



## Learn More

Understanding salmon is the key to living with them. Find field guides and books about salmon at your local library. Learn about salmon recovery at King County's web site at [www.kingcounty.gov/salmon](http://www.kingcounty.gov/salmon) or call 206-477-4800.

## See Salmon Run

There are many places in King County to watch wild salmon as they make the journey home to spawn. Here are just a few:

- **Chittenden Locks, Seattle (Ballard)**
- **Issaquah Salmon Hatchery, Issaquah Creek**
- **Cedar River, near Renton**
- **Sammamish River Trail, Redmond**
- **Kelsey Creek, Bellevue**
- **Piper's Creek, Seattle's Carkeek Park**
- **Snoqualmie River, near Carnation**
- **Duwamish River, Tukwila's Codiga Park**
- **Soos Creek Hatchery, Green River near Auburn**

Fall is the best time to view returning salmon. Find out more about when and where to view salmon at [www.kingcounty.gov/salmon](http://www.kingcounty.gov/salmon). Click on "Salmon viewing locations" or "Salmon SEEson."

**For more information, call King County's Water and Land Resources Division at 206-477-4800.**

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Living with

# Salmon

in King County

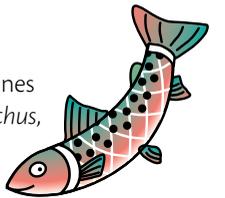


*The future of salmon is in your hands*



## Meet seven salmon species

Many types of salmon and trout spawn in the waters of King County. Seven of the most common ones are listed below. Steelhead and cutthroat trout were recently added to the salmon genus, *Oncorhynchus*, from the trout genus, *Salmo*.



*Chinook (male)*



*Chinook (female)*

**Chinook (king)** are the largest of the Pacific salmon and reach up to 80 pounds and 58 inches long. They can leap 10 feet! After hatching, Chinook migrate quickly to the sea, spending several years there before returning to spawn.



*Kokanee (male)*



*Kokanee (female)*

**Kokanee** are the land-locked form of sockeye salmon. Because they never migrate to the ocean to feed, kokanee are often much smaller than sockeye, measuring 12-24 inches. Their numbers have been declining rapidly in the past decade.

**Chum (dog)** do not stay in streams long after hatching. They spend three to four years at sea before returning to their home streams. You might spot chum in the Green River.



*Chum (male)*



*Chum (female)*

**Sockeye (red)** are King County's most abundant and visible salmon species with large runs on the Cedar River and Bear Creek. Sockeye usually spend a year in freshwater lakes before migrating to the sea.



*Sockeye (male)*



*Sockeye (female)*



*Coho (male)*



*Coho (female)*

**Coho (silver)** range in length from 17-38 inches and average 6-12 pounds. These popular sport fish can be found in urban settings where cold, clean water is available year-round. Coho stay in streams for a year before heading out to sea.



*Steelhead (male)*



*Steelhead (female)*

**Steelhead and Rainbow trout** are the same species, but rainbow are freshwater fish only, while steelhead are anadromous. Unlike most salmon, steelhead may spawn more than once and at various times of year depending on the stream.

**Cutthroat trout** spawn from February through May and can grow up to 30 inches. Although subspecies vary, these fish usually have greenish backs with yellow or silver sides showing many dark spots and a slash of red on the lower jaw, which inspired its name.



*Cutthroat (male)*



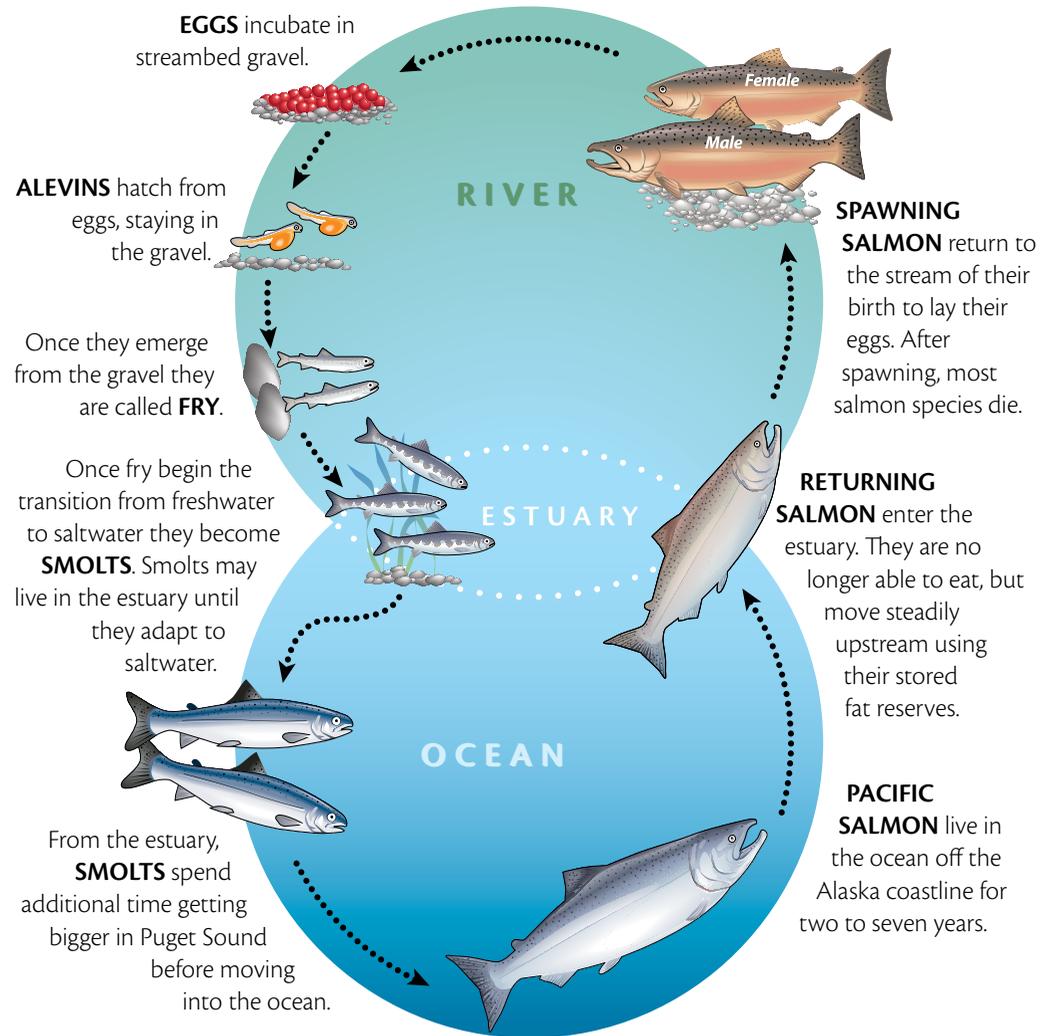
*Cutthroat (female)*

Salmon photos courtesy of the University of Washington Press and Scott Craig of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Thanks for support of this brochure goes to: Lake Washington/Cedar/Sammamish Watershed (WRIA 8) King County



## Wild salmon life cycle



## The salmon journey



**Salmon are anadromous.** This means they hatch in fresh water, spend most of their lives in salt water and then return to their birth streams to reproduce and die.

### How do they do it?

At sea, salmon navigate using the earth's magnetic fields and length of day. Scientists aren't sure how they find their way home to their native streams, but they may use their sense of smell. A salmon's sense of smell is thousands of times better than a dog's!



## Salmon at risk



Once the supply of salmon seemed infinite, but no more. Several native salmon populations are now near extinction. Among the reasons: damage to habitat from logging, farming and development; impacts from hatcheries and dams; and fish harvesting.

We cannot restore salmon runs without healthy streams and rivers. Waterways must be cool and clean enough for the salmon to reach their spawning grounds.

Salmon are a keystone species for the health of our streams and watersheds. They provide fishing and recreation jobs, and they are a favorite part of our diet. Salmon are a vital part of the Northwest Native American culture.

### The Endangered Species Act

Chinook salmon, steelhead and bull trout have been listed as "threatened" under the Endangered Species Act (ESA). This requires local governments, businesses and citizens to work together to protect these fish and their habitat.

## Volunteer and make a difference

King County has many hands-on programs for those who want to help salmon and streams.

**Native Plantings and Salvage Events** – Dig up native plants from construction sites and replant them at salmon restoration sites. Contact Cindy Young at 206-477-4859 for information on the salvage program or Tina Miller at 206-296-2990 to volunteer for plantings.

**Natural Yard Care** – Learn how to shrink your lawn, water less, cut down on chemicals and still have a yard that's the envy of your neighbors. Contact Mary Rabourn at 206-477-1010 to find out about free workshops.

**Salmon Watchers** – Identify and count returning salmon. Find out how to volunteer at [www.kingcounty.gov/salmon](http://www.kingcounty.gov/salmon) (click on "Salmon Watcher Program.") Or search for "Salmon Watcher Program" on Facebook.

Photos provided by: Catherine Anstett, Geoff Clayton, Lloyd Moody, and Bill Priest.



## The future of salmon is in your hands

The actions you take every day directly affect the health of our streams, salmon and water quality. The choice is up to you.

- **Use natural yard care practices.** Reduce the size of your lawn (less to mow!), plant native plants and use compost to build healthy soil.
- **Keep it clean.** Fix oil leaks and wash your car at a car wash or on the lawn (not in the street).
- **Protect stream banks and beach bluffs.** Keep a buffer of native trees and shrubs alongside streams, and fence livestock away from streams and lakes.
- **Let the rain soak in.** Slow the flow by using gravel for driveways and paths, planting trees and building a rain garden.
- **Use water wisely.** Water your lawn deeply but not too often, use soaker hoses and drip irrigation. Install low flow showerheads, faucet heads and toilets.

