

GLOSSARY

For intermediate grades (4 to 6)

Note: These definitions refer to words in the context in which they are used in the Alaska Salmon in the Classroom Curriculum materials. They may have other meanings in other contexts.

ATU	— a measure of the total heat received over a period of time (accumulated thermal unit)
angling	— the practice of catching fish with a hook and line
anadromous	— a fish migrating from salt water to spawn in fresh water
anthropomorphism	— viewing non-human events from a human perspective
adapt	— to become suited for changed conditions
alevin	— a fish, especially a salmon, that has hatched and has a visible yolk sac.
aquatic organism	— a plant or animal that lives in water
amphipods	— small crustaceans that are often food for salmon
atmosphere	— the air that surrounds the earth
back-eddy	— a water current that flows backward against the main current
bedrock	— solid rock that lies below loose surface rocks and soil
bladder	— a thin bag in the body that holds fluids or air
boulder	— rock pieces 30 cm or more cm across
built environment	— the parts of the surroundings that are built by people
buoyancy	— the ability to float or rise in water
buoyant	— tendency to float or rise in water
by-catch	— fish caught that are not the species that fishers intended to catch
carcass	— the body of a dead animal
caudal fin	— the tail fin
caudal peduncle	— slender section between the base of the caudal fin and the anal or dorsal fin
cell	— tiny building blocks that make up the bodies of all living things
chinook	— a species of Pacific salmon, also known as king
chordate	— any animal of the phylum <i>Chordata</i> having a spinal column
chum	— a species of Pacific salmon, also known as dog salmon
classification	— arranging things into similar groups

cobble	— loose stones 10 to 30 cm across
coho	— a species of Pacific salmon, also known as silver salmon
cold-blooded	— animals whose body temperature changes according with the temperature of the surroundings
compost	— a mixture of decaying plant and animal material
concentration	— the amount of a substance in a solution
conservation	— the prudent management of natural resources
copepods	— small crustaceans that are often used by salmon for food
creek	— water flowing in a narrow path, a small stream
cutthroat trout	— a trout species having a reddish streak on each side of the throat
deforestation	— clearing land of trees
dichotomous key	— a chart that subdivides items of the natural world by two, through a series of choices that lead the user to the correct name of the given item
dissolved	— mixed into a liquid such as water
dissolved oxygen	— the concentration of oxygen in water. It is used as a measure of the water's ability to support aquatic life. Low concentrations do not support fish or similar organisms.
dorsal fin	— the fin on the middle of a fish's back
ecology	— the science that studies how organisms relate to the environment in which they live
eelgrass	— a plant with long, thin leaves that grows in salty water
embryo	— any multicellular animal in a developmental stage preceding birth or hatching
energy	— the strength to live and be active
estuary	— the mouth of a river where it mixes with the sea
euphausids	— small crustaceans that become food for salmon in their fry, smolt and adult life cycle stages
evaporation	— changing from a liquid to a vapor
excrete	— to get rid of waste from the body
fertilize	— to make eggs ready to grow by uniting egg and sperm
fishing ethics	— a set of moral principles regarding appropriate fishing practices, including the duty and obligation to follow regulations and safe practices
fisheries biologist	— a person who specializes in the study of fisheries
fry (plural: fry)	— a young salmon that can swim freely in a stream or lake

genetic diversity	— the variability in the genetic make-up among a group of individuals in a population. Also called genetic variability.
genetic variation	— change from one generation to the next; differences between organisms of one species that are inherited from the parents
gill rakers	— a bony finger-like projection of the gill that diverts food away from the gills
gill	— the part of a fish's body (an organ) that it uses to breathe under water
gravel	— loose stones from 1-10 cm across
guideline	— an ideal that is written down to guide others
habitat	— the natural environment of an organism
herring	— a small, silvery ocean fish which is prey for salmon
humeral	— the area directly above the pectoral fins on a fish; "shoulder" area
hydrologic cycle	— a process in which water evaporates from the ocean, falls to earth as rain or snow and returns to the ocean in rivers and streams; the water cycle
imprinting	— the way that salmon fry remember the scent of their natal stream or lake
impurity	— something that pollutes something else
insect	— small animals with three pairs of legs and, usually, one or two pairs of wings
isotherm	— a line on a map connecting places that have the same temperature
kidney	— the part of an animal that separates waste and water from the blood
lake	— a large body of fresh water
landfill	— waste buried in the ground
larva	— a stage of insect life, after it hatches but before it becomes a pupa (plural: larvae)
lateral line	— a series of nerves along the side of fish that it uses for sensing
leachate	— liquid that flows through solid material and carries some of the material with it
life cycle	— all the stages in a plant or animal's life
liver	— the part of a fish's body that removes toxins and secretes substances that help absorb food
mackerel	— a predatory ocean fish

magnetic direction	— direction following the earth's magnetic poles, as on a compass
membrane	— a layer of tissue that covers a part of the body
microorganism	— living organisms too small to see without a microscope
migration	— movement from one place to another
milt	— the sperm-containing fluid of a male fish
molecule	— the smallest particle into which a substance can be divided and still keep the properties of the original substance; made up of two or more atoms
natural	— the parts of the surroundings that are not built or modified by people
navigation	— finding a position or a direction of travel
nutrient	— food that allows a plant or animal to live and grow
nymph	— a stage of an insect that is between a larva and an adult
orca	— a marine mammal; a killer whale
operculum	— a cover over the gills
otolith	— a calcium carbonate (CaCO_3) structure that helps keep fish upright in the water column; "ear bone"; "ear stone"
oxygen	— a gas which plants and animals need to breathe
organism	— a living thing
parr marks	— dark vertical bars on the sides of salmon fry
part per million (PPM)	— for every particle of one substance there are one million particles of another substance
pectoral	— region on a fish's side, behind the gills
pH	— a measure of the concentration of hydrogen ions in a solution, indicating neutrality (pH 7), acidity (less than pH 7), or alkalinity (greater than pH 7)
pharynx	— tube or cavity, with its surrounding membrane and muscles, that connects the mouth and nasal passages with the esophagus
pink	— a species of Pacific salmon, also known as a humpy salmon
plankton	— a group of microscopic organisms that live in water
pollutant	— a byproduct of human activity which may cause harm to humans or other species
pond	— a small body of still water
precautionary approach	— recognizes that the absence of full scientific certainty

	shall not be used as a reason to postpone decisions where there is a risk of serious or irreversible harm
predator	— an animal that catches and eats other animals
principle	— a rule, especially a basic rule on which other rules are based
pyloric caeca	— a tubular sac that is connected to both the stomach and alimentary canal, where digestive enzymes are secreted and nutrients are absorbed.
rainbow trout	— a species of salmonid that spends all its life in fresh water. The anadromous variant of this species is called steelhead trout.
redd	— a nest mad out of stones in the gravel of a lake or stream where salmonids lay their eggs
respiration	— breathing
riffle	— an uneven area in a stream that makes the water form small waves or ripples; a ripple is on the surface of the water
river	— a large channel of water flowing to a sea or lake
runoff	— water that drains away after a heavy rain or a spring thaw
salinity	— saltiness
salmon	— a fish that hatches in fresh water, swims to the ocean, then returns to its natal stream or lake; it is also an important sport, commercial, and subsistence fish
salmonid	— a family of fish including all the species of salmon, all the species of trout, and all the species of white fish
scales	— small, hard, flat pieces that cover a fish's body like armor
sensitive	— easily affected by external influences
silt	— very fine earth carried in water
slime	— a slippery layer that covers and protects the fish
smolt	— a juvenile salmon that is getting ready to enter salt water
sockeye	— a species of Pacific salmon, also known as a red salmon
solar energy	— energy that radiates from the sun
spawn	— to produce, deposit and fertilize eggs
spawner	— a salmon that is getting ready to lay or fertilize eggs
spawning ground	— a stream or lake where salmon deposit eggs
species	— a grouping of plants or animals; a group of plants or animals that can breed together and produce fertile offspring
sport fishing	— recreational fishing for pleasure
steelhead trout	— anadromous rainbow trout

stream	— water flowing in a narrow channel
sustainability	— meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs
sustainable development	— development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs
swim bladder	— the part of a fish's body where a fish stores air to maintain buoyancy in water
temperature	— the amount of heat or cold
thermal	— something that has to do with heat (or cold)
transpiration	— the process whereby plants give off moisture through the pores in their leaves
turbidity	— a measure of water clarity; cloudiness or muddiness
velocity	— speed
warm-blooded	— animals that can maintain their own body temperature
waste	— garbage; something that is thrown away or left over
water cycle	— a process whereby water evaporates from the ocean, falls to earth as rain or snow and returns to the ocean in rivers and streams; the hydrologic cycle
water pressure	— the weight of water on an object
watershed	— the area that drains into one system of rivers and streams, including all the living things in it
yeast	— a microorganism that grows in liquids containing sugar
yolk sac	— a thin bag containing egg yolk that is the nutrients for the alevin stage of the juvenile salmon
zooplankton	— an animal species of plankton

