



Salmon Habitat

Adapted from the Oregon Department of
Fish and Wildlife Salmon and Trout
Enhancement Program

Stream Habitat



Small streams play a vital role in salmon life history. Many species of salmon spawn in small streams and after hatching fry may remain in the stream for more than a year before swimming to the sea.



Stream Habitat - Threats



Small streams face many threats that damage habitat for salmon and other aquatic life.



River Habitat

Rivers provide habitat for salmon and serve as highways for them to swim between the ocean and their spawning grounds.



Willamette River



Columbia River



Trask



Lostine River

River Habitat - Threats



Because large rivers often flow long distances through populated areas, they are subject to many threats that harm salmon.



Estuary Habitat



Estuaries are where rivers meet the ocean and the water is 'brackish' – part saltwater and part freshwater. Estuary habitat is very important to salmon smolts because it is where they begin adapting to living in saltwater before entering the ocean.

Estuary Habitat - Threats



Many estuaries have vanished or suffered habitat damage over the past 100 years.



Ocean Habitat



Salmon spend more than 80% of their lives in the ocean and is where they grow large and strong enough to make the journey back to the streams where they were born to spawn.

Ocean Habitat - Threats

Even though it is so large, the ocean also faces threats that can damage its habitat and make it more difficult for salmon to survive. Humans may also directly cause problems for salmon while they are in the ocean.



What Salmon Eat



Salmon eat different things depending on what habitat they are in and how old they are.

Water Quality

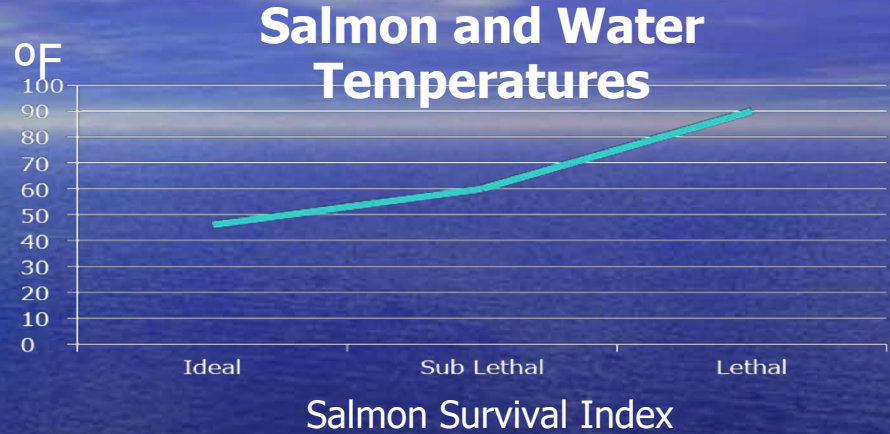


Clean water is crucial for salmon, but many things humans do contaminate streams and rivers, making it harder for them to survive.



Water Temperature

Salmon are a coldwater fish species and survive best at temperatures between 46° to 59° F.



Stream Flow

Salmon need to have enough water flowing in a stream for them to spawn, hide from predators and find deep pools where they can keep cool in the summer.

