

This is Dr. Becky Flitcroft.



Dr. Flitcroft loves working outside. When she was in college, she knew she wanted to become a scientist.



Photo: Dr. Becky Flitcroft, Forest Service

Dr. Flitcroft spent a lot of time exploring outdoors when she was young.

Dr. Flitcroft pays close attention to nature.  
She is also very curious.



These children pay close attention to the  
world around them.

Dr. Flitcroft is a scientist who studies fish.  
One type of fish she studies is called Coho  
**salmon** (sa mən).

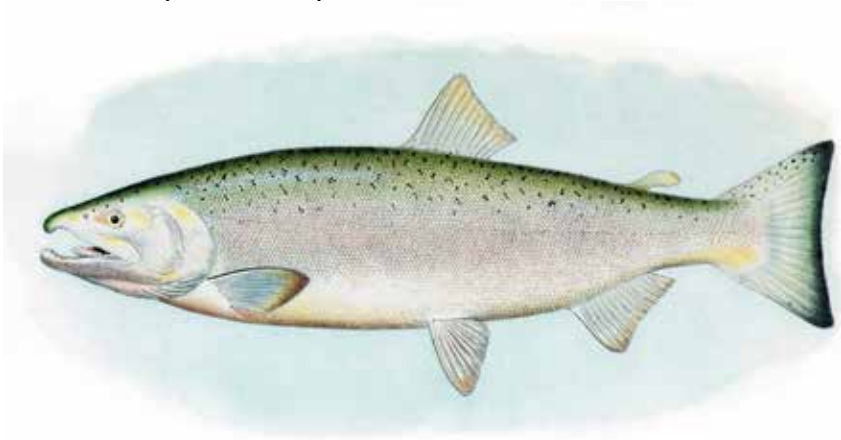
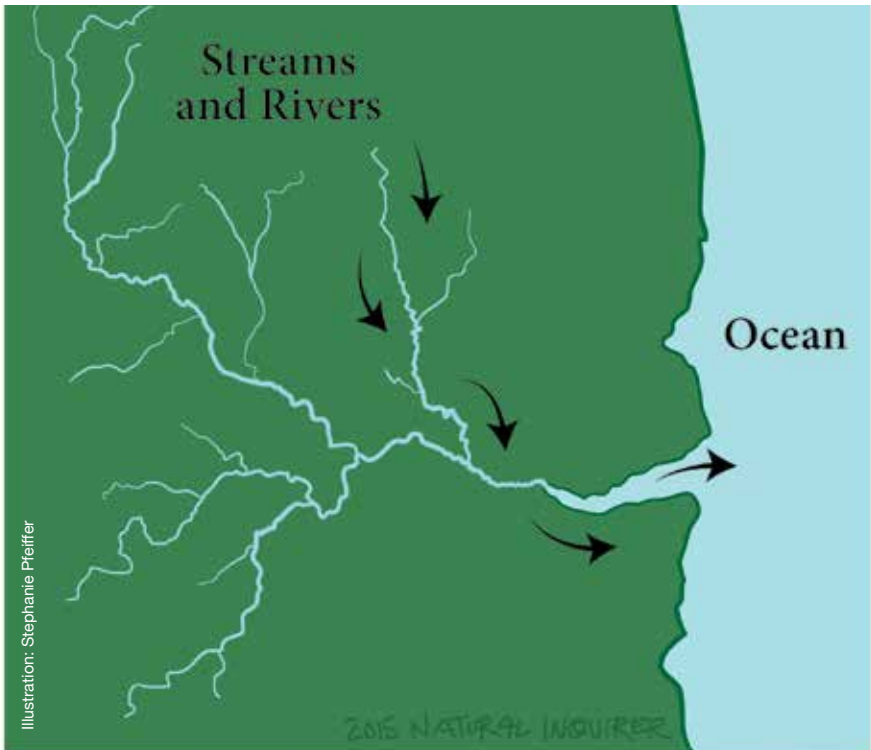


Photo: National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

Fish are animals that live in water.



Coho salmon live in **streams**, rivers, and the ocean.

Dr. Flitcroft knew that salmon are important for the **environment**. Salmon eat other fish and animals. Salmon are also eaten by some animals.



Salmon are also important to humans for many reasons. Some **American Indians** (ə mer ə kən in dē ənz) and **Alaska Natives** (ə las kə nā tivz) use art to show that salmon are a part of their lives.



Photo: National Park Service

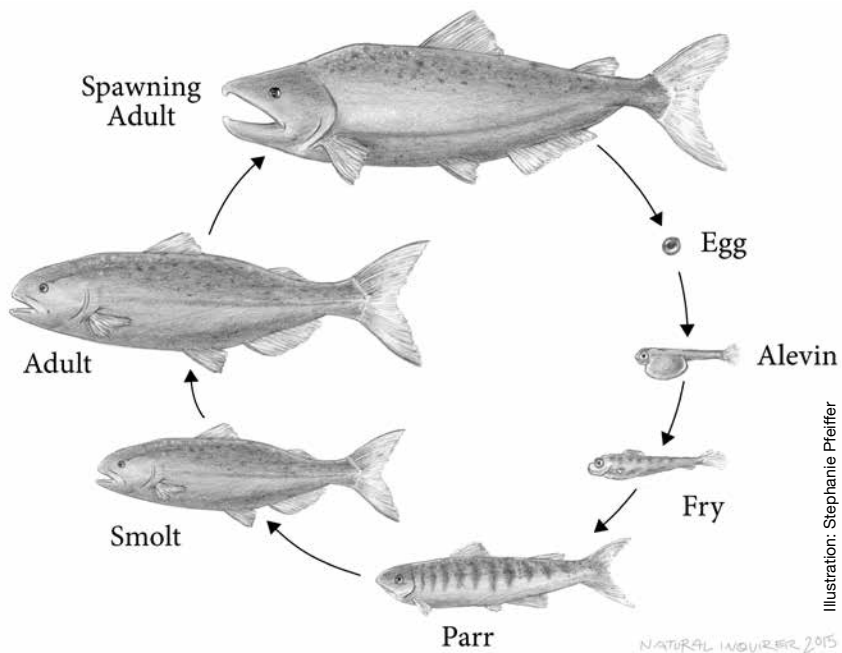
Salmon are sometimes shown on totem poles made by American Indians and Alaska Natives.

Some people catch and sell salmon as a part of their job.



Some people like to eat the salmon they catch.  
Other people sell the salmon.

Dr. Flitcroft knew that salmon have a **life cycle**. Salmon need healthy **habitat** at each point in their life cycle.



Salmon lay eggs in streams and rivers. The eggs **develop** as part of the salmon life cycle.



Photo: Babs McDonald

Dr. Flitcroft likes to ask questions about our world. Dr. Flitcroft asked, “Why do young salmon live where they live?”



Photo: Kristen Kirkby

Dr. Flitcroft worked with a team of scientists to answer the question.



Photo: Dr. Becky Flitcroft, Forest Service

When have you worked with a team?

Dr. Flitcroft and her team used tools to help answer the question. Masks and snorkels are two tools they used. Snorkels helped the scientists **observe** if salmon were in the streams and rivers.





Photo: Brian Cooke

A mask and snorkel allow humans to see and breathe under the water.

Dr. Flitcroft and her team observed many young salmon in streams and rivers. The team discovered a **pattern**. Streams and rivers with more young salmon had three types of healthy habitat that were close together.



Healthy habitat can help young salmon at each stage of their life cycle. Young salmon need all three types of healthy habitat.

Young salmon need areas with small rocks and water that is not deep. These areas are where the eggs are laid.

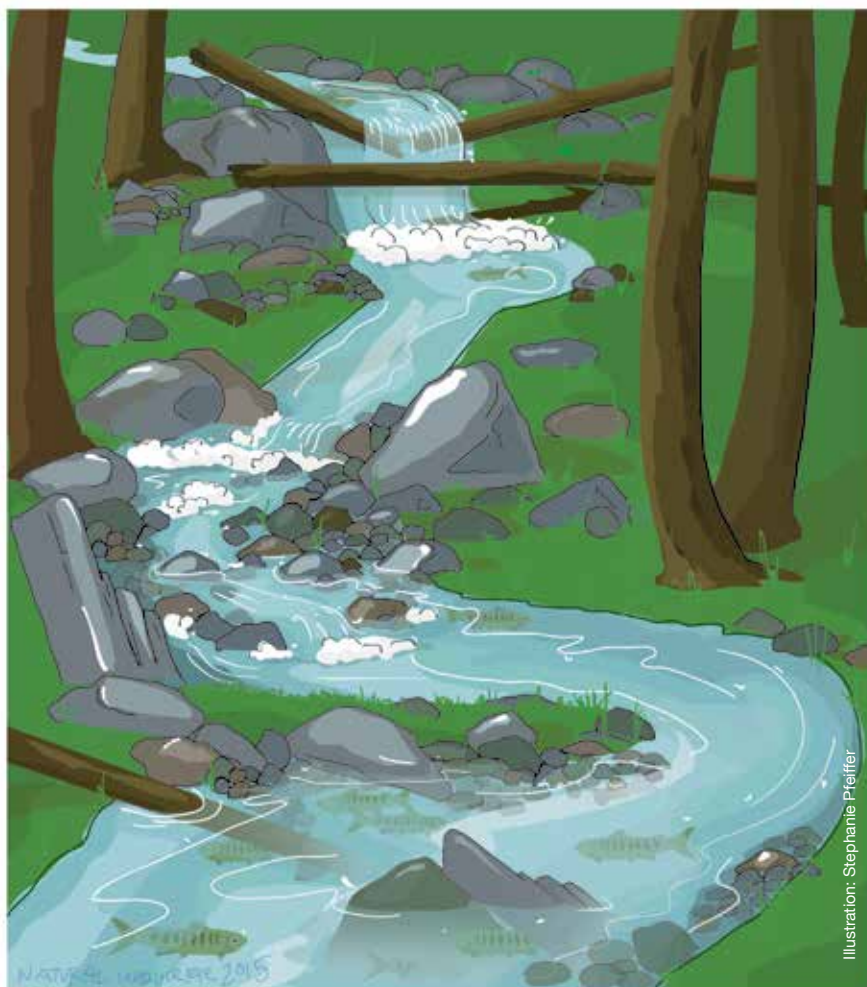


Young salmon need slow moving water with logs and rocks. These areas let young salmon hide.



Young salmon need areas with deep pools in the summer. Pools are areas of deep water in a stream or river. Deep pools have cold water during dry, hot summers.





Streams and rivers with all three types of habitat help young salmon survive. Find all three types of habitat.

Dr. Flitcroft thinks that young salmon need habitat close together because they have not yet become strong swimmers.



Photo: Jessica Nickelsen

Learning how to swim takes hard work. What do you do that takes hard work?

# Critical Thinking Questions:



- Young salmon need healthy habitat to survive. What is one other thing young salmon need to survive?
- All animals need healthy habitat to survive. What is one thing that you need to survive?
- Dr. Flitcroft worked with a team of scientists. What is good about working with a team?
- Dr. Flitcroft likes to ask questions. Why do you think it is important to ask questions?

## Glossary:

Alaska Natives (ə **las** kə **nā** tivz):  
People who are a part of the first  
communities that lived or still  
live in Alaska.



American Indians (ə **mer** ə kən **in** dē ənz):  
People who are a part of the first communities  
that lived or still live in North America or South  
America.

develop (di vel əp): To grow or change.

environment (in **vī** rə(n) mənt): The living and  
nonliving things that are a part of the natural  
world.

habitat (**ha** bə tat): The place or environment  
where a plant or animal naturally or normally  
lives and grows.

life cycle (**līf** **sī** kəl): Stages in the life of a plant or  
animal.

observe (əb-**zərv**): To watch something.

pattern (**pa**-tərn): Something that happens in a regular or repeated way.

salmon (**sa** mən): A large fish that is born in streams or rivers but that lives most of its life in the ocean.

stream (**strēm**): A body of running water —such as a river, creek, or brook— flowing on Earth.

## Try This!



The map on page 26 shows streams and rivers where young salmon live. Young salmon move through the water to find healthy habitat. The healthy habitat helps them survive at each part of their life cycle. On the map, each habitat type that young salmon need has its own color.

The color **red** shows habitat that has slow moving water with trees and rocks for