# THREATS TO SALMON

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<tr>
<th>Threat Type</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>How You Can Help</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>WATER SCARCITY</strong></td>
<td>Drought, population growth, increased water use, and irrigation have depleted water supplies in many regions. Less water makes it difficult, and sometimes impossible, for fish to migrate and spawn.</td>
<td><strong>BE WATER WISE</strong> Use less water for cleaning, flushing, and showering; replace your lawn with native, drought-resistant plants and water them early in the day; eat less meat and dairy products; and reuse greywater.</td>
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<td><strong>BARRIERS TO PASSAGE</strong></td>
<td>Barriers, such as dams, may block their passage and create slow-moving pools that are ideal for predators.</td>
<td><strong>CONSERVE ELECTRICITY</strong> Turn off lights and electronics when not in use and unplug unused electronics. Using less electricity decreases the demand for dam-generated electricity.</td>
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<td><strong>WARMING WATER</strong></td>
<td>Climate change, dams, and industrial discharge can increase water temperature. Water warmer than 64°F/18°C makes salmon more susceptible to predators, parasites, and disease.</td>
<td><strong>CUT YOUR CLIMATE CHANGE FOOTPRINT</strong> Rethink and reduce purchases; reuse products and packing before throwing them out; compost and recycle when possible; and bike, bus, and carpool.</td>
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<td><strong>NATIVE PLANT LOSS</strong></td>
<td>Without native plants, fish are more vulnerable to predation and warming waters. Native plants also provide habitat for the invertebrates that salmon eat.</td>
<td><strong>RESTORE HABITAT</strong> Volunteer with your local stream team or green team to plant native species, clean up litter, remove invasive species, and create rain gardens.</td>
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<td><strong>RUNOFF</strong></td>
<td>Animal wastes, pesticides, and other pollutants runoff from lawns and farms. Oil, heavy metals, and antifreeze runoff from roads. When they reach rivers and streams, these pollutants kill fish, stunt their growth, and impair their reproduction.</td>
<td><strong>MINIMIZE RUNOFF</strong> Use fewer pesticides, fertilizers, and household chemicals; dispose of pet waste properly; wash your car at commercial car washes; and maintain your vehicles.</td>
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<td><strong>OVERFISHING AND BYCATCH</strong></td>
<td>Historically, many salmon populations were overfished. Today, endangered and threatened salmon can accidentally be caught by people fishing for other types of fish.</td>
<td><strong>EAT SUSTAINABLE SEAFOOD</strong> Visit FishWatch.gov to learn how to choose seafood with a smaller impact on the environment.</td>
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**Learn what salmon need to live, and how you can make a difference.**

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**I'm counting on you!**

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National Marine Fisheries Service
1. EGGS
Under the gravel, thousands of eggs develop in nests called redds.

2. ALEVINS
Alevin hatch and remain under the gravel for protection against predators until their yolk sac is fully absorbed.

3. FRY
Once alevin have absorbed their yolk, they become fry. They head for protected spots, like under logs and behind boulders. They dart out to catch tiny insects that come their way.

4. SMOLTS
When they feel the urge, young salmon begin migrating toward estuaries where they begin adapting to saltwater in a process called smoltification.

5. OCEAN ADULTS
Salmon enter the ocean as juveniles and leave it as mature adults. In the ocean, salmon travel thousands of miles and feed on other fish, squid, eels, and shrimp.

6. MIGRATING ADULTS
When adults are ready to spawn, they are guided home by the smells of their home stream. Once they reach freshwater, they stop eating and lose their silver color. On their way home, they must battle rapids, waterfalls, dams, and predators. Males develop hooked jaws and sharp canine teeth; some species develop humped backs.

7. SPAWNING ADULTS
When they reach the spawning grounds, they find a mate. Females dig nests in the gravel and lay thousands of eggs that are fertilized by milt. Most salmon die after spawning and their bodies provide food for other wildlife including bald eagles, bears, minks, river otters, and invertebrates.

At every life stage, salmon need abundant cold, clean water.

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