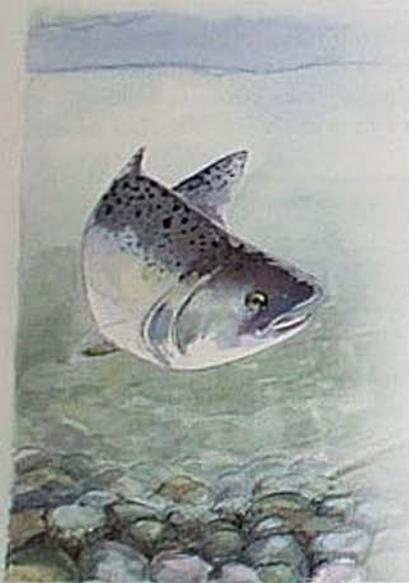


Where Are The Salmon Going?

We forget that the water cycle and the life cycle are one.

Jacques Cousteau



On the Copper River Delta one has a unique opportunity to view the intricate life cycles of the Pacific salmon. Salmon are anadromous fish, which means they live their adult lives in the ocean and return to freshwater to spawn.

Adult salmon migrate back to their natal streams to spawn. With her tail, the female salmon digs a nest in the gravel called a redd. She deposits eggs in the redd and the male fertilizes the eggs. The eggs develop throughout the winter and hatch into alevins. As the alevins absorb the egg yolks they become fry and swim up through the gravel to begin their lives in the stream. After spending up to three years in freshwater, the fry go through physical changes and become smolts. Then the smolts migrate to the ocean to mature into adults.



*Beautiful day
this morning.
The fish were
jumping in the
slough.*

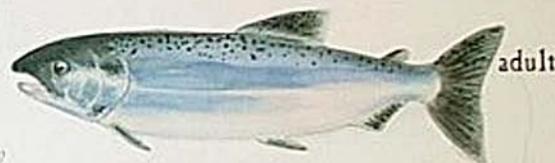


Five Species of Salmon Found on the Delta

King salmon = Chinook
Red salmon = Sockeye
Silver salmon = Coho
Pink salmon = Humpy
Chum salmon = Dog



*A few salmon
could be seen
from across
the slough.
I am sure they
were.*



Even in death salmon provide life...

Although the salmon die after spawning, their carcasses continue to play an important role in the ecosystem. The decomposing salmon provide food for aquatic insects and other animals. The carcasses also serve as a nutrient source for the developing juvenile salmon.

....and the cycle begins again



Alaska Region
Chugach National Forest

Alaganik Slough Trail