

Life cycle of the salmon and the River Moy

The female lays her eggs and fry hatch from eggs in March and April. Freshwater stage fry turn to parr spawning in rivers in December and January. Smolts leave the estuary and go to sea to feed and grow and then return to their spawning river.

Salmon

Salmon are often referred to as the king of our game fish and can be found living in rivers, lakes and in the sea. Salmon are born in freshwater but go to live in the sea to feed and grow. After one or two years in the sea, they return to the river in which they were born to spawn. While living in the sea salmon are silver in colour but this colour changes to reddish brown after they have been in the river for some time.

Salmon

Salmon spawn in fast flowing stretches of rivers and streams in December and January. The female lays her eggs in a special nest called a redd. Some weeks later the eggs hatch out and the small fish begin their lives in the river or stream. After a number of years the young salmon are now called smolts. The young salmon smolts are now ready to go to sea to feed and start the cycle all over again.