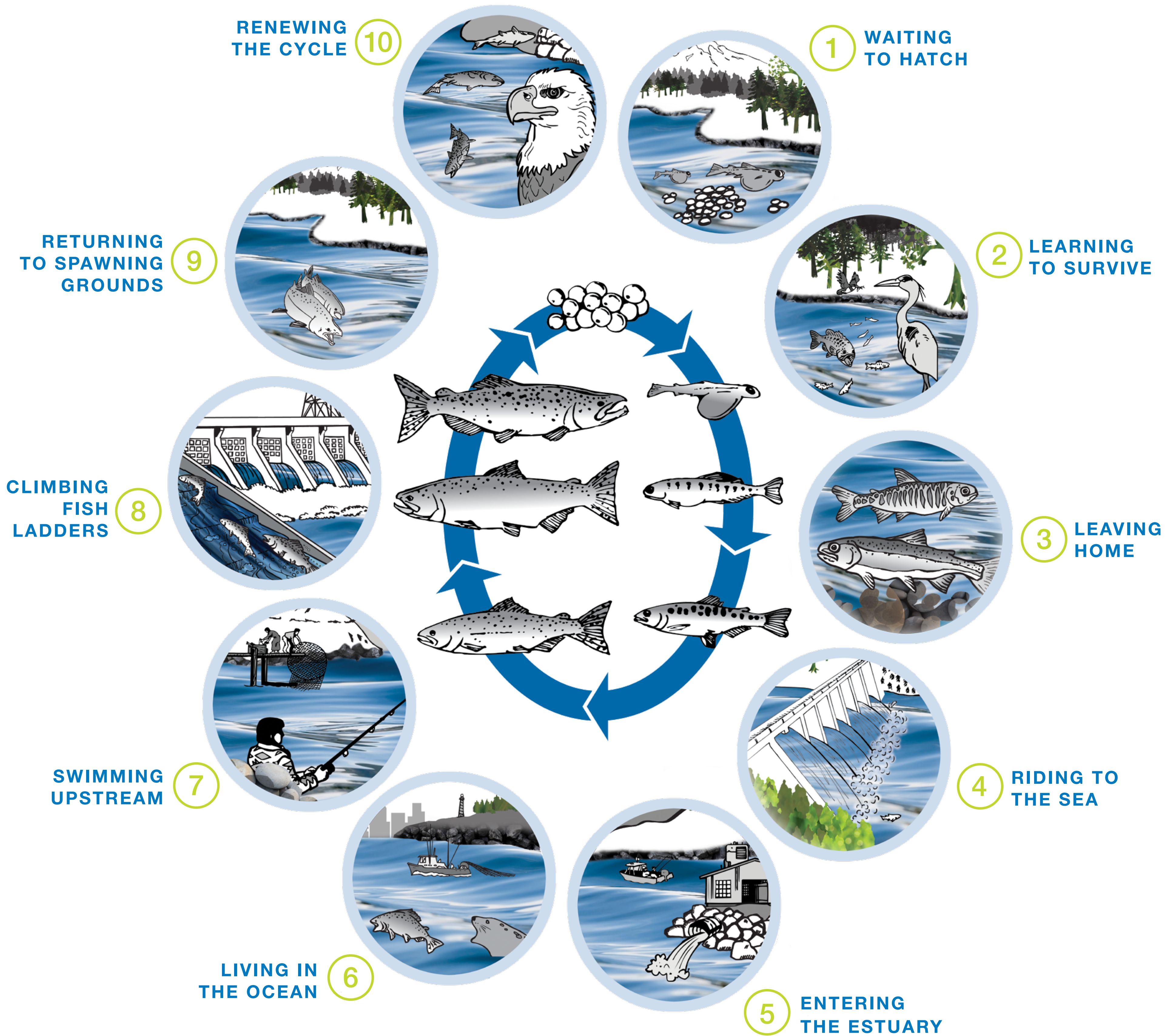


THE AMAZING JOURNEY OF Columbia River Salmon



- 1 WAITING TO HATCH.** It's early spring, and 5,000 tiny, salmon eggs lie hidden in a stone nest in a creek high in Northwest mountains.
- 2 LEARNING TO SURVIVE.** Leaving the gravel of their nest, young salmon eat small organisms for food and learn to hide from predators.
- 3 LEAVING HOME.** The next spring, the now finger-long salmon move into swift current. Rushing snowmelt carries them downstream.
- 4 RIDING TO THE SEA.** The young salmon keep eating and growing as they glide down the Columbia River.

- 5 ENTERING THE ESTUARY.** As the days get longer, the salmon slide past cities into wide, shallow water. It tastes salty! The Columbia River meets the Pacific Ocean.
- 6 LIVING IN THE OCEAN.** The salmon live in the ocean for one to five years and may swim as far as Alaska or even Japan.
- 7 SWIMMING UPSTREAM.** At life's end, sleek, mature salmon return to the river and head upstream. Salmon have been important to tribal cultures and religions for thousands of years.

- 8 CLIMBING FISH LADDERS.** At each dam, the fast-flowing water of fish ladders attracts adult fish to climb them.
- 9 RETURNING TO SPAWNING GROUNDS.** At last, the salmon reach the stream where they were born. They dig nests and lay and fertilize their eggs.
- 10 RENEWING THE CYCLE.** After they spawn, the salmon become food for birds and bears. They help nourish the stream and the land.

