

Teaching Material on Biodiversity Conservation (TMBC)

Title: The story of Salmo

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Level: Primary school

Type of material: Story with subsequent questions for the students as well as a worksheet with additional questions

Aim: Influence of humans (positive and negative), emotional connection (towards an animal), developing an awareness of extinction, protection of the environment, survival, possibilities of conservation of a species

Information for the teacher (sources)

Creative Commons Attribution/Share-Alike License (2009), salmons:
(<http://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/salmons/>, 12/5/2013)

Creative Commons Attribution/Share-Alike License (2014), fish ladder:
(<http://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/fish-road/>, 10.1.2014)

W. Fiddler; salmon eggs - photo (2006): Archive nature conservation LfULG
(<http://www.umwelt.sachsen.de>, 10.12.2013)

Water velvet and navigation velvet Koblenz (2012), Dam: (<http://www.wsako.wsv.de/aktuelles/index.html>, 1/5/2014)

Konrad Lackerbeck, creative Commons license, fish ladder Vilskraftwerk (2012):
(http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Fischtreppe_in_Bayern.JPG, 11.12.2013)

The story of Salmo

Salmo is a fish. He's a fish that belongs to the family of salmon (Fig. 1). He is 150 cm long and weighs 40 kg. Salmo is silvery-blue and yellow. He lives in the sea (in salt water). From September to February he swims back into the rivers (freshwater) to the place where the eggs are laid (spawning ground). On this long journey he swims upstream. He uses his sense of smell to help him find the waters where he himself hatched from an egg. Salmo has to swim against very strong currents and he's able to jump over 2 m high.



Fig. 1: Atlantic salmon (CREATIVE COMMONS ATTRIBUTION-SHARE-ALIKE LICENSE, 2009)

One day Salmo had to swim back from the sea into the river where he grew up. Salmo himself would like to have children now. He spent many days looking for his river. Finally, he found the river mouth and began to swim upstream. On his way he met many of his brothers and sisters who had to go the same way. Several days later his journey came to a halt. In front of him was a wall so high (a dam), that he couldn't get past it. His brothers and sisters arrived as well but they were also unable to go any further. There had to be another way!

After searching for a long time Salmo decided to get some advice, so he asked the old and wise Salar. Salar told him that he had found a ladder that was built by humans to help the fish continue their journey up the river. Salmo quickly went to look for this fish ladder. After a short while he found the entrance to the fish ladder; this was their rescue! Salmo was happy and began to swim upstream step by step. His brothers and sisters followed him and soon they reached the end of the fish ladder. Now their way was free again and they continued to swim upstream. Once Salmo arrived at his destination he could devote his time to having children. He fertilised the eggs, which had been laid on the river bottom by a female fish.

Questions for the students

How did you like the story?

Do you know what a salmon is?

How do salmon reproduce?

Why do salmon go on a journey (migrate)?

Work assignments

1. Develop a profile with the help of the story. You can use additional information from the internet.
2. Which route do the salmon take to get to their spawning grounds? Draw their route in the image.
3. Think about different ways of helping the fish with their passage. Draw in a possible fish ladder.
4. Mark the places the fish cannot get past.

Hint: Use the internet for information!

Profile: The salmon

This is where I live:

I can become this long:

I can become this heavy:

I can do this very well:

Course of the river with obstacles

