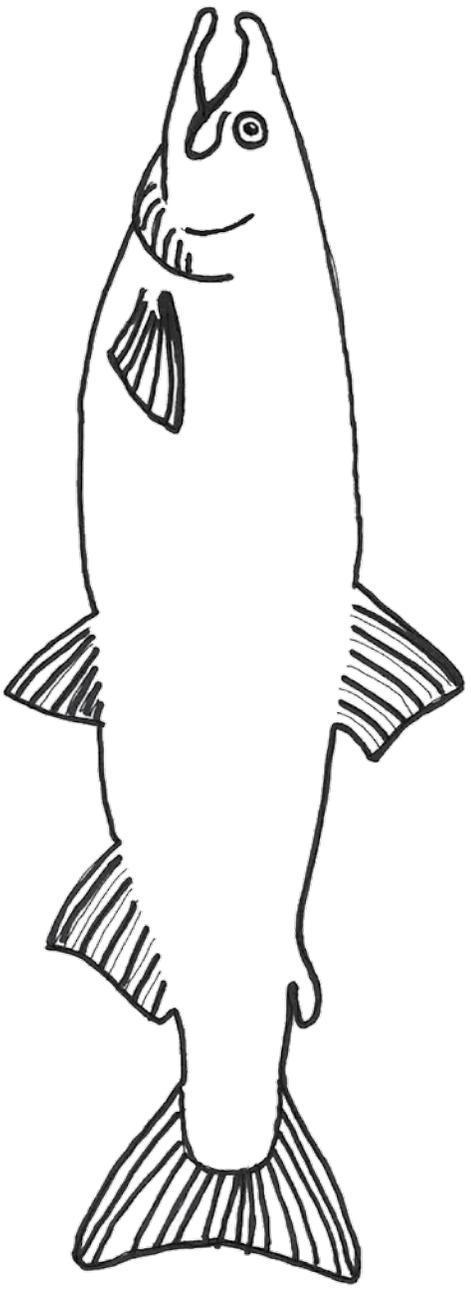
---

*Here is how to use your hand to remember all five:*

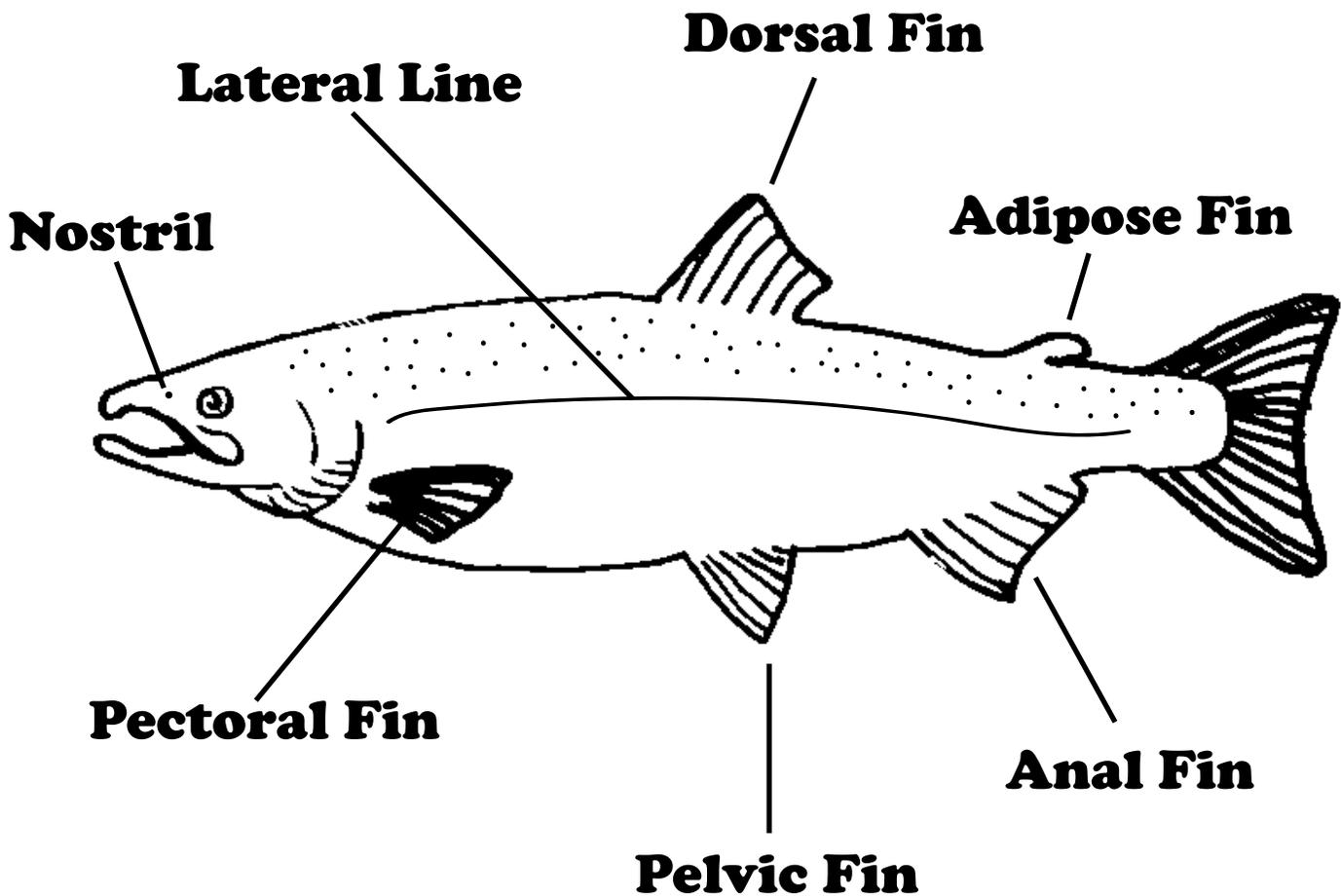


# **Color your own salmon & habitat**

.....



# Salmon Anatomy

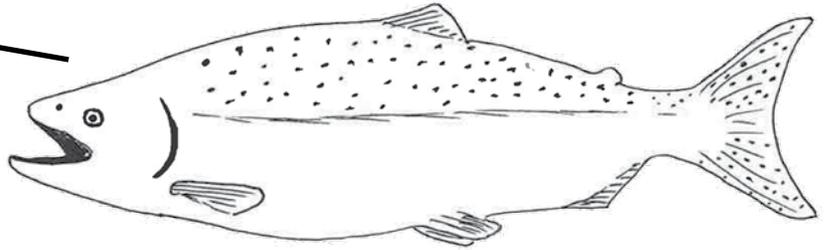


# Salmon Identification

---

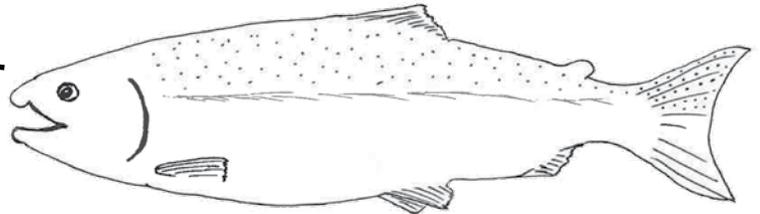
## King

- Large spots on back and on both lobes of the tail
- Mouth is dark with a black gum line



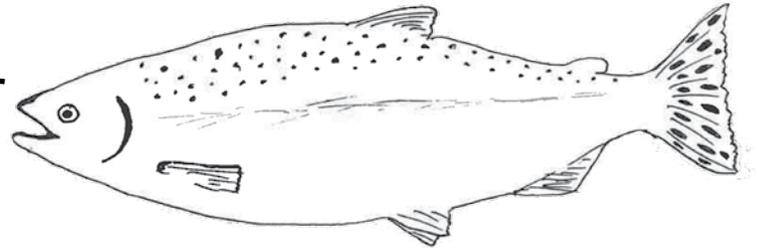
## Silver

- Spots only on upper lobe of tail and on the back
- Mouth is light with a white gum line



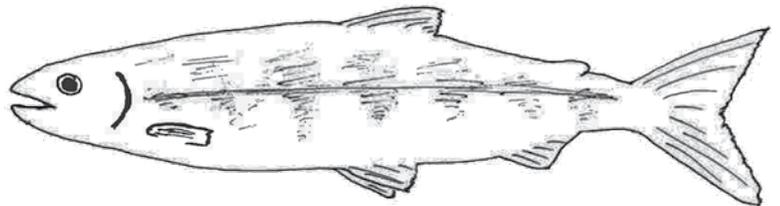
## Pink

- Large black spots on back and large oval spots on tail
- Mouth is white with a black gum line



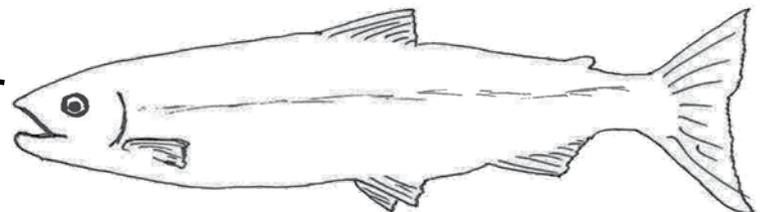
## Chum

- No spots on tail or back
- Vertical markings along body

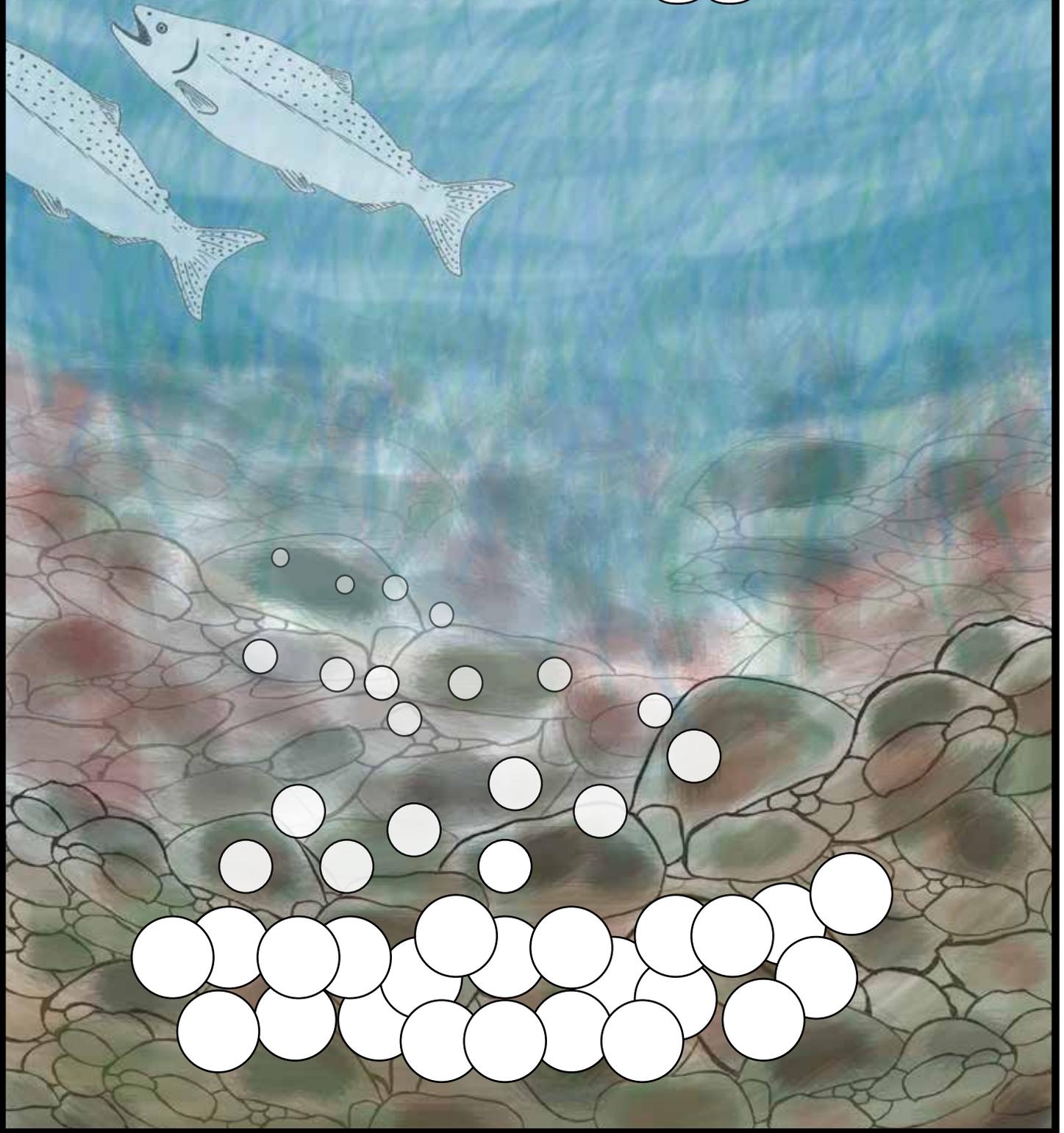


## Sockeye

- No spots on tail or back
- Mouth is white with a white gum line



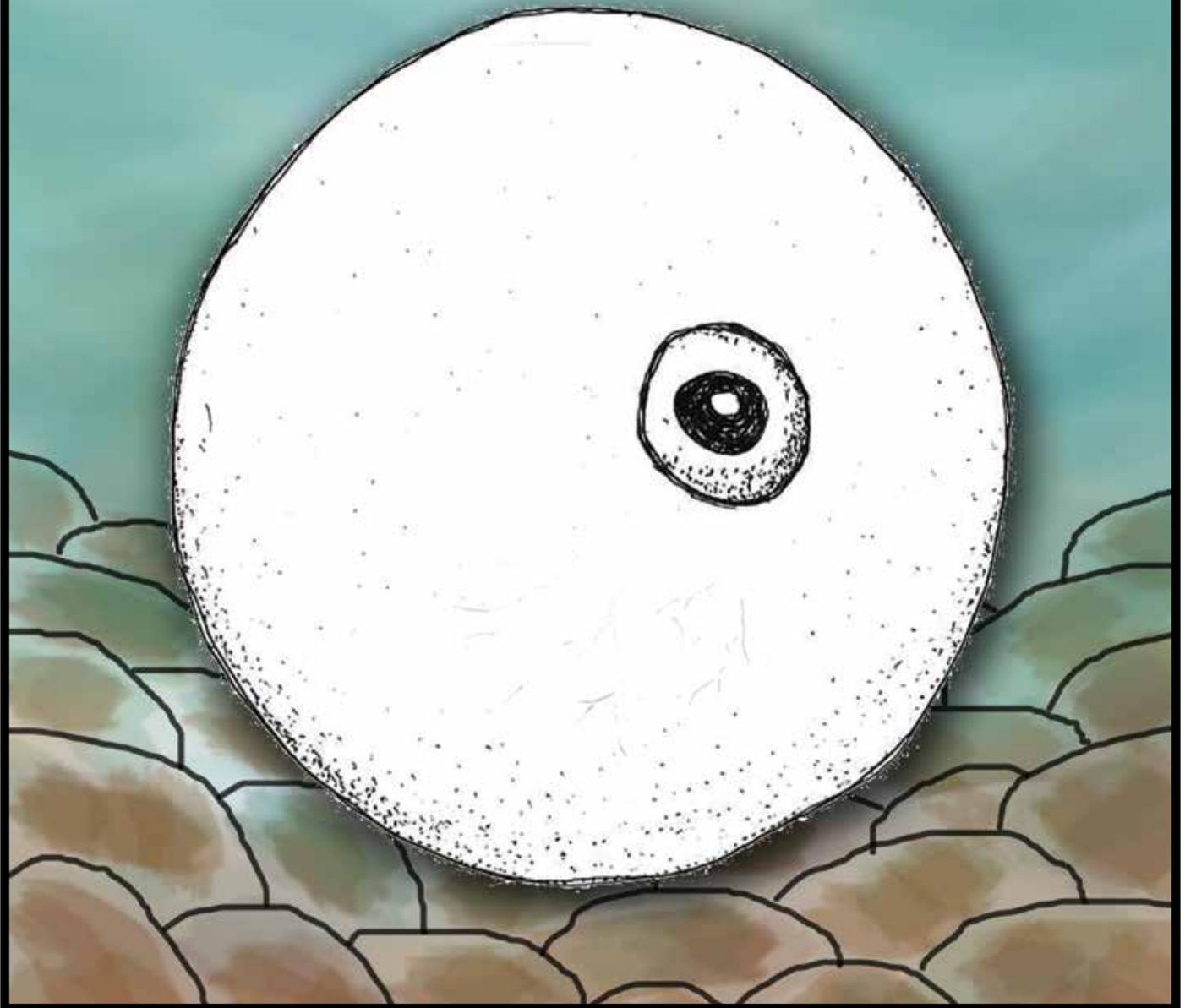
# Green Eggs



***N*ewly fertilized eggs are also referred to as green eggs and are about the size of a pea. No visible signs of development are evident. The eggs are very sensitive to changes in water level and temperature.**

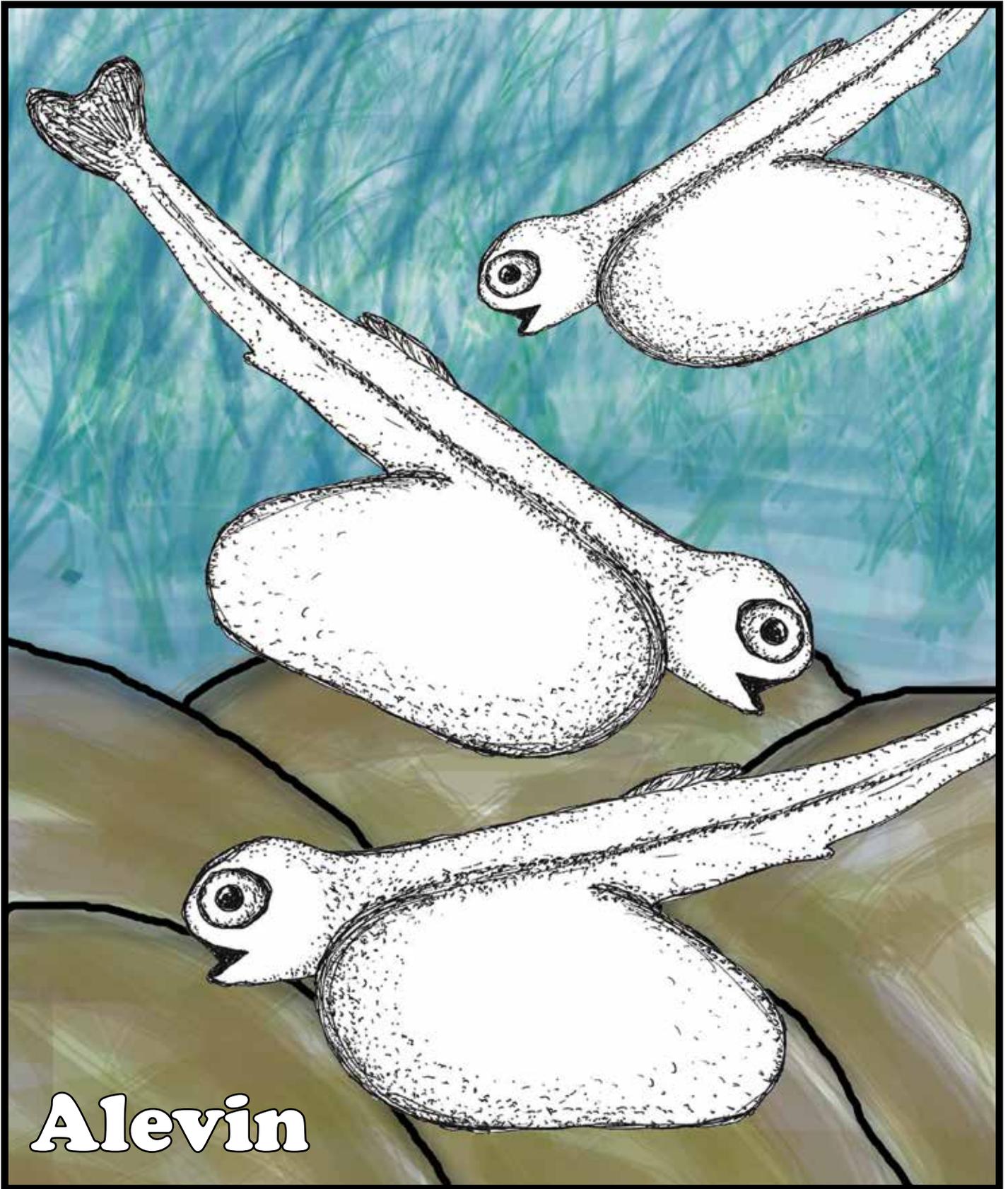
.....

# Eyed Egg



**7**his is the embryo stage at which pigmentation of the eyes becomes visible through the egg shell. The embryo receives food from its yolk sac and obtains oxygen through the egg shell wall. It's estimated that only 1 in 10 eggs survives to hatch.

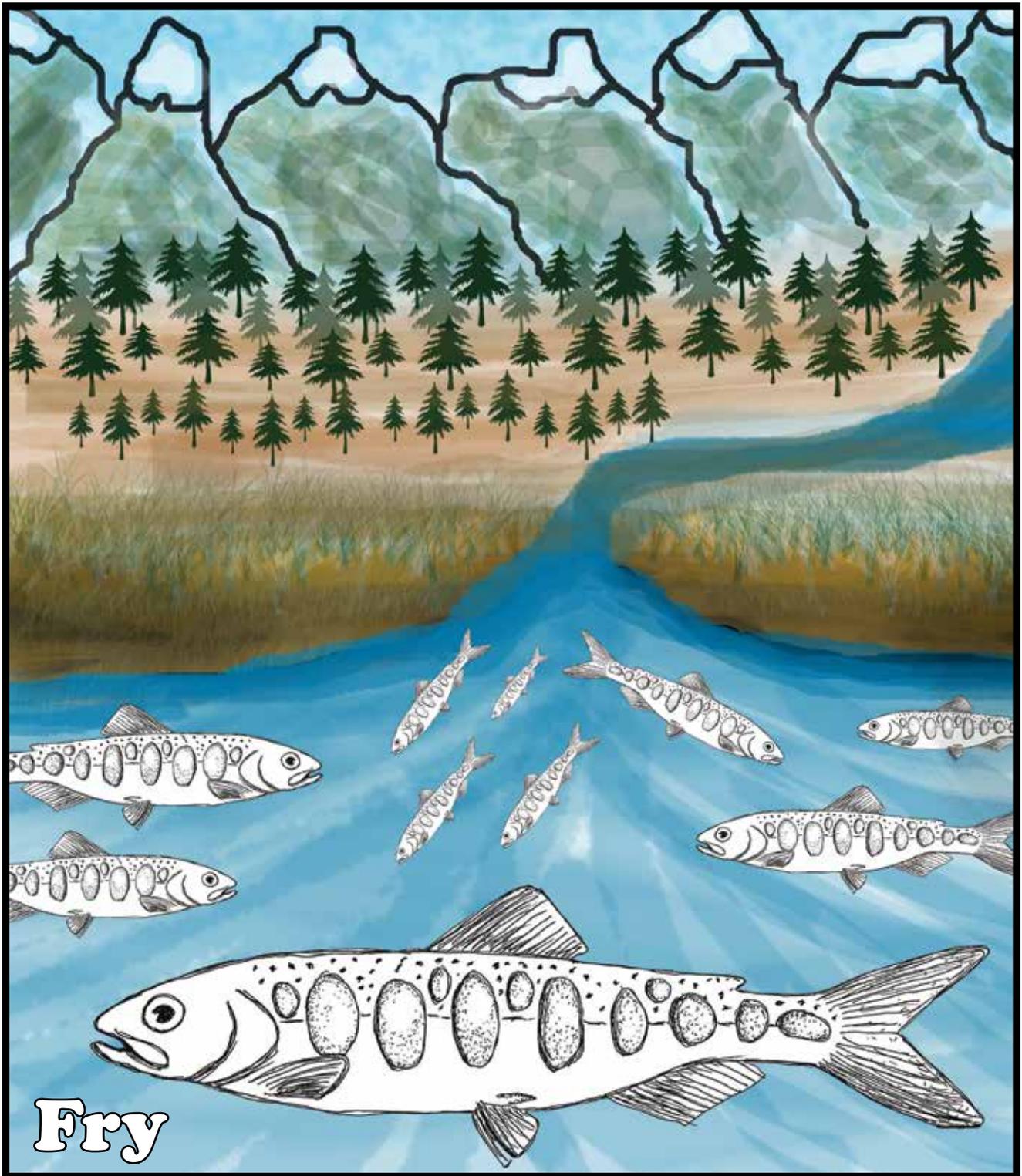
.....



# Alevin

**A**fter hatching, the young salmon are about an inch long and have a yolk sac attached to them. The yolk sac is their only food source. The alevin remain hidden in the gravel for protection from predators.

.....



## Fry

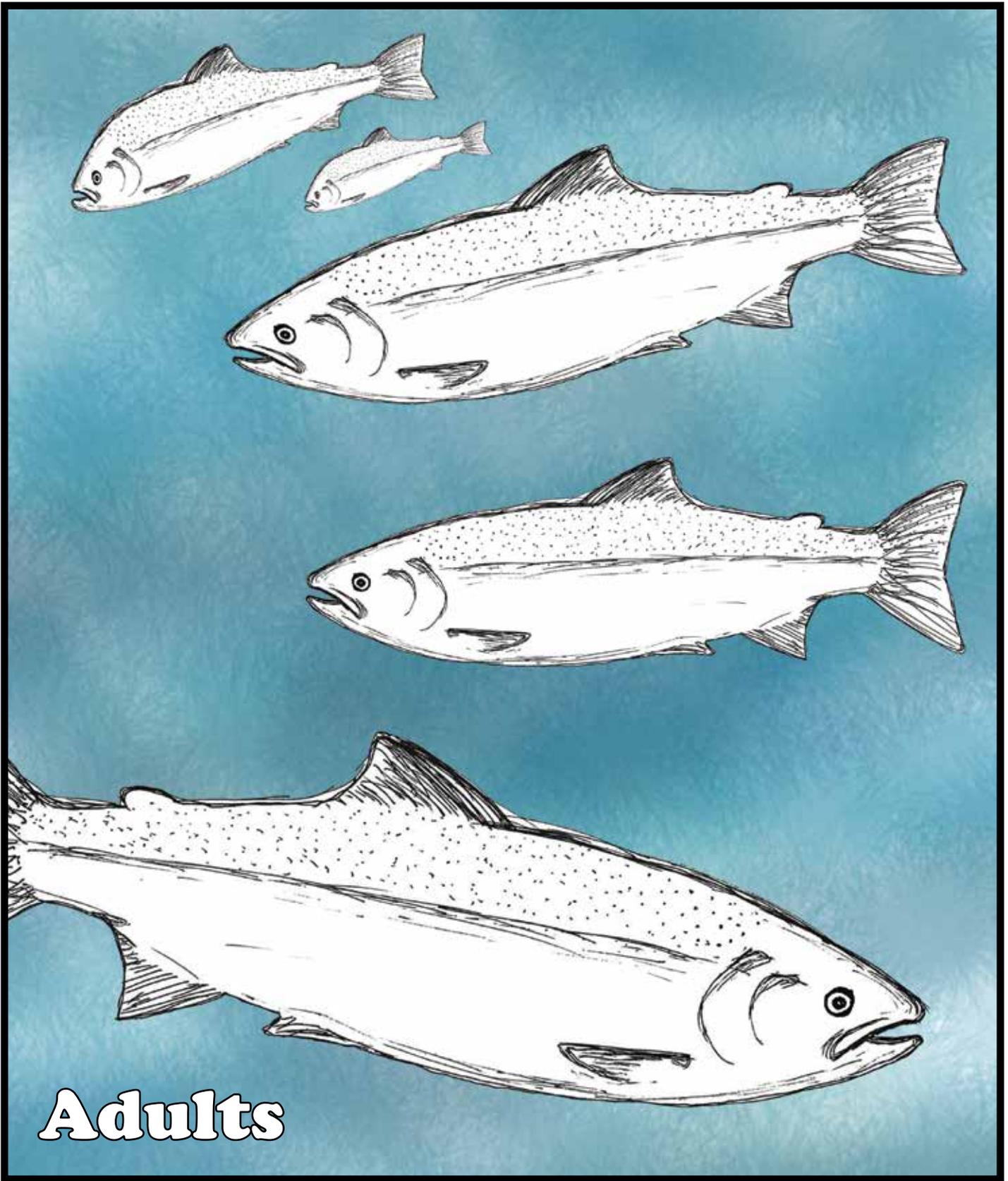
Once the alevin has used up the food in their yolk sacs, they have developed into fry. Fry are beginning to take on the general characteristics of a fish. After emerging from the gravel, they have well developed fins and swim around looking for food such as insects or plankton. They start to develop vertical bars (parr marks), which is a type of camouflage. This will help them blend in with their freshwater surroundings.

.....



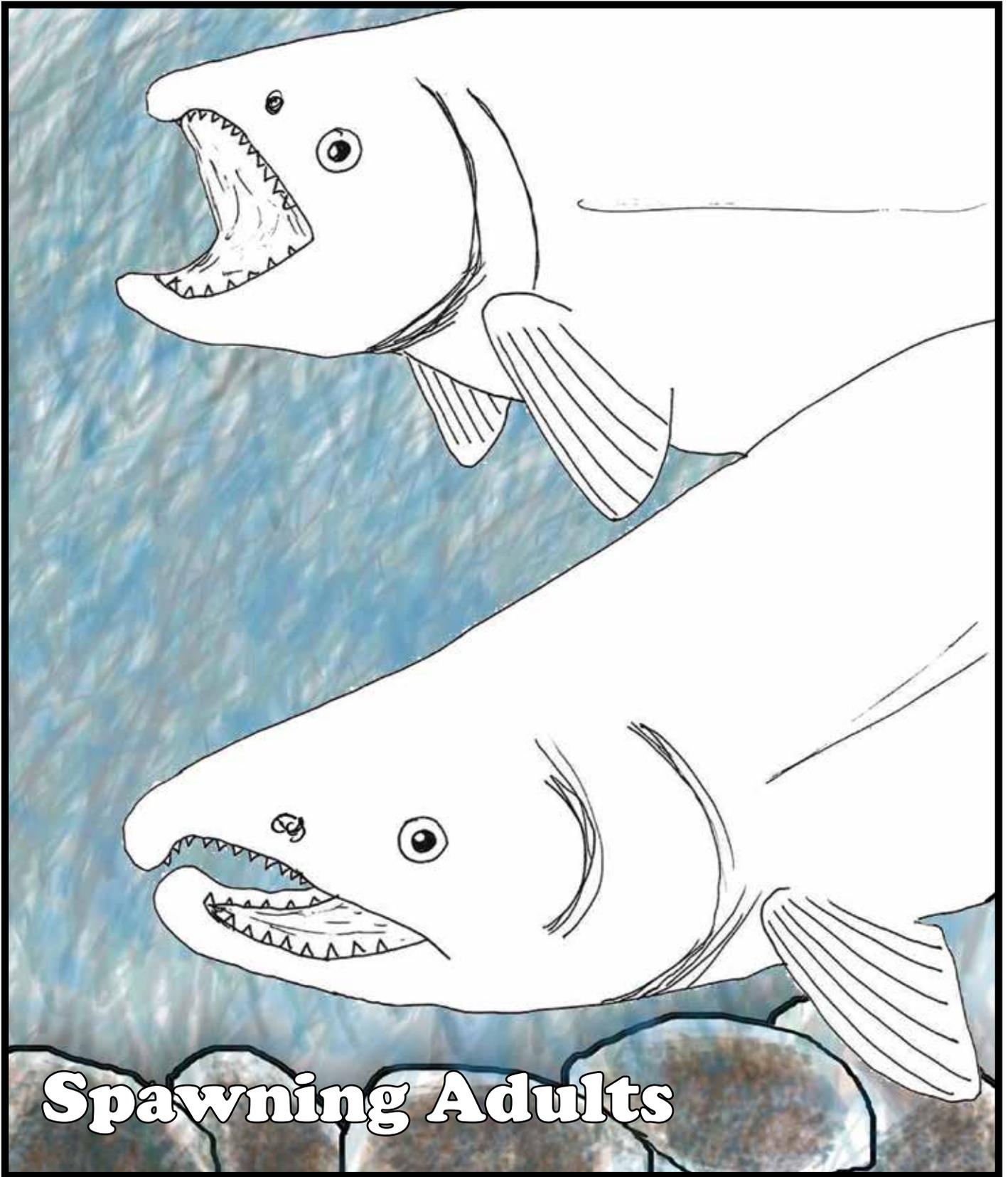
***A* s smolt, the salmon are much larger and faster swimmers than they were as fry. They start their downstream migration to the estuary. An estuary is a place where the river meets the ocean. They will feed here for a short period of time before entering the ocean. They turn a silvery color to help camouflage them in the ocean.**

.....



**S**almon spend 1 to 5 years swimming and constantly feeding in the ocean where they grow to their adult size and develop unique markings that are different for all five species of Pacific salmon.

.....



## Spawning Adults

**S**almon stop eating and change shape and colors as they return to the stream in which they were born. Here they begin the process of laying and fertilizing eggs.

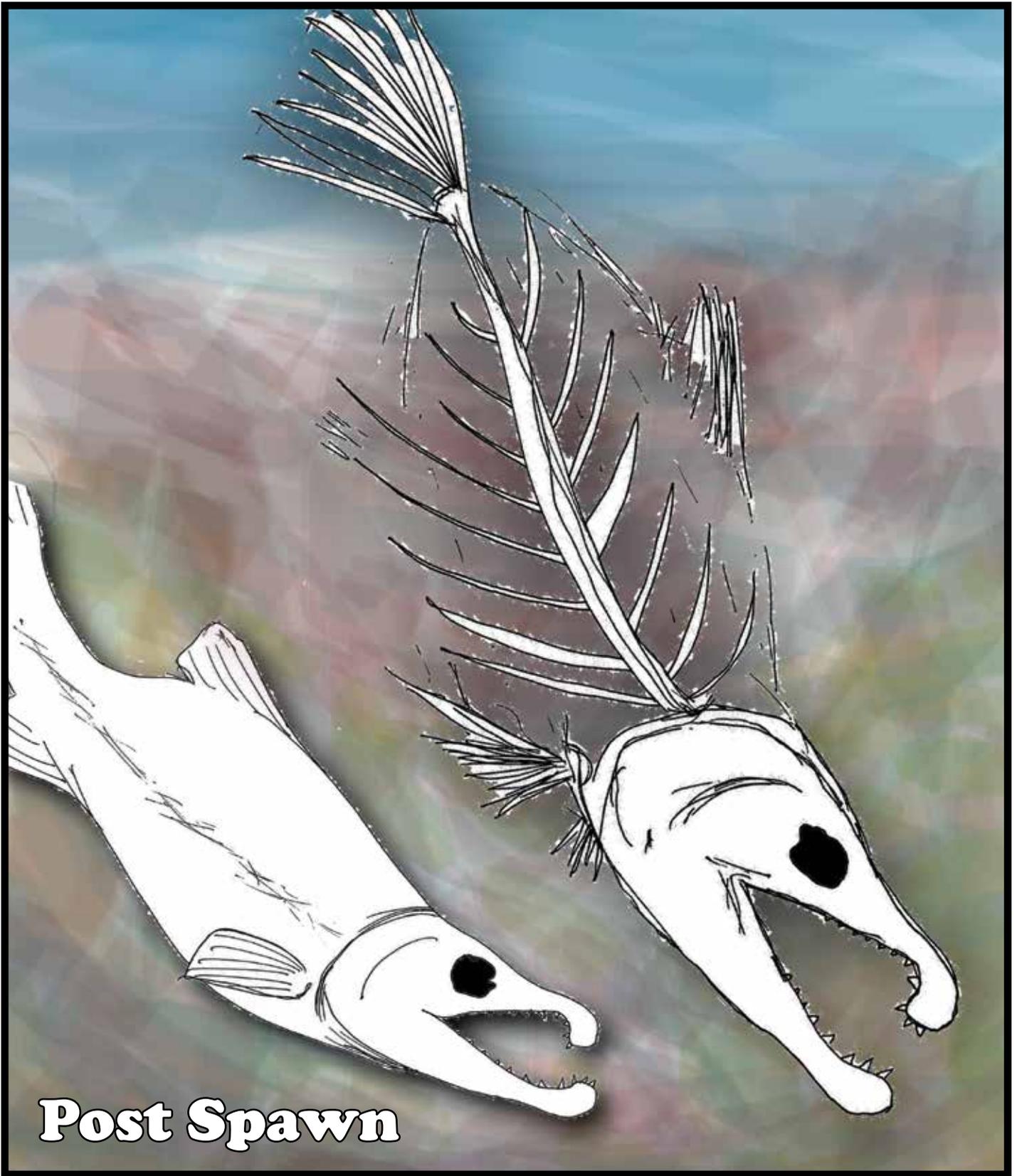
.....



# Laying Eggs

**7** he female salmon lays her eggs in a gravel bed, which is called a redd. She makes this redd by moving rocks and gravel with sweeping motions of her tail. After the male salmon has fertilized the eggs, she covers the nest or redd with clean rocks to protect them.

.....

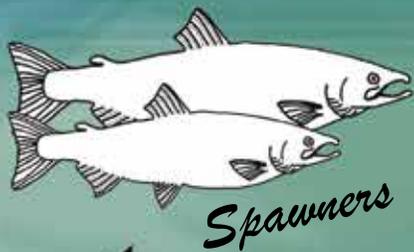


## Post Spawn

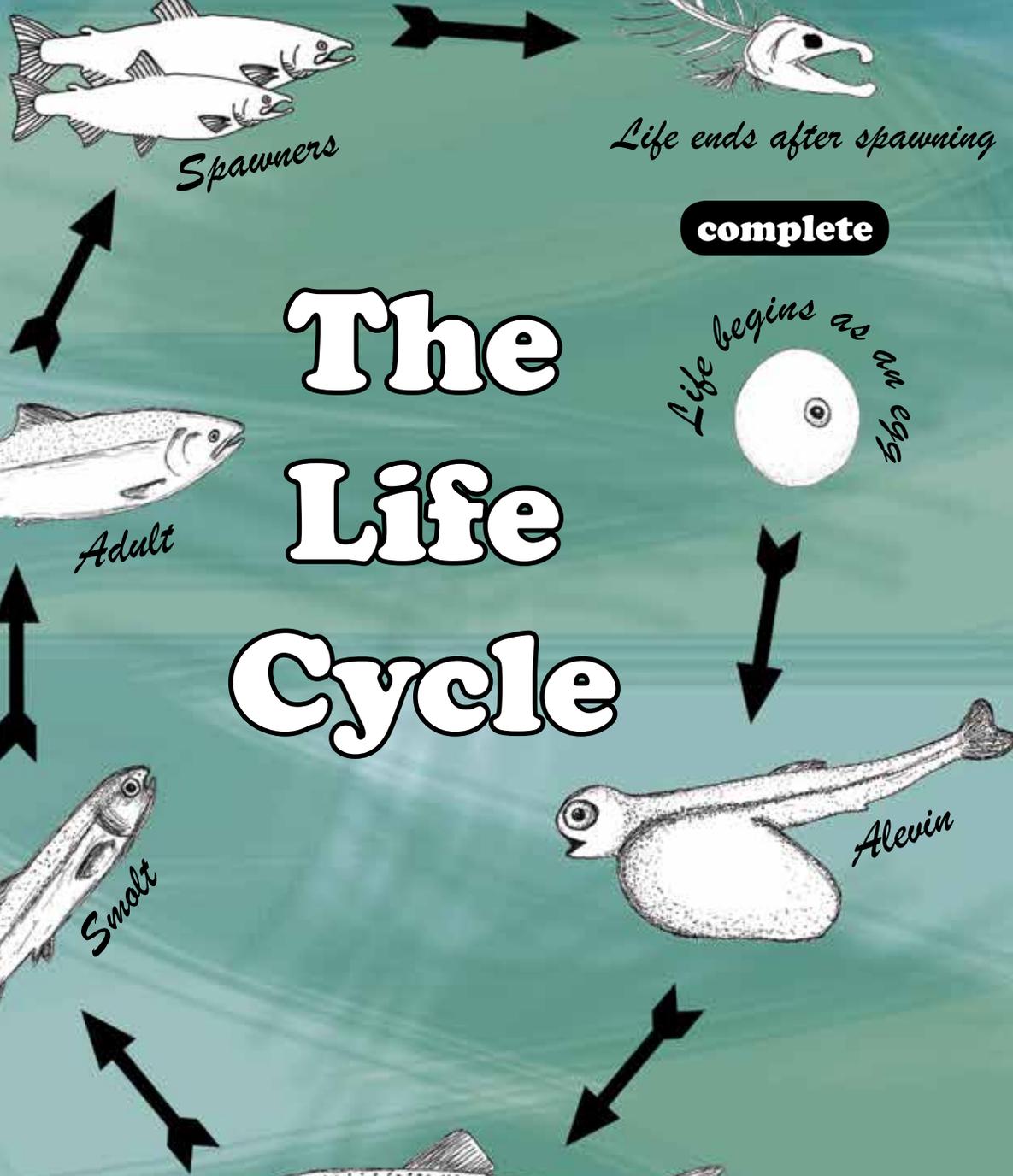
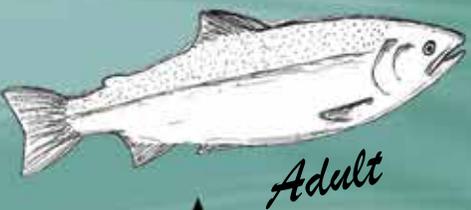
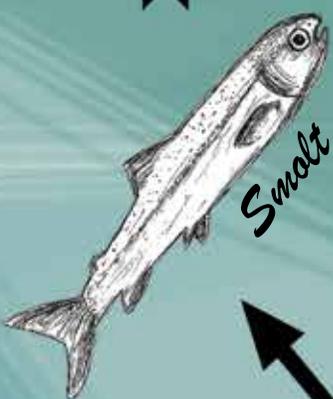
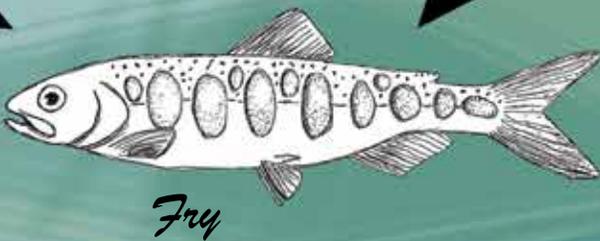
**S**almon die shortly after spawning. The carcasses provide food for scavengers and the nutrients released as they decay also provide necessary nourishment to vegetative and aquatic life thus providing food back up the food chain.

.....

# The Life Cycle

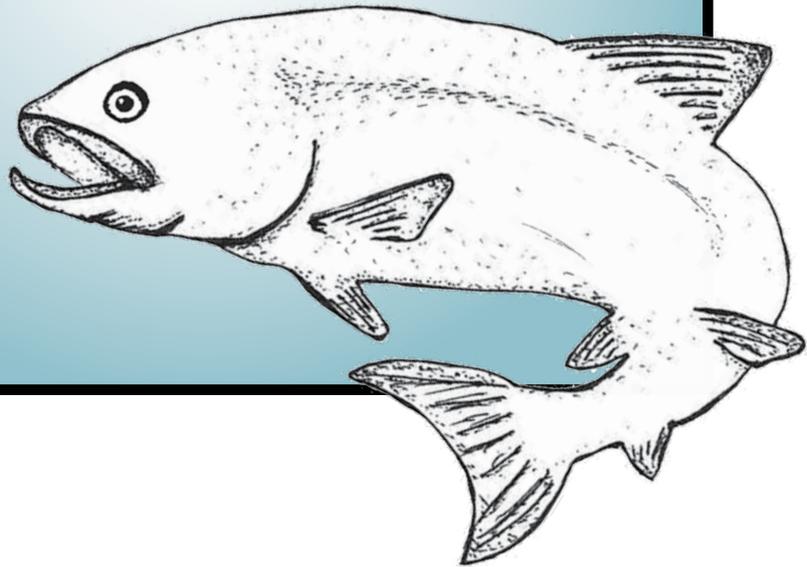


**complete**





*The*  
**Salmon**  
*Life Cycle*



*Thank you for being a responsible angler!*



THESE OPPORTUNITIES  
FUNDED IN PART BY  
FEDERAL AID IN SPORT  
FISH AND WILDLIFE  
RESTORATION.

The Alaska Department of Fish and Game administers all programs and activities free from discrimination based on race, color, national origin, age, sex, religion, marital status, pregnancy, parenthood, or disability. The department administers all programs and activities in compliance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, and Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972.

If you believe you have been discriminated against in any program, activity, or facility, or if you desire further information please write to ADF&G, P.O. Box 115526, Juneau, AK 99811-5526; U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 4040 N. Fairfax Drive, Suite 300 Webb, Arlington, VA 22203; or O.E.O., U.S. Department of the Interior, Washington DC 20240. For information on alternative formats for this and other department publications, please contact the department ADA Coordinator at (voice) 907-465-6077, (TDD) 907-465-3646, or (FAX) 907-465-6078.