

# PUGET SOUND WILD SALMON LIFE CYCLE

Eggs incubate in gravel.

Alevins hatch from eggs, staying in the gravel until all the nutrients from their yolk sac have been absorbed.

Once they emerge from the gravel they are called fry. Fry live and grow in the freshwater streams.

Once they are ready to begin to transition from freshwater to saltwater they are called smolts. Smolts live in the estuary until they are adapted to the saltwater environment.

Smolts spend additional time getting bigger in Puget Sound before moving out into the ocean environment.

RIVER

ESTUARY

OCEAN

Adults then return to the stream of their birth to lay the eggs of the next generation before dying.

Once adults enter the estuary they are no longer able to eat. They move steadily upstream on stored fat reserves.

Adult salmon mature in the ocean off the Alaska coastline from two to seven years.

Courtesy of King County Design and Civic Engagement

