

# South West Mabou River

The South West Mabou River rises in the Creignish Hills east of Judique and flows north to northwest through forest, field and marsh. It passes by MacLeod Settlement, Upper South West Mabou, Glencoe Station, South West Mabou, West Mabou and finally around both sides of Nicholson's Island in West Mabou to empty into the Mabou River, at Mabou Harbour, west of Mabou village. Its total length is roughly 25 km.

On this section of the Mabou Rivers Trail you may see anglers fly fishing for the salmon and trout that wander through the fresh and brackish waters of these sensitive wetlands.



Parr



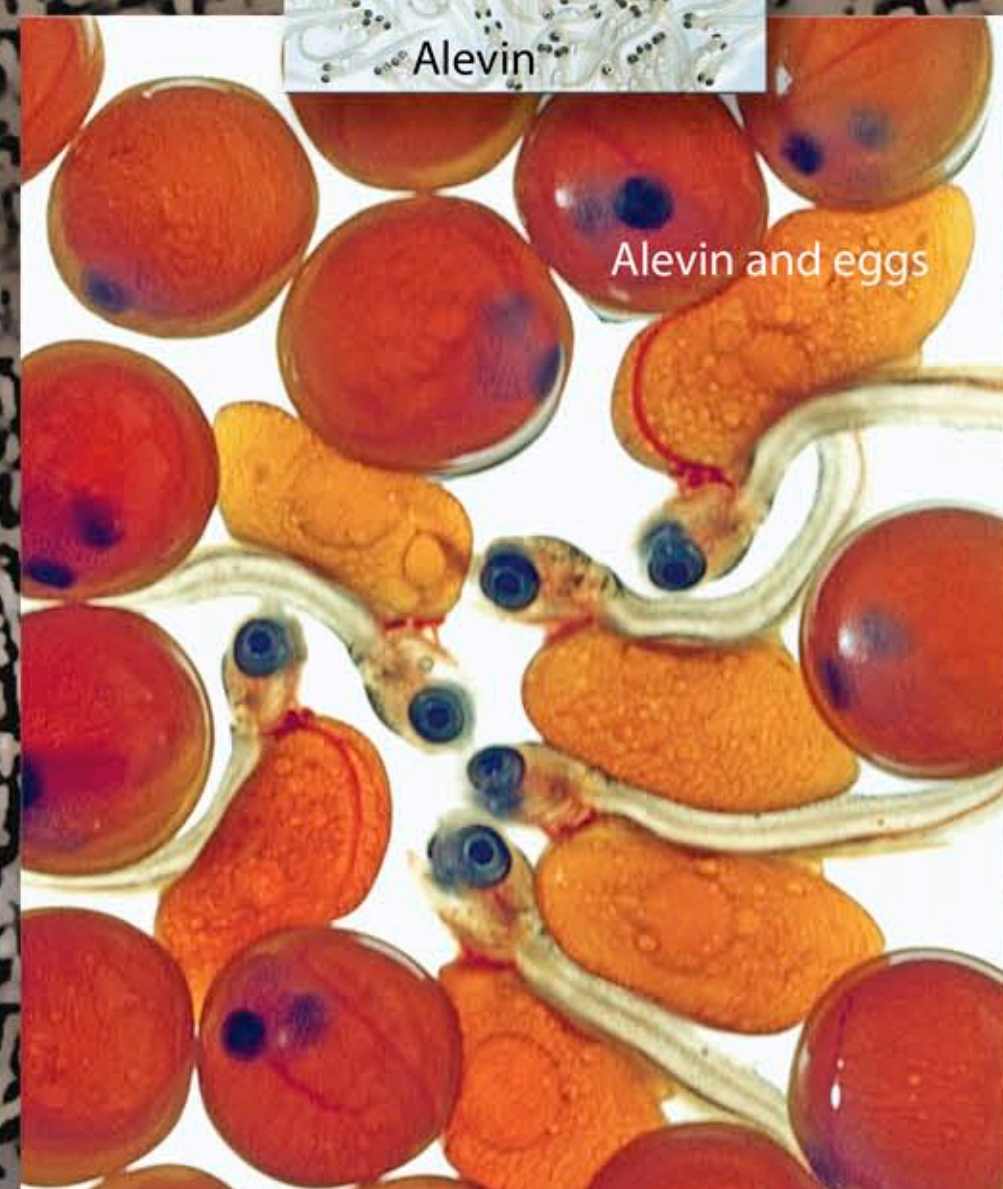
Smolt



Smolt



Alevin



Alevin and eggs



Salmon Eggs



Adult Salmon

The Atlantic Salmon (*Salmo Salar*) comes upriver to spawn in October and November. Laid in gravel, in freshwater, the eggs hatch and the juveniles grow, over a 2 to 3 year period, through several distinct stages - alevin, fry, parr and smolt. At the parr stage they begin their trek to the Atlantic Ocean. Nearly 40% are eaten by trout alone before they leave. Other fish and local birds also prey on the young salmon. After one or more years at sea and traveling more than 4,000 km. of open ocean to salt water feeding grounds off Greenland they return here to the river where they were born in order to spawn again.



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Salmon Photos: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
Salmon Smolt photo: Fisheries & Oceans Canada  
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