

Atlantic Salmon

Scientific name: *Salmo salar*

Atlantic salmon are in the 1% of fish species worldwide that move between rivers and the sea

Eggs

Salmon eggs are orange and pea shaped. They are laid in riverbed gravel pits dug by their parents called redds.

Alevin

These newly hatched salmon can't swim. They are still attached to the yolk sac from their egg, which they use for food.

Fry

Fry are ready to feed, so leave their gravel nests to look for invertebrate snacks such as riverfly larvae.

Adults are capable of diving over 900 metres - 3 times the height of the Eiffel Tower

Life Cycle:

- In River
- At Sea

Parr

Parr remain in rivers for up to three years! They have markings called 'parr marks' which help them blend in and avoid being seen by predators.

Adults

Adult salmon migrate large distances to their feeding grounds, where they grow rapidly. They then swim back to their home rivers to reproduce.

Smolts

Smolts are young salmon ready to migrate to the ocean. Their bodies turn silver and their insides change to cope with life in salt water.



Long Distance Swimmers

Atlantic salmon migration is a 4,000 kilometre round-trip voyage.



4,000km = going from the northern tip of Scotland to the southern coast of England 4 times

Threats

Open-net salmon farming
disease, escaped fish and pollution

Migration barriers
manmade structures including weirs and dams that stop movement up and down rivers

River pollution
untreated sewage, farming and chemicals

Lack of water
more water is being taken out of our rivers than can naturally be put back