

Nimbus Hatchery Vocabulary

adipose fin – small fleshy fin on back between tail and dorsal fin. Removed when fish is tagged.

addling – process of causing the membranes of dead eggs to break. Enables hatchery workers to sort out viable eggs.

alevin – fry with yolk sac after hatching from egg shell

anadromous – fish which migrate from salt water to fresh water to spawn

angler – a person who fishes

biodiversity – the variety of and variability in living organisms, with respect to genetics, life history, behavior and other fundamental characteristics

carrying capacity – number of individuals of one species that the resources of a habitat can support

Chinook – one of five species of Pacific salmon; also known as king salmon

circuli – concentric rings on fish scales, can be used to determine age of fish

escapement – number of salmon and steelhead that survive to return to spawn. Includes those that spawn in the river and those taken by a hatchery

extinction – the natural or human-induced process by which a species, subspecies, or population ceases to exist.

eyed egg – first noticeable stage of egg development. Eyes are seen as black dots.

fertilization – the process of joining egg and sperm.

fingerling – young fish about the size of a person's finger. Also known as parr

fry – general term for young fish.

fungus – parasitic organism which can appear as a patchy white growth on skin

genetic diversity – all of the genetic variation within a species. Genetic diversity includes both genetic differences among individuals in a breeding population and genetic differences among different breeding populations.

gills – organs which allow fish to absorb oxygen from water

green – a fish that is not ready to spawn

grilse – two-year old salmon returning to spawn; also known as jack (male) and jill (females)

habitat – the arrangement of food, water, shelter and space suitable for a specific animal's needs. It is the physical and biological environment in which an animal completes its life cycle.

hatchery – place for spawning fish artificially and raising young fish

imprinting – physiological and behavioral process by which migratory fish assimilate environmental cues to aid their return to their stream of origin as adults

ladder – series of step-like waterfalls constructed to allow fish to swim over high barriers, e.g. dams

lateral line – row of sensory pores which form a lengthwise line of the sides of a fish. Senses water movements and electrical impulses

migrate – move periodically or seasonally from one region to another.

milt – sperm fluid

planting – relocating hatchery fish to a natural environment

redd – gravel nest dug by female salmon

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ripe – fish that is ready to spawn

roe - fish eggs

skein – membranous sac inside female in which eggs develop; ovaries

smolt – stage of development during which young fish go through physical changes preparing them for transition to salt water

spawning – process of reproduction in fish

spawning colors - outward color changes on fish showing readiness to spawn

steelhead – rainbow trout which migrate to the ocean

tagging – marking an individual fish so scientists can tell it from any other

trolling – fishing technique of dragging a line through water behind a slow-moving boat.

weir – artificial barrier which prevents fish from moving upstream but still allows water to flow downstream

yolk sac – food supply for newly hatched fish