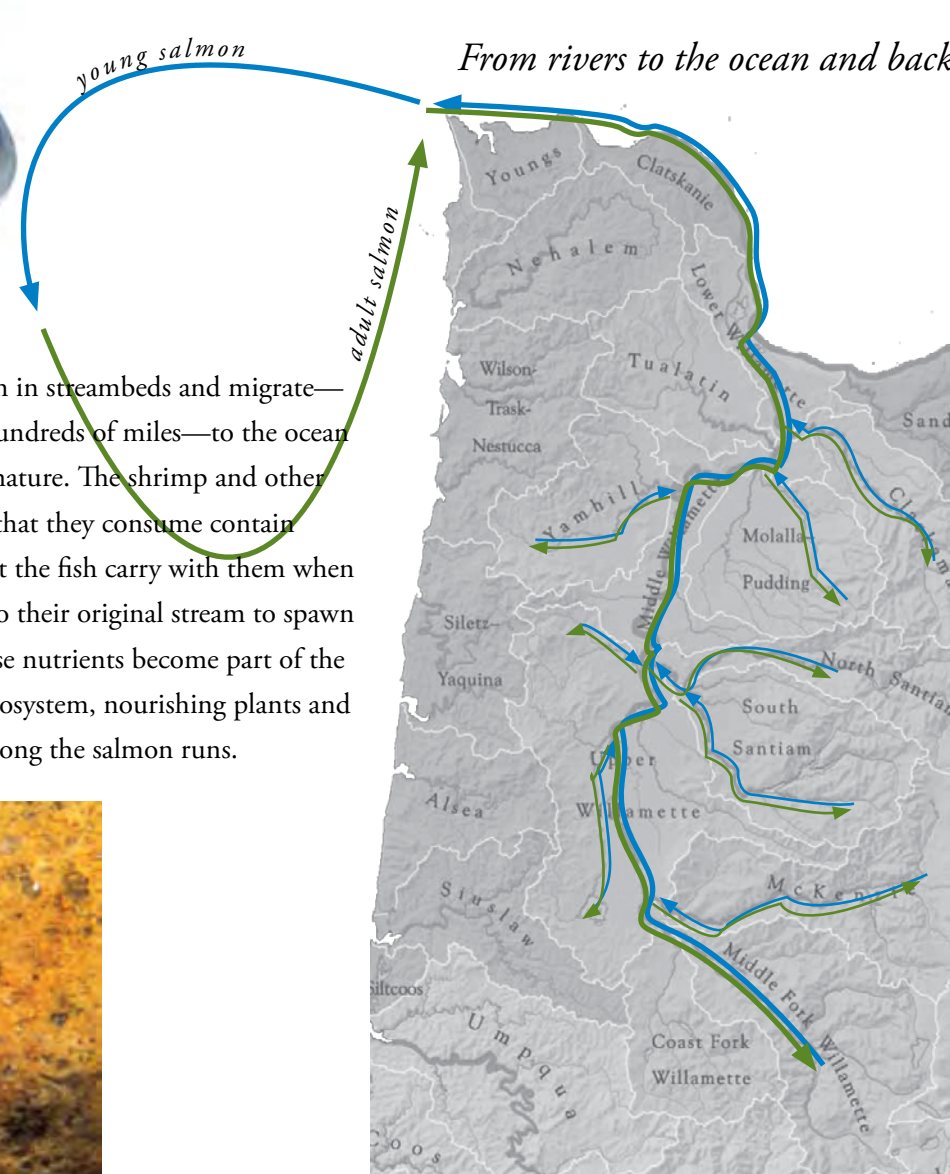
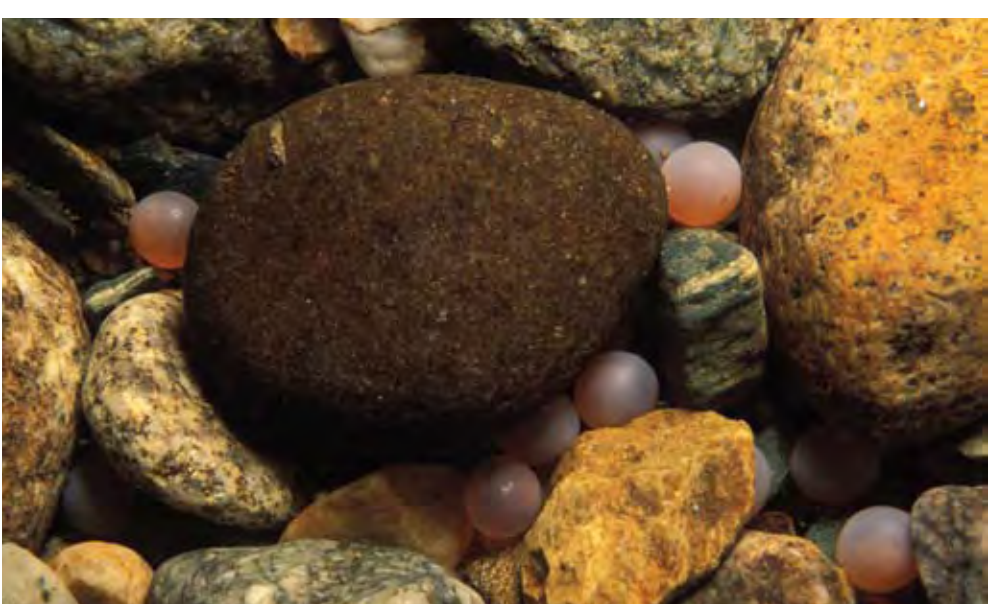


SALMON



Salmon hatch in streambeds and migrate—sometimes hundreds of miles—to the ocean where they mature. The shrimp and other ocean foods that they consume contain nutrients that the fish carry with them when they return to their original stream to spawn and die. These nutrients become part of the freshwater ecosystem, nourishing plants and animals all along the salmon runs.



Only a few of the thousands of eggs laid in each redd will survive to adulthood and return to create the next generation of salmon. Cities, farms and dams along the rivers can affect the environment in harmful ways, making the salmon's chances even more slim.



Rivers flowing to the Pacific from high mountain streams carry the young salmon toward the ocean. Juvenile fish stop to rest and feed along the way, so this journey may take years. As adults, they return by swimming upstream following scents in the water to find their home streambed.

a keystone species



Spawning sockeye. The most brightly colored of the salmon species, these sockeye salmon jostle their way up a river in Alaska to deposit their eggs and milt. Sockeye is a favored species for the canning industry, as their concentrated runs make them easy to catch.



Indigenous peoples of the North Pacific, including the Yakama, Nez Perce and Warm Springs tribes in Oregon, have relied on salmon as part of their culture and economy for thousands of years. Recognition of this interdependence played a role in treaties with European settlers beginning in the 1700s, and today many tribes work with state and federal agencies to help manage salmon resources for future generations.

You and your family can help salmon by being careful with water you use at home. This includes conserving water, keeping pollutants out of storm drains and streams, and using fewer chemicals on lawns and gardens.



For additional stormwater education materials, visit www.eugene-or.gov and click on the Stormwater Education quick link, or call 682-8482.

Sources: *Atlas of Pacific Salmon*, Xanthippe Auger 2005, Map base courtesy of University of Oregon Infographics Lab and Oregon Trout, www.ortrout.org