

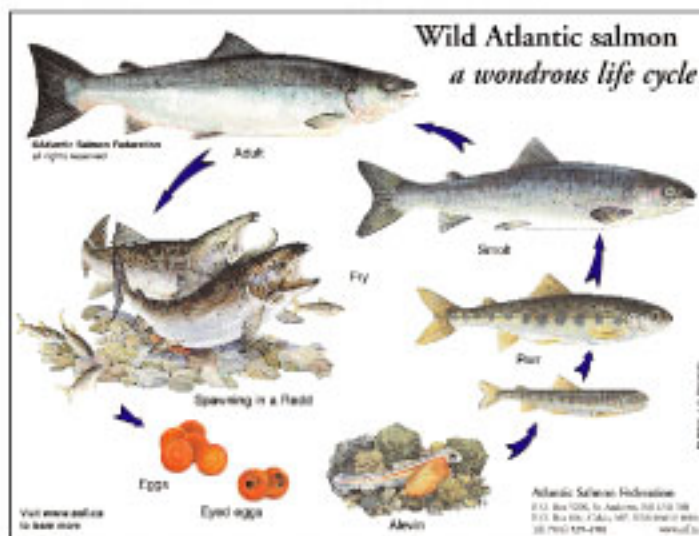
## Why Salmon Matter:

Atlantic salmon are often called an indicator species: where salmon occur the ecosystem is thought to be of high quality. Sea-run Atlantic salmon (*Salmo salar*) inhabit two worlds, spending part of their lives in fresh water and part in salt. Atlantic salmon utilize freshwater habitat for reproduction and rearing of their young - stages of their life cycle in which they are particularly sensitive to environmental conditions.

After two or three years of growth, salmon migrate as smolts to the ocean. Their journey takes them thousands of miles to the cold northern waters off Greenland where they feed on shrimp, capelin, herring and other species. After two or three years feeding at sea and growing rapidly, they return as adults to spawn. Adults may return to the sea and then return to spawn again.

*"The salmon are a test of a healthy environment, a lesson in environmental needs. Their abundant presence on the spawning beds is lesson of hope, a reassurance that all is well with water and land, a lesson of deep importance for the future of man. If there ever is a time when the salmon no longer return, man will know that he has failed again and moved one stage nearer to his own final disappearance."*

World-renowned author, angler, and conservationist Roderick Haig-Brown (1974)



J.O. Pennanen - Illustrator



Shared Streams is a national riparian conservation program of the American Forest Foundation