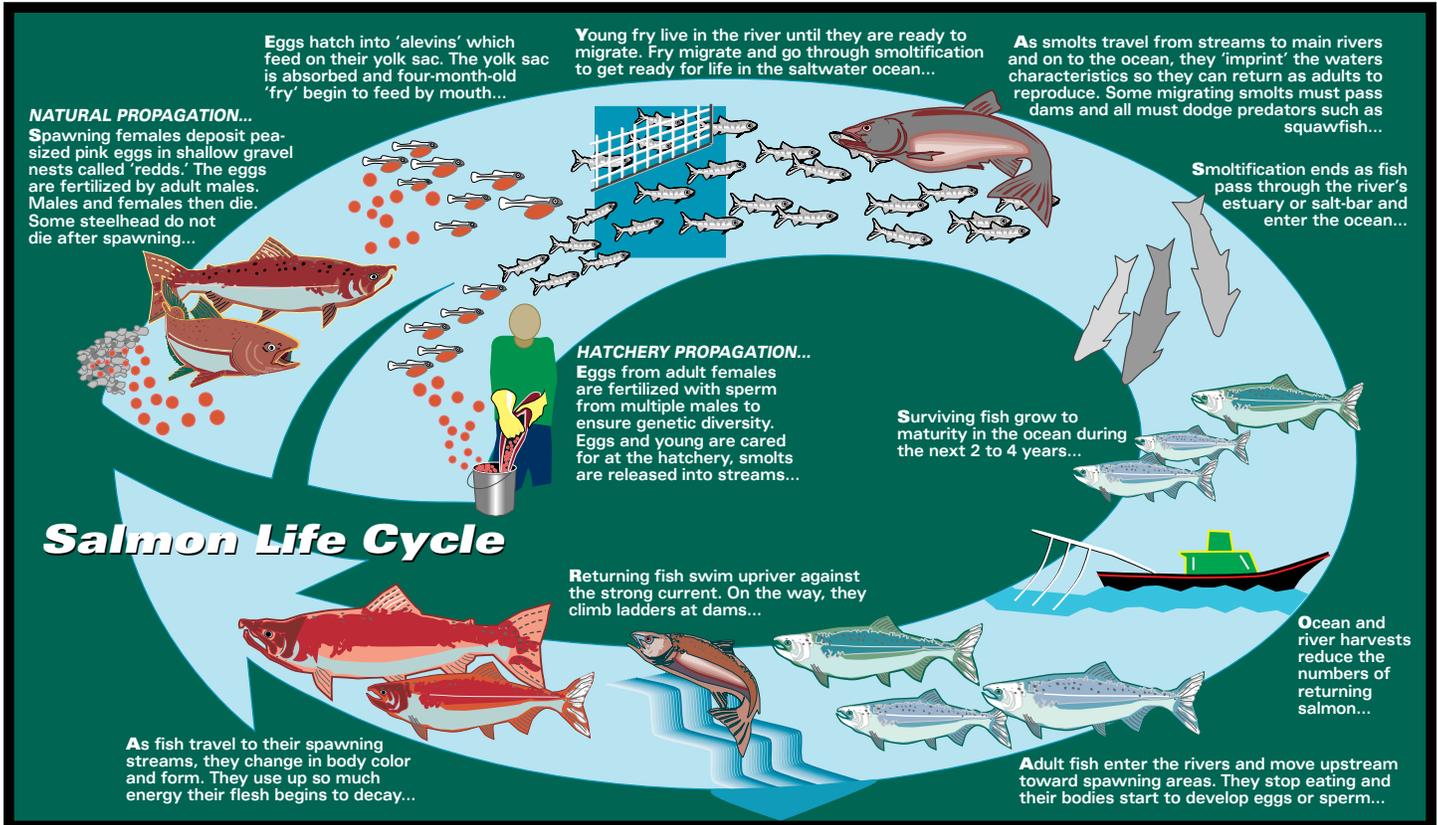


JUVENILE SALMON MIGRATION



The Corps is committed to cooperating in the recovery of anadromous salmon. The situation is urgent—the National Research Council estimated in 1995 that almost 75 percent of existing Northwest salmon stocks are at risk of extinction. People are concerned about the recovery and continued survival of salmon stocks because of their commercial, recreational, symbolic, and tribal significance to the Pacific Northwest.

This study considers how to improve juvenile migration survival rates for four Snake River salmon stocks that are listed under the Endangered Species Act. Snake River stocks of sockeye salmon, spring/summer chinook salmon, and fall chinook salmon all have endangered status. The National Marine Fisheries Service has also recently listed Snake River steelhead as threatened (see article this page).

Salmon hatch in freshwater streams or lakes, grow in these waters anywhere from a few months to two years, migrate downriver to the ocean to mature, then return to the same stream or lake to spawn. This study is concerned with improving conditions during the downriver migration stage. Although there are many other factors that have contributed to the decline of salmon stocks (harvest, loss of habitat, competition with hatchery fish, declining water quality, unfavorable ocean conditions), this study evaluates measures to improve survival that are directly related to four Federal dams and reservoirs on the lower Snake River.

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Snake River Steelhead Listed as Threatened

The National Marine Fisheries Service recently listed Snake River steelhead as threatened under the Endangered Species Act. The listing takes effect on October 17, allowing the public, Native American tribes, state agencies, and industry to familiarize themselves with new requirements, and to modify any activities that could harm threatened steelhead. This listing means that Snake River steelhead are likely to become endangered in the future.

The Endangered Species Act requires that any proposed projects potentially affecting a listed species be evaluated in consultation with the National Marine Fisheries Service, and prohibits anyone from killing or harming the species or its habitat. 🌐