

SALMON IN LAGUNITAS CREEK

There are five species of salmon found in the Pacific Ocean, four of which have been observed in Lagunitas Creek. Steelhead trout, a close relative of salmon, are also abundant in the same stream.



Pink Salmon

First spotted in Lagunitas Creek in 2017



Chum Salmon

Most widely distributed of the Pacific salmon



Chinook Salmon

A female Chinook can lay up to 14,000 eggs



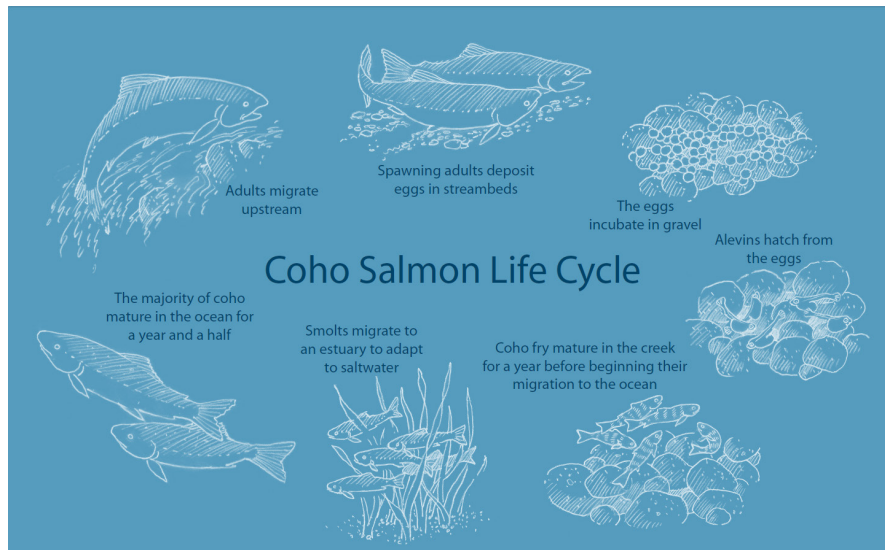
Coho Salmon

Largest coho population south of Mendocino County



Steelhead Trout

The anadromous variant of the rainbow trout



Life Cycle

The migration of salmon from the ocean to their freshwater spawning habitat is one of the largest migrations of any animal. They begin their lives in freshwater streams or rivers that drain into the ocean. As they leave their natal stream for the first time they imprint, and remember the odor of the river. Their highly acute sense of smell allows them to locate and return to their natal streams years later in order to spawn.

Monitoring Trends

Coho salmon have a three year life cycle. Much of our work involves monitoring coho and steelhead through each phase of their freshwater life cycle. These surveys include spawner surveys in the winter, smolt surveys in the spring, and juvenile snorkel surveys in the summer.

Spawning Salmon

We welcome the public to visit the Leo T. Cronin fish viewing area to see salmon during spawning season in December and January. The shallow water upstream of the parking lot is consistently one of the busiest spawning areas in Lagunitas Creek. You might even see them jumping up a small waterfall!