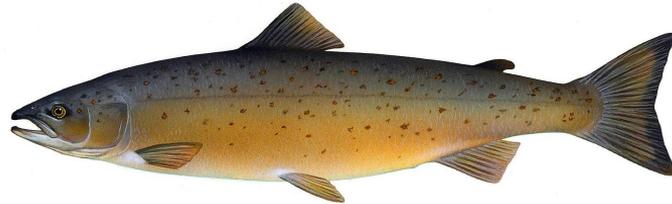


# *The life cycle of Salmon and the River Moy*

By Lauren

# The life cycle of Salmon...

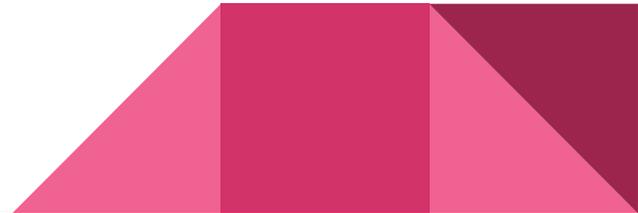
- The salmon life cycle has six stages : egg, alevins, fry, parr, smolt, adult.
- A salmon cant make this change overnight though its life covers seven different stages over two to seven years.
- Humans have about 5 stages over 75 years.
- In each stage salmon look and behave differently.



T. K. Kappas

# The Six Different Stages...

- (1) Salmon begin their lives as small orange eggs in freshwater. The eggs are usually hidden under small rocks for protection.
- (2) After several months eggs hatch into tiny salmon called alevins. As they are easily hurt or eaten, they hide under the gravel to keep safe. They feed from yolk sac which is like having a lunch box tied to your leg.
- (3) After 4-6 weeks alevins finish their yolk sac and enter the fry stage. They are still tiny (only about the size of a marker cap) They leave their home under the gravel and start eating microscopic (tiny) creatures.



# The Six Different Stages...

- (4) After one year, the salmon enter the parr stage and live in freshwater rivers for 1-5 years . They eat insects and grow to the height of a crayon.
- (5) The salmon grows into a smolt 4.5-9.5 inches long and are ready for a springtime transformation or change. Smolt swim downstream to where the river meets the ocean.
- (6) As adults, salmon live in saltwater seas and oceans. They swim hundreds of miles eating big fish and small fish.



# The River Moy

- The River Moy rises in the Ox Mountains and meanders through Foxford and onto Ballina.
- It flows 64 miles before entering the sea at Killala Bay.
- The Moy as it is known is one of the most prolific salmon rivers in Europe with an estimated rod catch of between eight and twelve thousand salmon annually.
- Anglers come from all over the world to fish in the River Moy.
- Its length is 101 kilometers.



*The End*

