

Life Cycle of Pacific Salmon and Steelhead



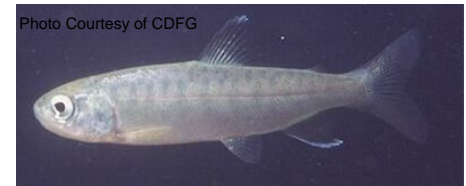
The degree of spatial and temporal connectivity and the lateral, vertical, and drainage network linkages within and between watersheds are critical to maintain aquatic and riparian ecosystem functions. Important connections within basins include linkages among headwater tributaries and downstream channels as paths for water, sediment, nutrients and disturbances. Unobstructed physical and chemical paths to areas critical for fulfilling life-history requirements of aquatic and riparian dependent species such as Pacific salmon and steelhead must also be maintained to ensure ecosystem function and health.



Spawning Coho salmon



Eyed Eggs and Alevin or "Sac-Fry" life stage



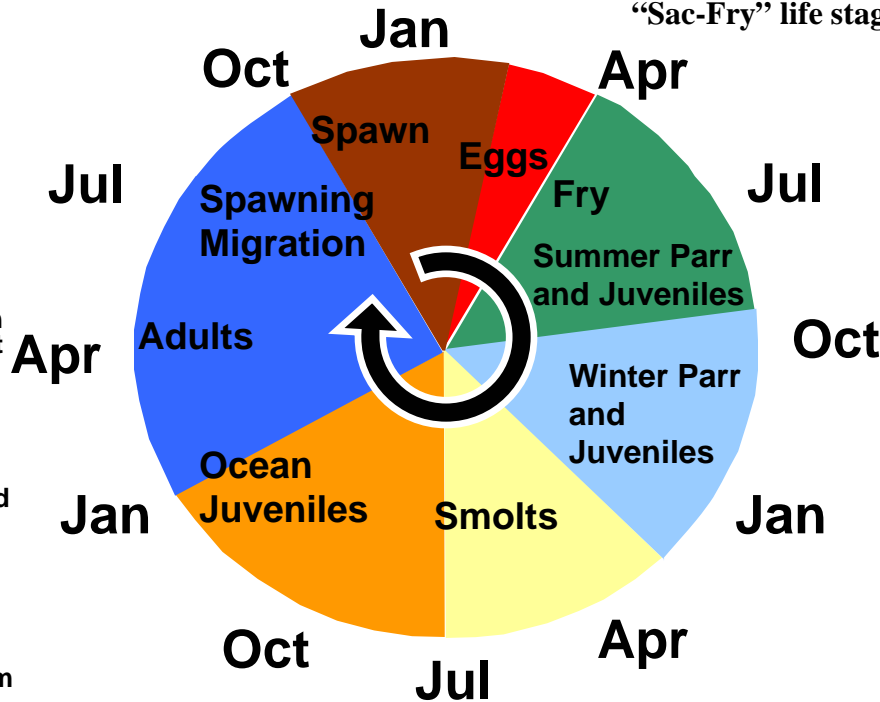
Juvenile



Smolts



Estuaries are areas where the freshwater and Pacific Ocean waters meet and are essential habitats that serve two critical life stages of Pacific salmon and steelhead. Smolts enter into the estuaries, generally in the spring and early summer, to prepare for entry into the Pacific Ocean. Depending upon what species of Pacific salmon or steelhead, adults will return to their native river 1 to 4 years from now to spawn.



Female Coho Salmon Selects Spawning Habitat



Adult Spawning Migration



Ocean Adult