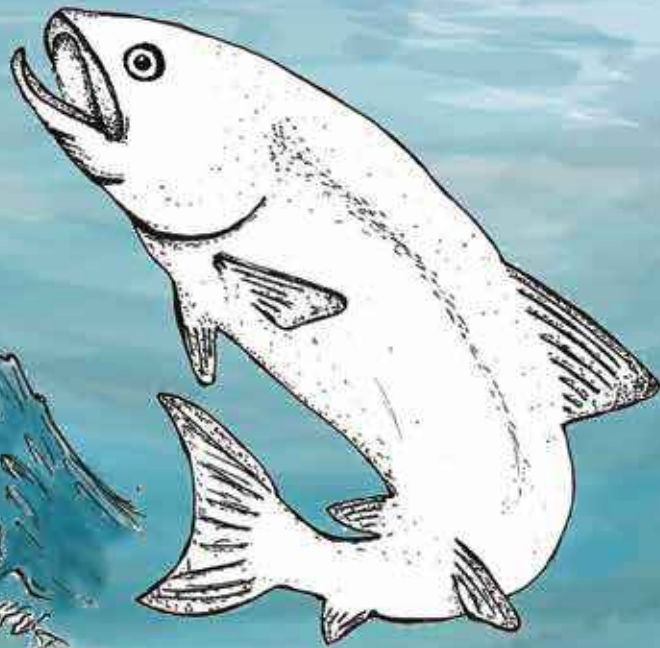


The **Salmon** *Life Cycle*

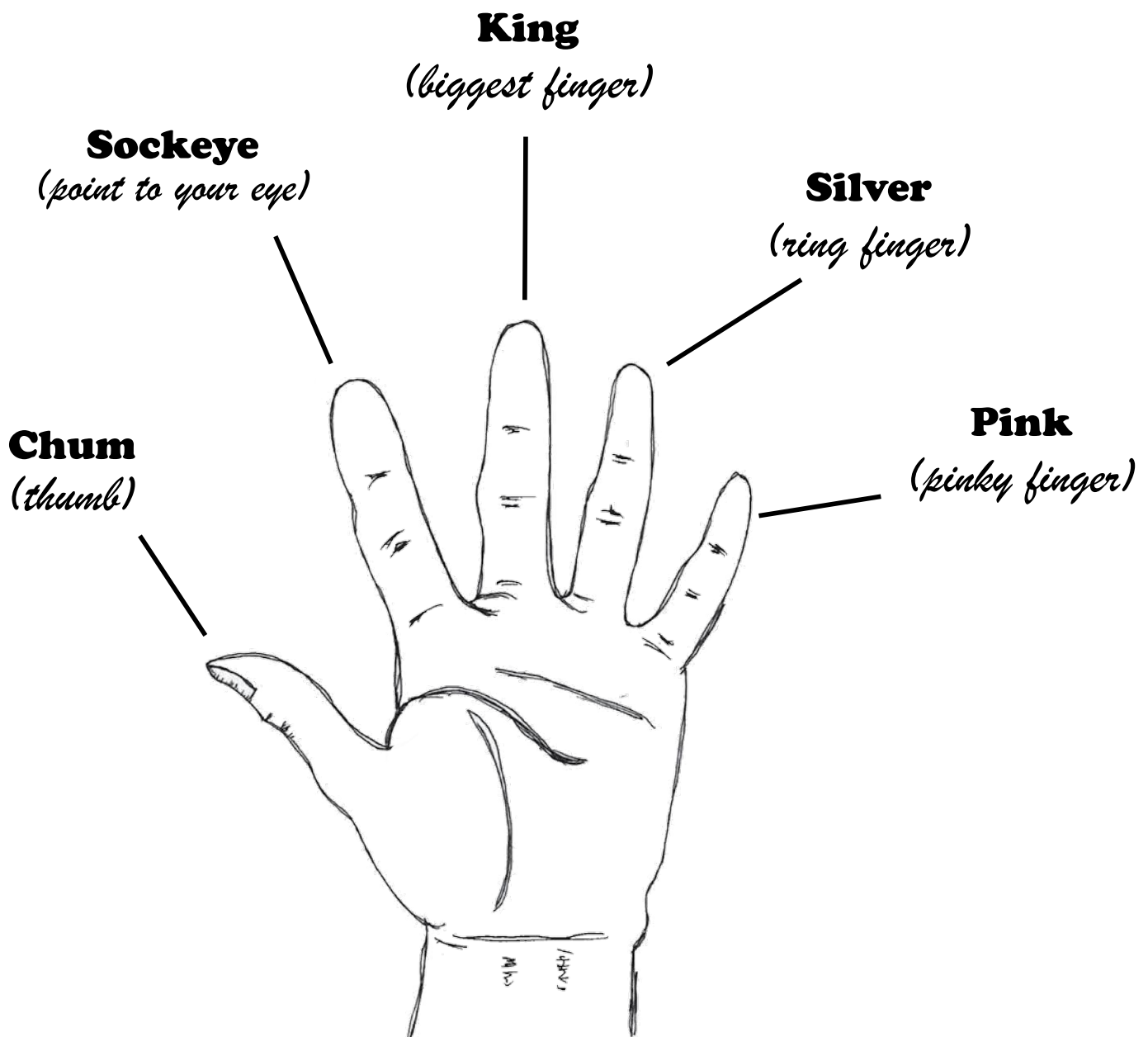


Coloring Book

Did you know?

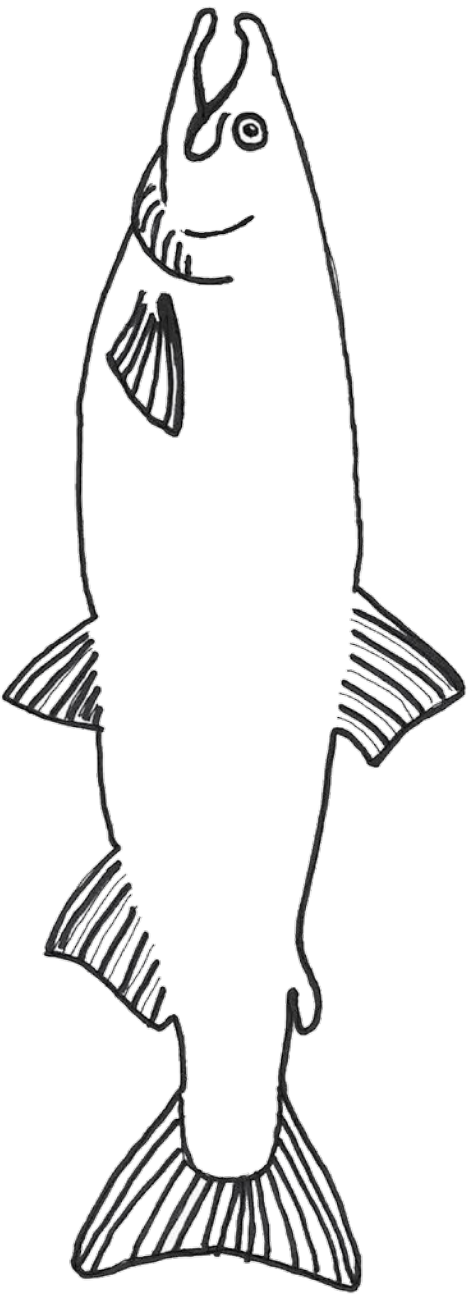
There are 5 species
of Pacific Salmon in Alaska?

Here is how to use your hand to remember all five:

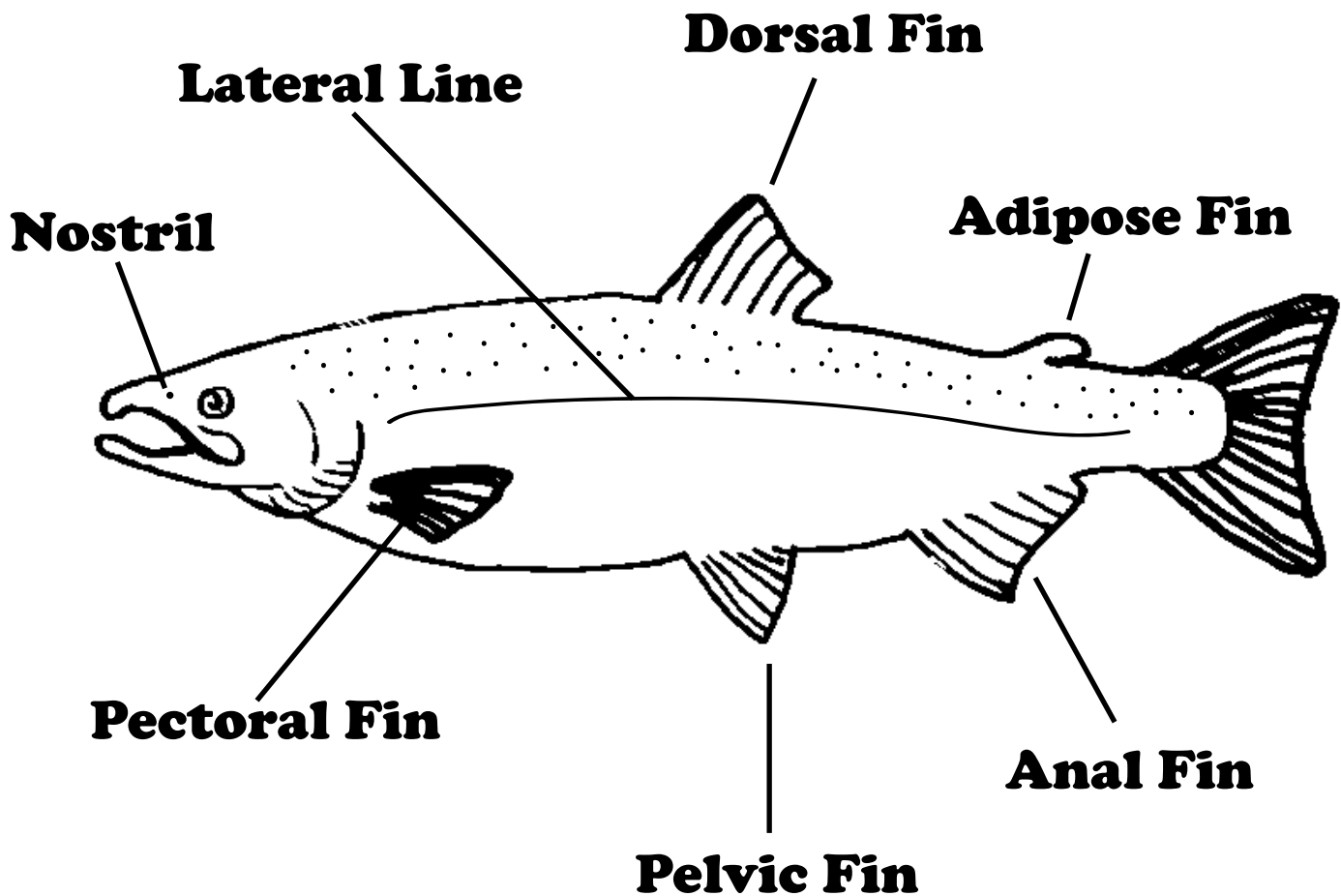


Color your own salmon & habitat

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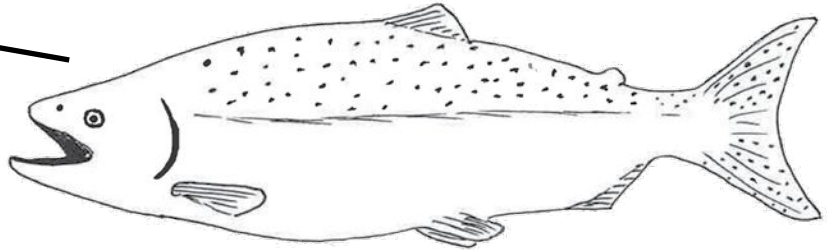
Salmon Anatomy



Salmon Identification

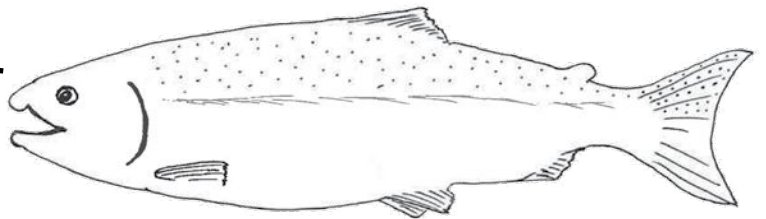
King

- Large spots on back and on both lobes of the tail
- Mouth is dark with a black gum line



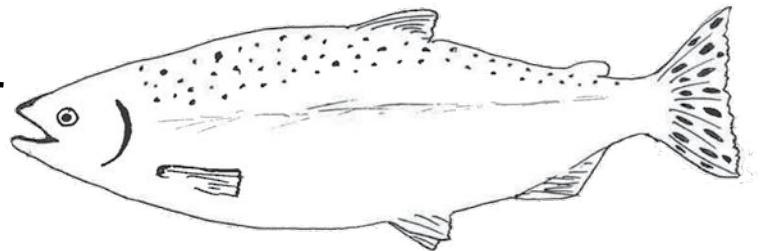
Silver

- Spots only on upper lobe of tail and on the back
- Mouth is light with a white gum line



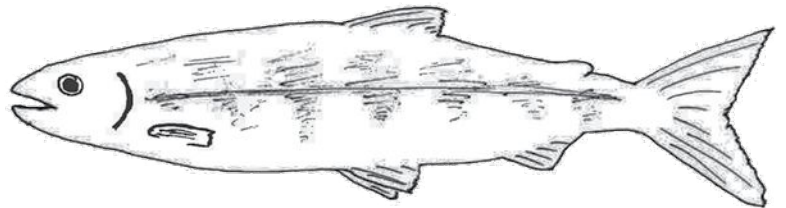
Pink

- Large black spots on back and large oval spots on tail
- Mouth is white with a black gum line



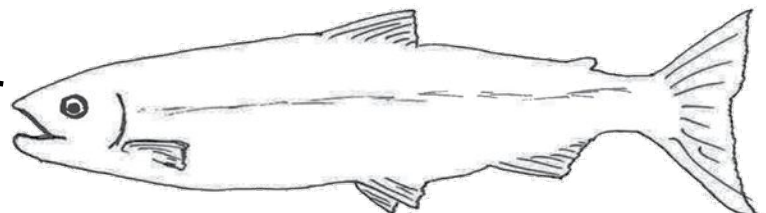
Chum

- No spots on tail or back
- Vertical markings along body

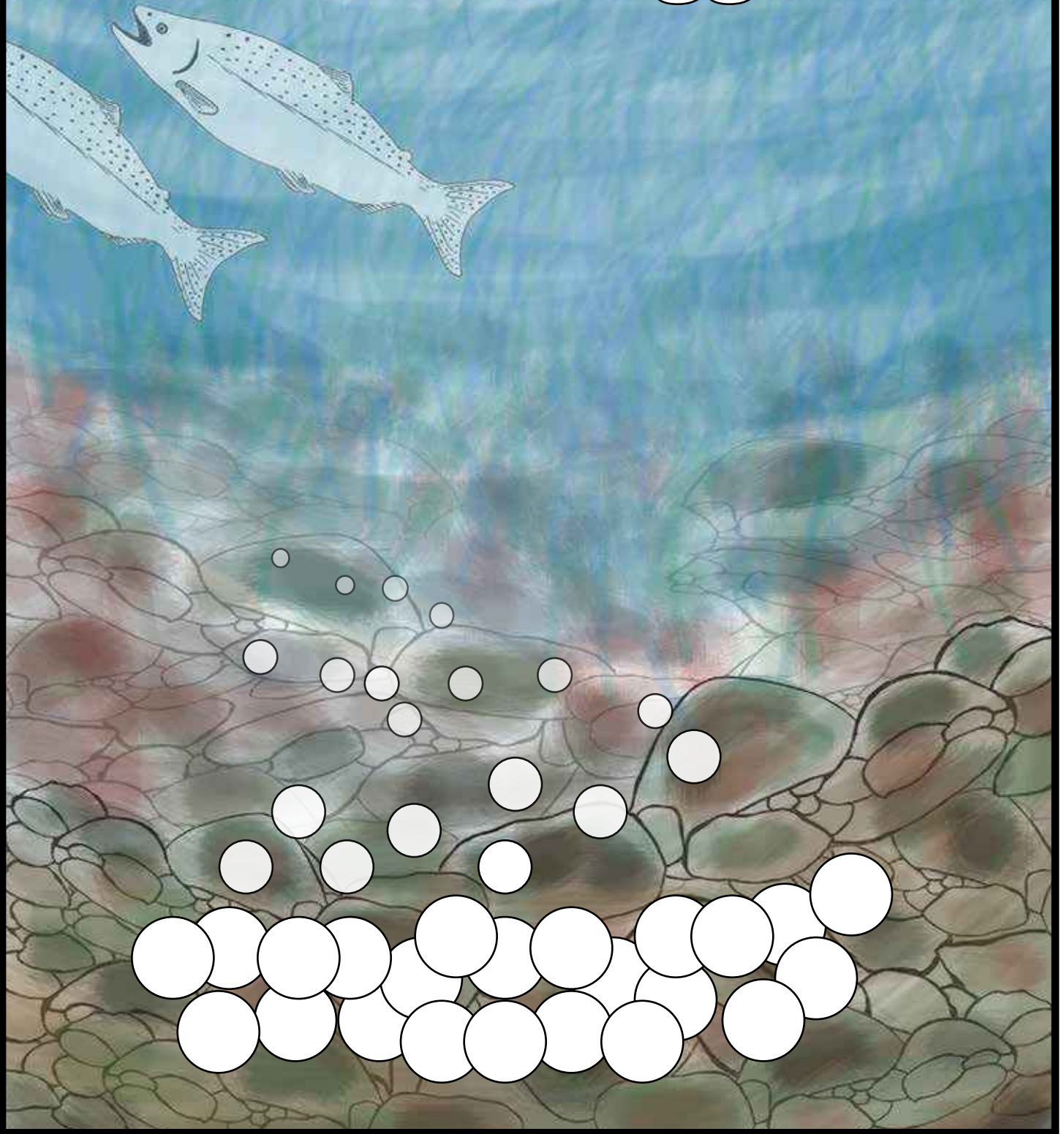


Sockeye

- No spots on tail or back
- Mouth is white with a white gum line



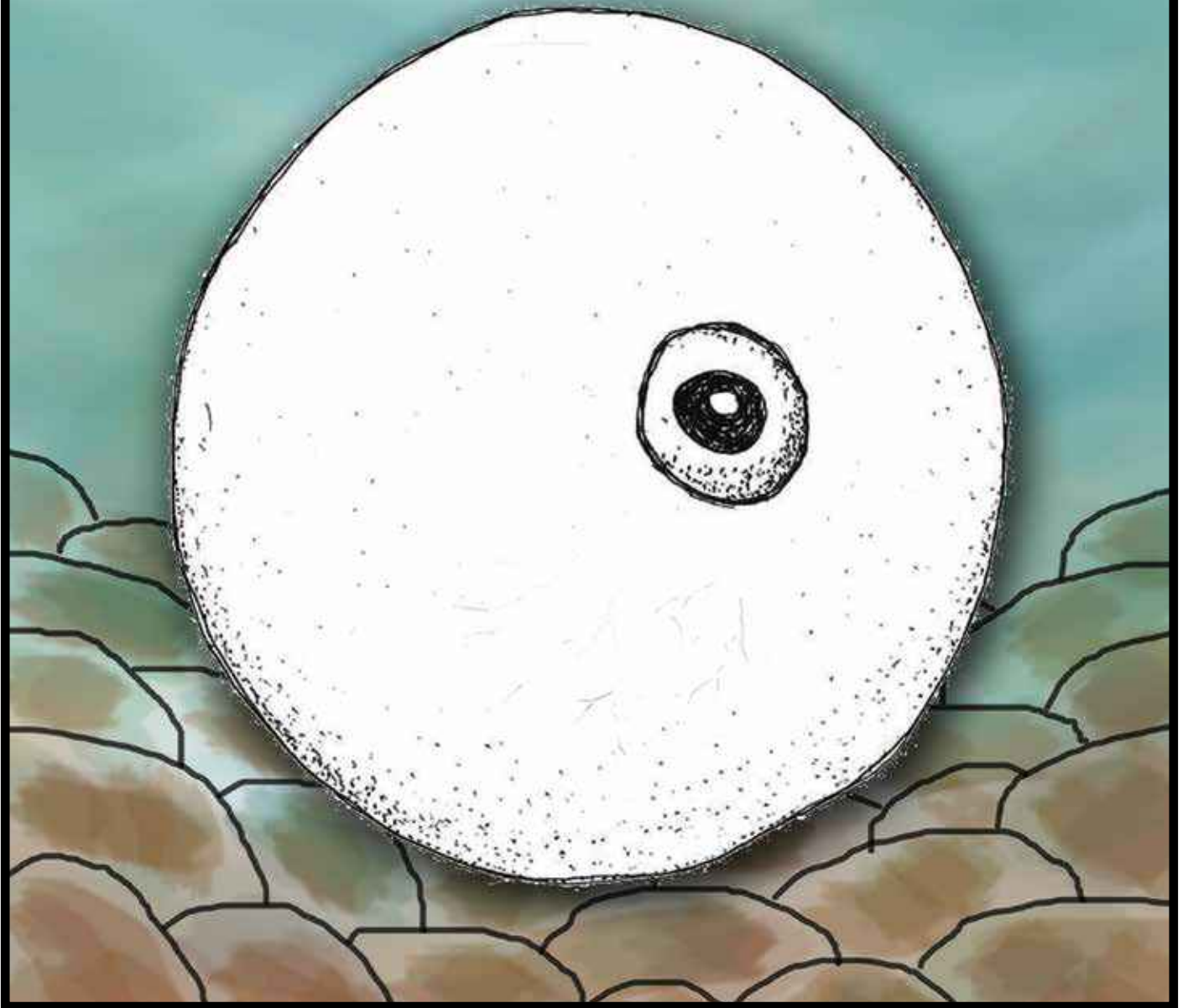
Green Eggs



Newly fertilized eggs are also referred to as green eggs and are about the size of a pea. No visible signs of development are evident. The eggs are very sensitive to changes in water level and temperature.

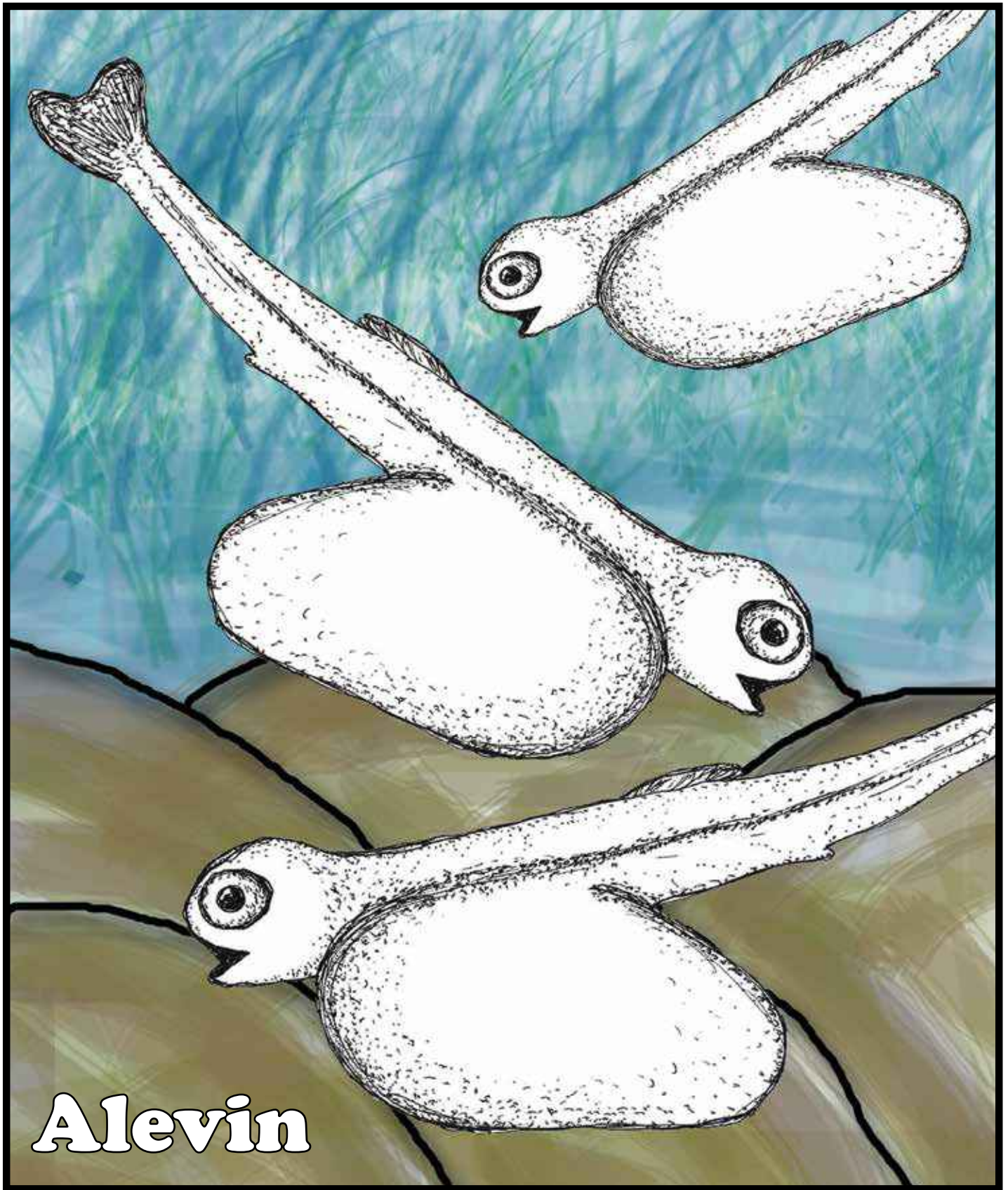
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Eyed Egg



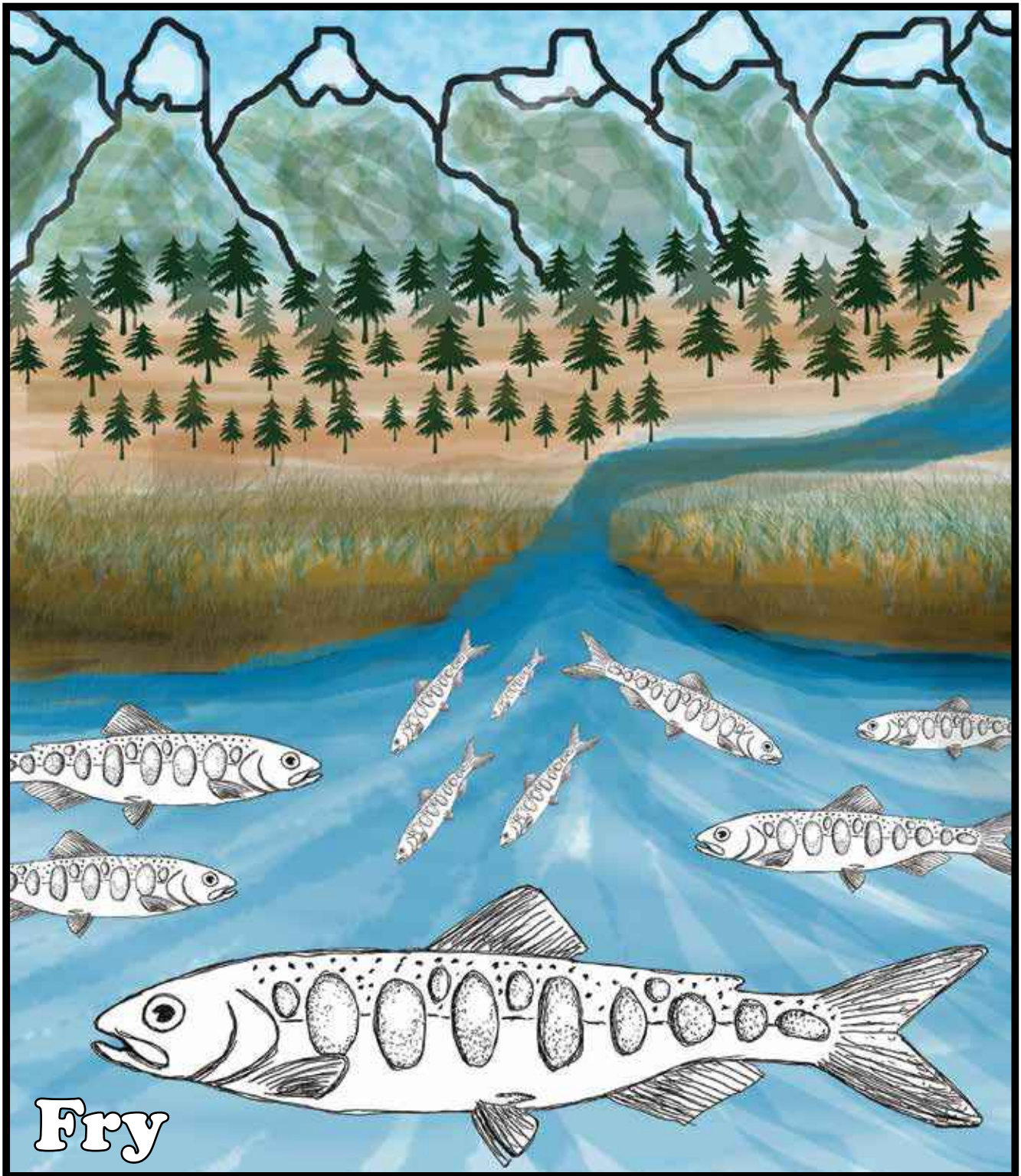
7his is the embryo stage at which pigmentation of the eyes becomes visible through the egg shell. The embryo receives food from its yolk sac and obtains oxygen through the egg shell wall. It's estimated that only 1 in 10 eggs survives to hatch.

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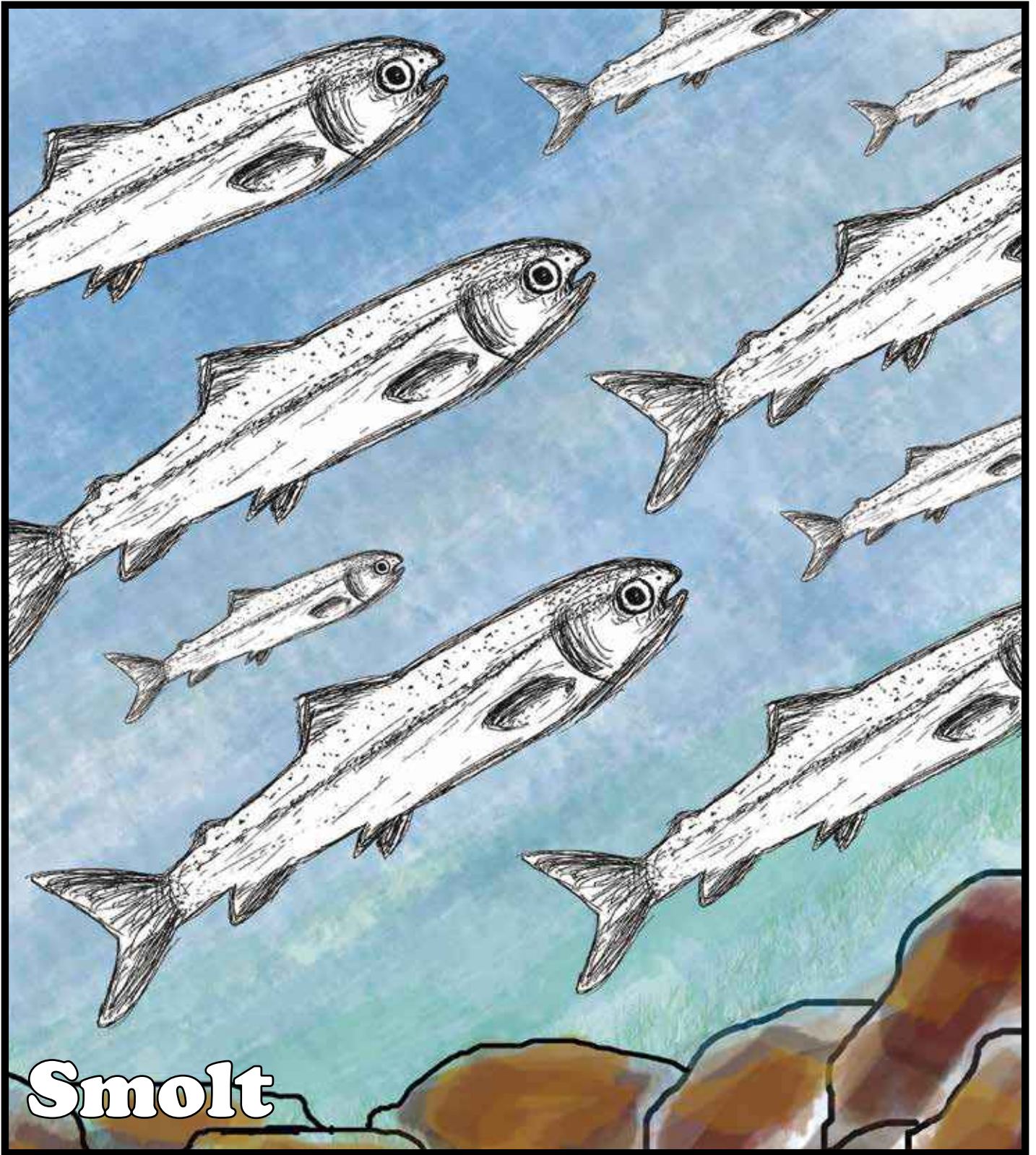
After hatching, the young salmon are about an inch long and have a yolk sac attached to them. The yolk sac is their only food source. The alevin remain hidden in the gravel for protection from predators.

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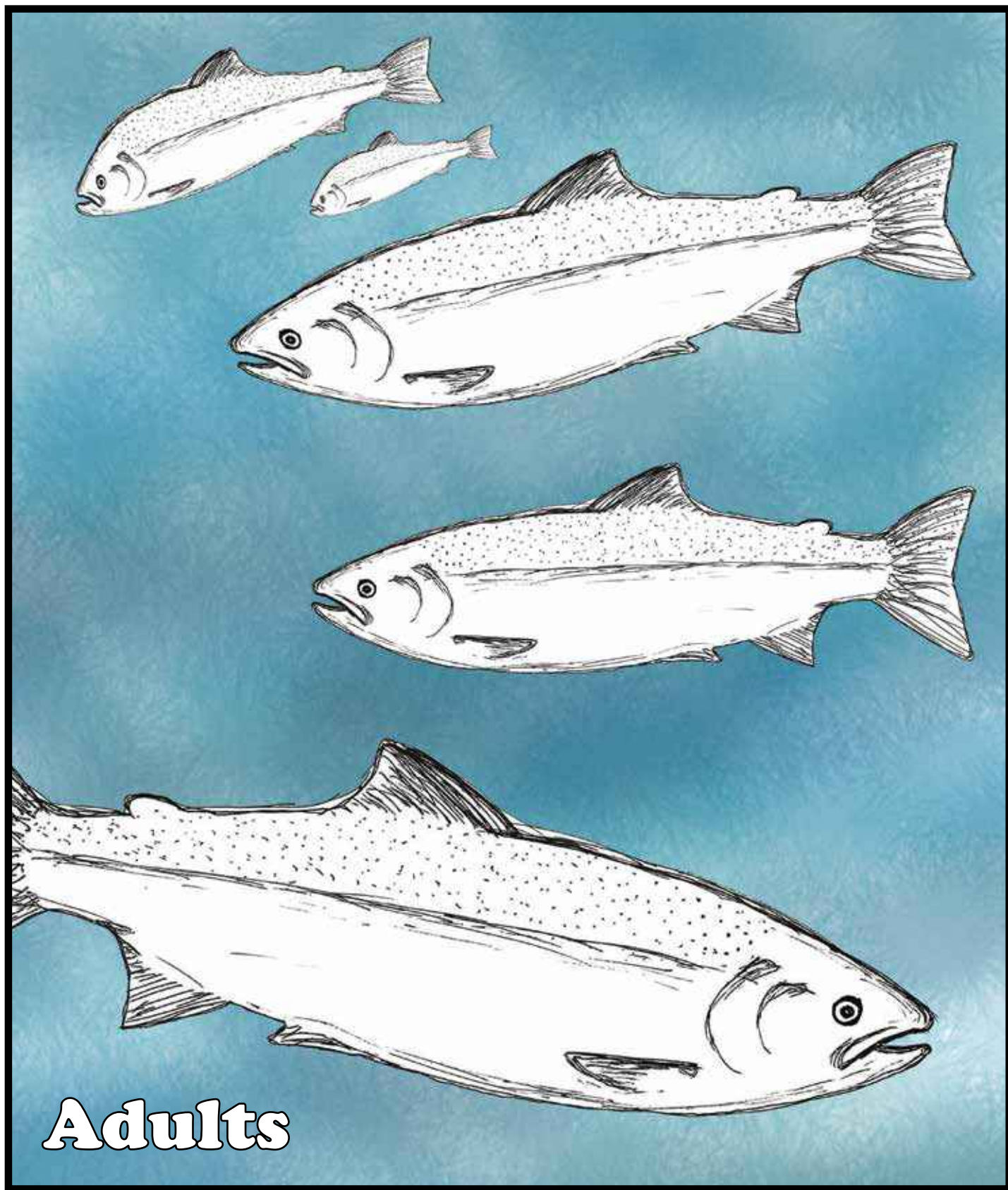
Once the alevin has used up the food in their yolk sacs, they have developed into fry. Fry are beginning to take on the general characteristics of a fish. After emerging from the gravel, they have well developed fins and swim around looking for food such as insects or plankton. They start to develop vertical bars (parr marks), which is a type of camouflage. This will help them blend in with their freshwater surroundings.

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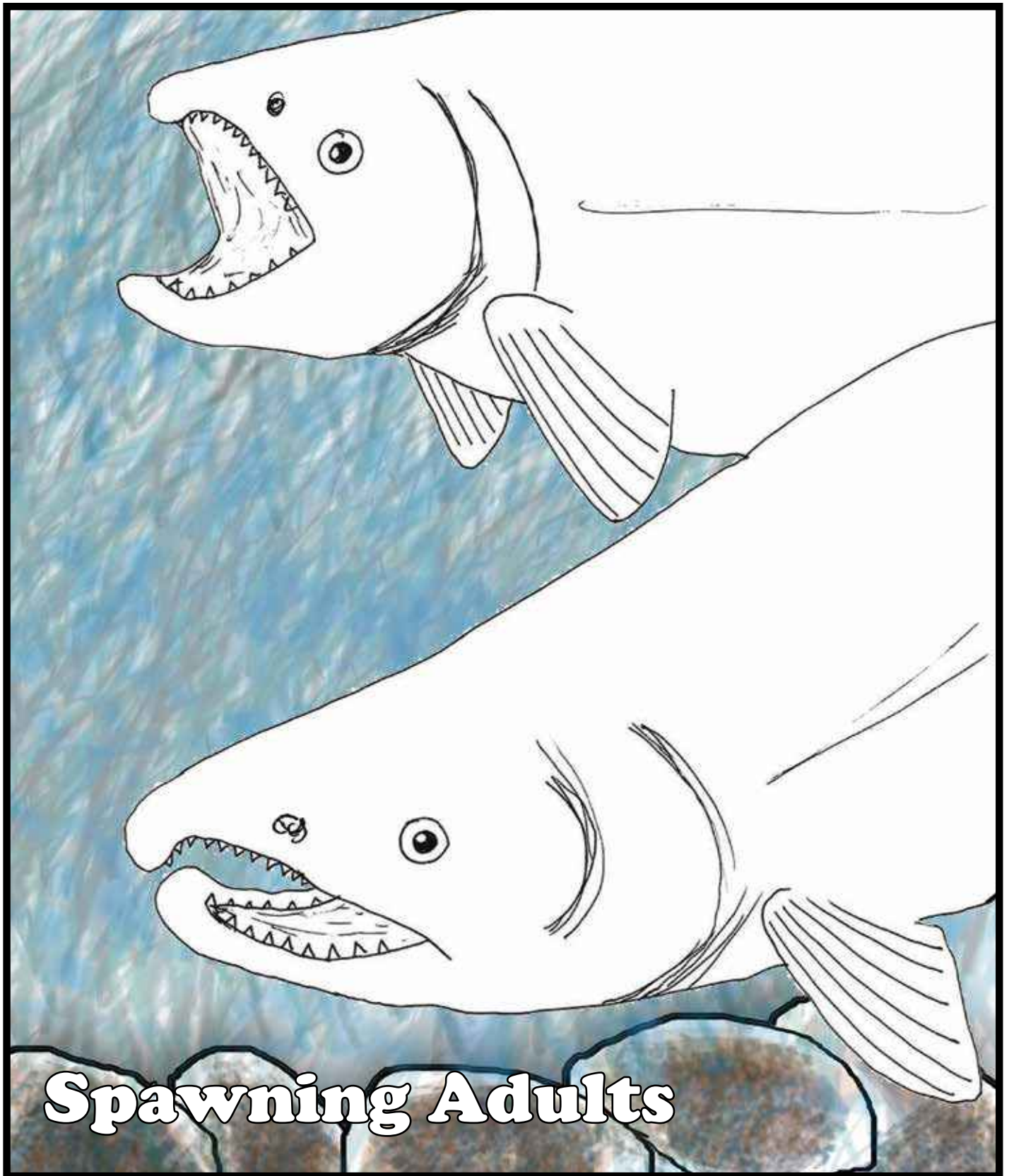
***A*s smolt, the salmon are much larger and faster swimmers than they were as fry. They start their downstream migration to the estuary. An estuary is a place where the river meets the ocean. They will feed here for a short period of time before entering the ocean. They turn a silvery color to help camouflage them in the ocean.**

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Salmon spend 1 to 5 years swimming and constantly feeding in the ocean where they grow to their adult size and develop unique markings that are different for all five species of Pacific salmon.

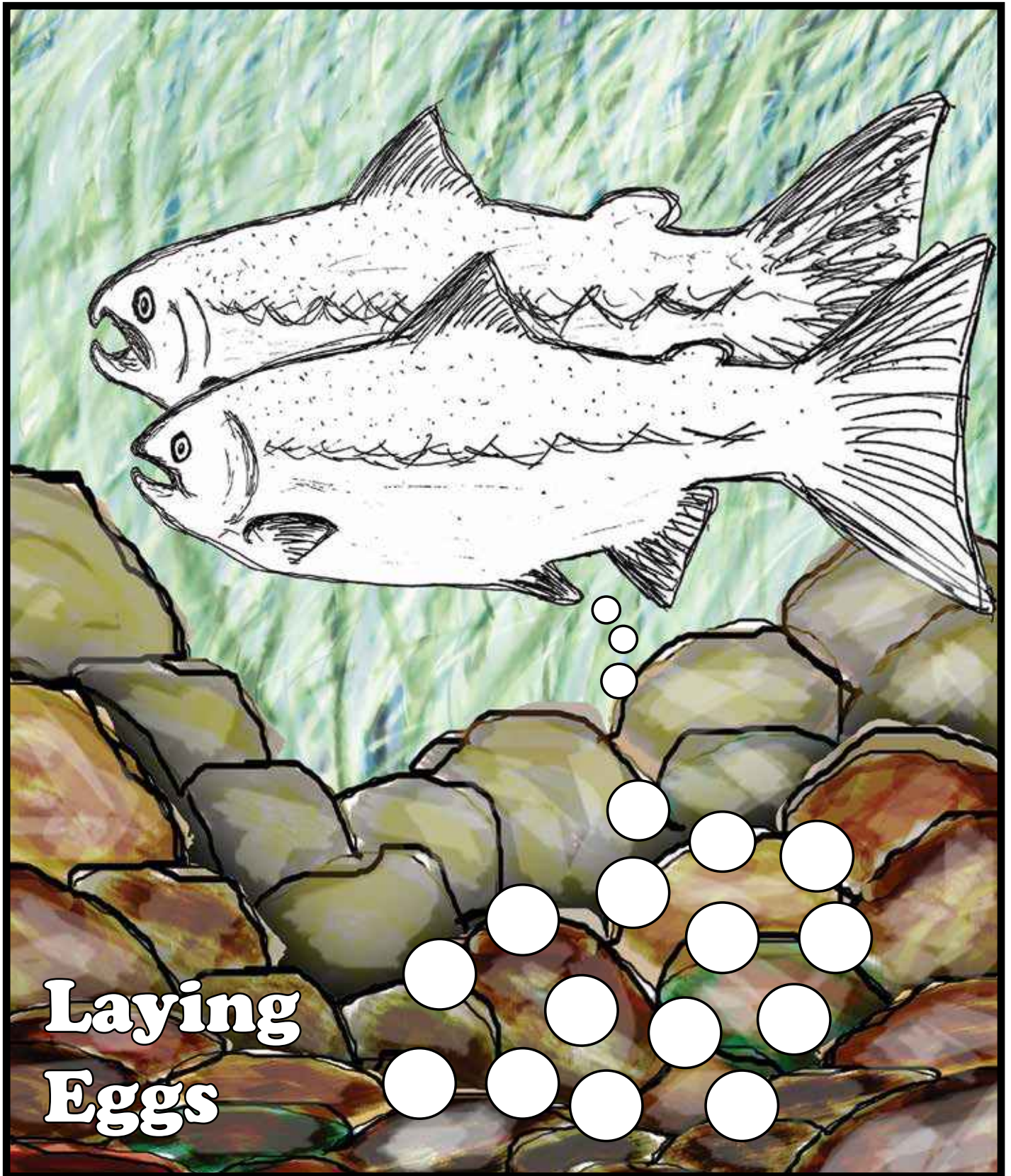
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Spawning Adults

Salmon stop eating and change shape and colors as they return to the stream in which they were born. Here they begin the process of laying and fertilizing eggs.

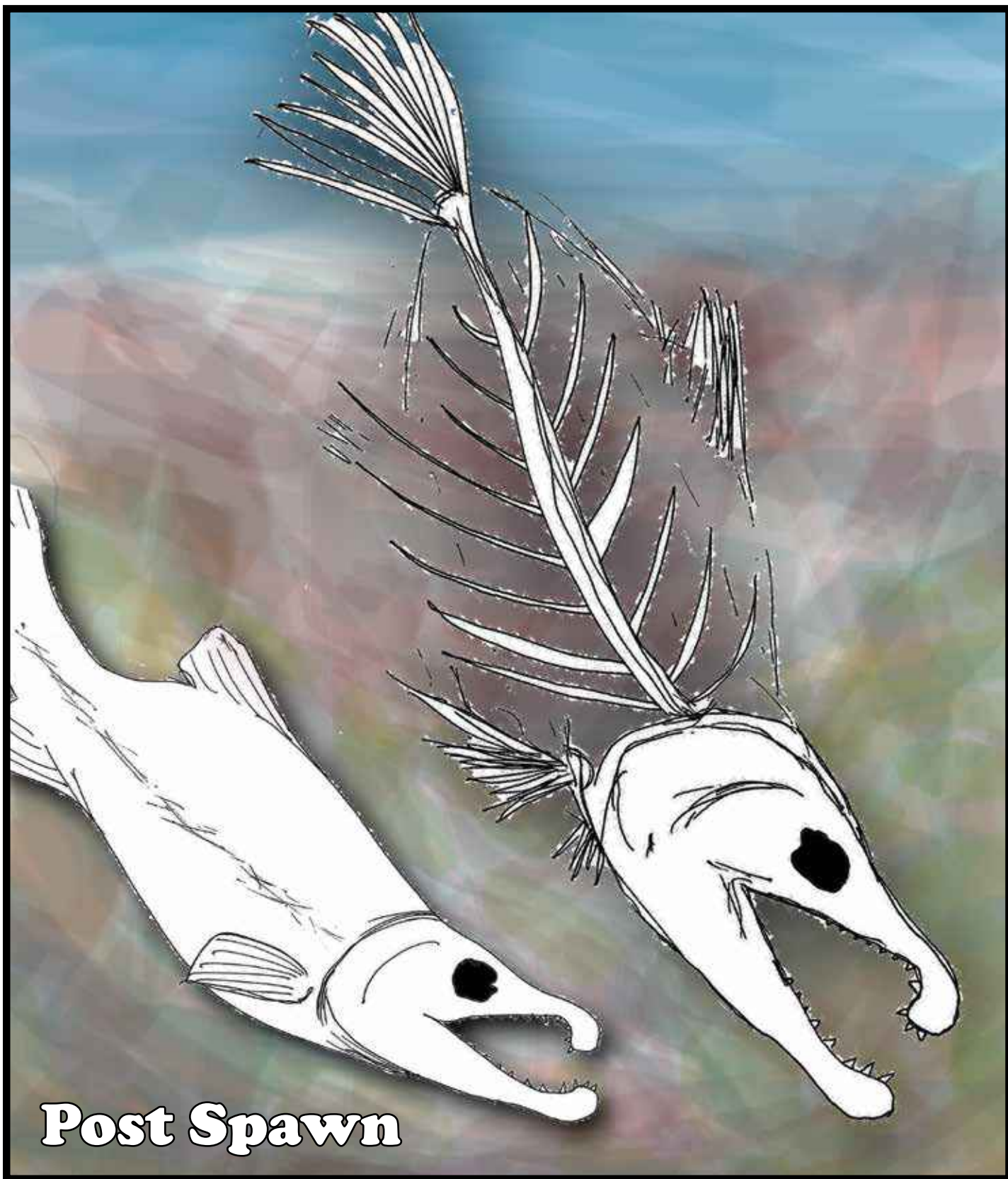
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Laying Eggs

7he female salmon lays her eggs in a gravel bed, which is called a redd. She makes this redd by moving rocks and gravel with sweeping motions of her tail. After the male salmon has fertilized the eggs, she covers the nest or redd with clean rocks to protect them.

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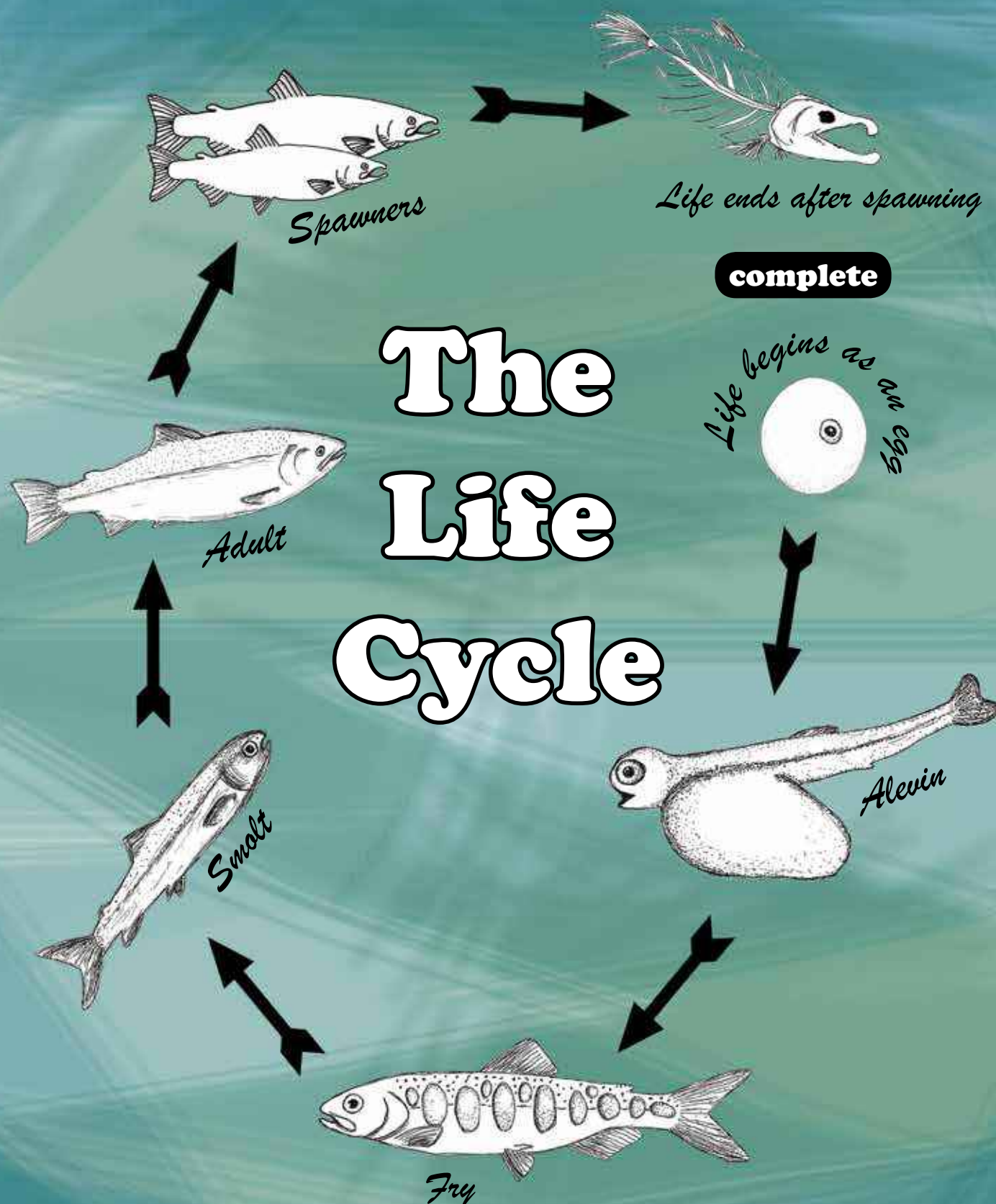


Post Spawn

Salmon die shortly after spawning. The carcasses provide food for scavengers and the nutrients released as they decay also provide necessary nourishment to vegetative and aquatic life thus providing food back up the food chain.

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The Life Cycle





Thank you for being a responsible angler!



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