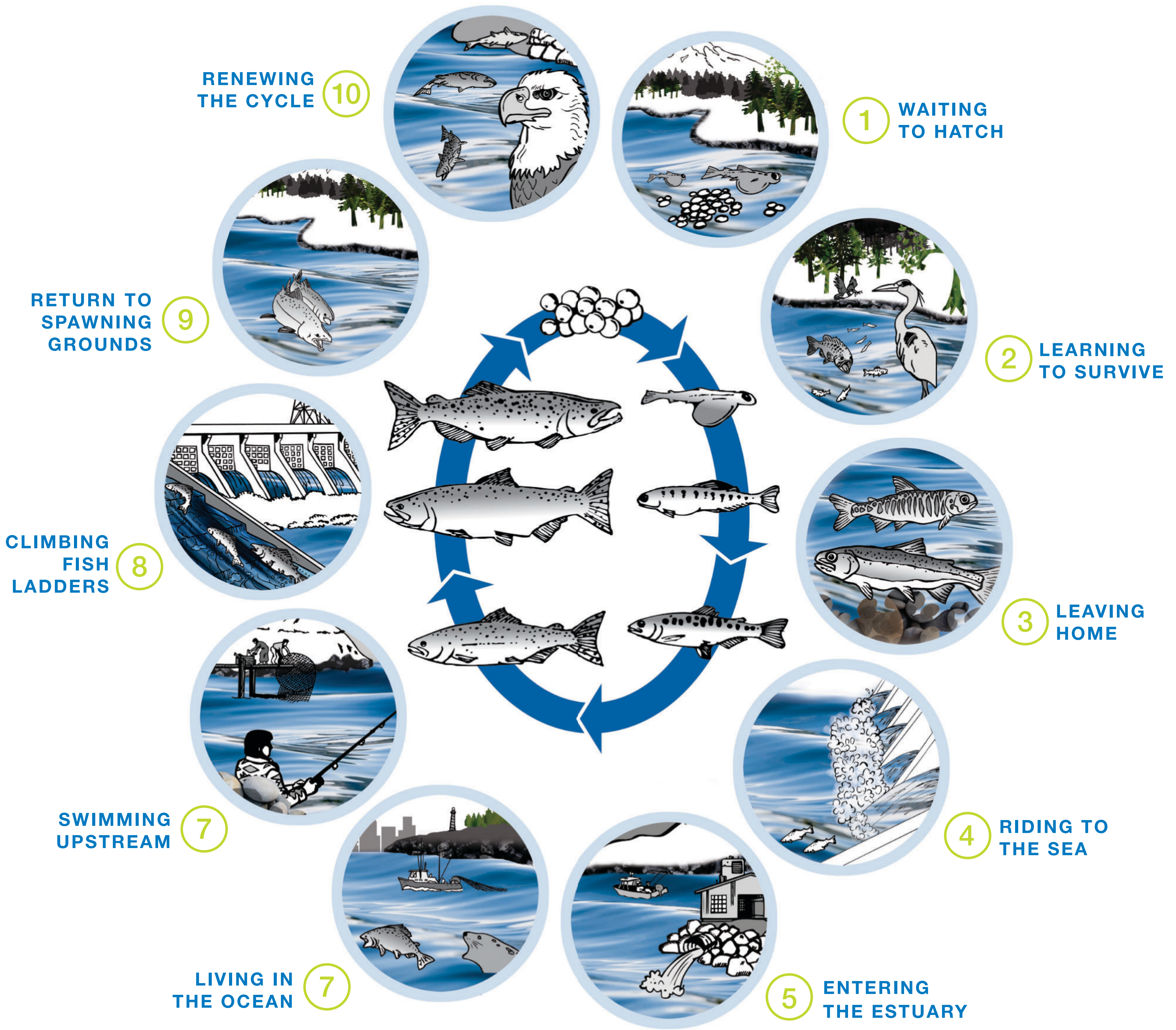


# THE AMAZING JOURNEY OF Columbia River Salmon



**1 WAITING TO HATCH** It's early spring, and 5,000 tiny, red 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 catch insects 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** Their lives complete, the salmon die. Their bodies nourish their eggs and the life of the stream. The cycle begins again.

