

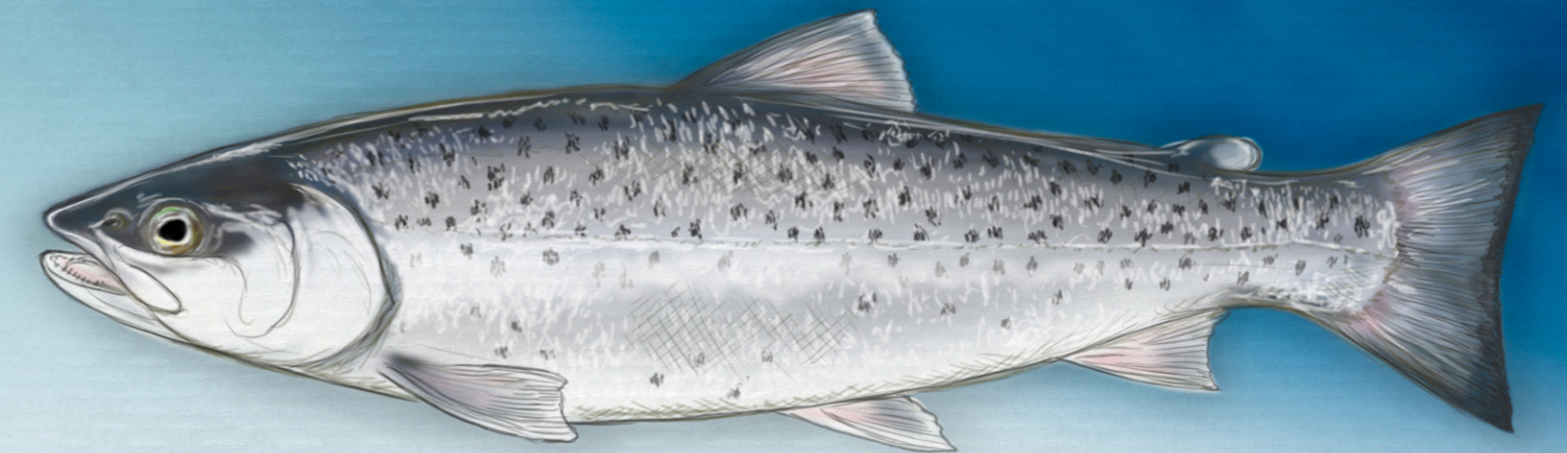
The BROWN TROUT (*Salmo trutta*)

The Sea Trout

A salmonid with great variability in size, shape and colouring. It inhabits the middle and upper zones of European rivers. Its diet is varied, with a preference for insect larvae and larger preys as they grow. They are territorial and often fight to defend the best feeding grounds. The loss habitat due to pollution and the transformation of the rivers reduces their available habitat and hinders their migration, threatening the populations of brown trout.

In their downstream migration, some trout reach the sea. Here they experience important changes in their anatomy, colouration and physiology so that they can adapt to the new environment. In this marine phase, the trouts usually reach bigger sizes. Before the spawning period, sea trouts migrate back upstream where they normally interact in reproduction.

Adult



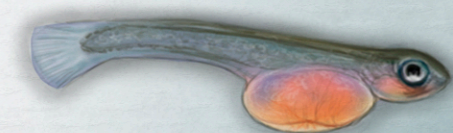
Juvenile



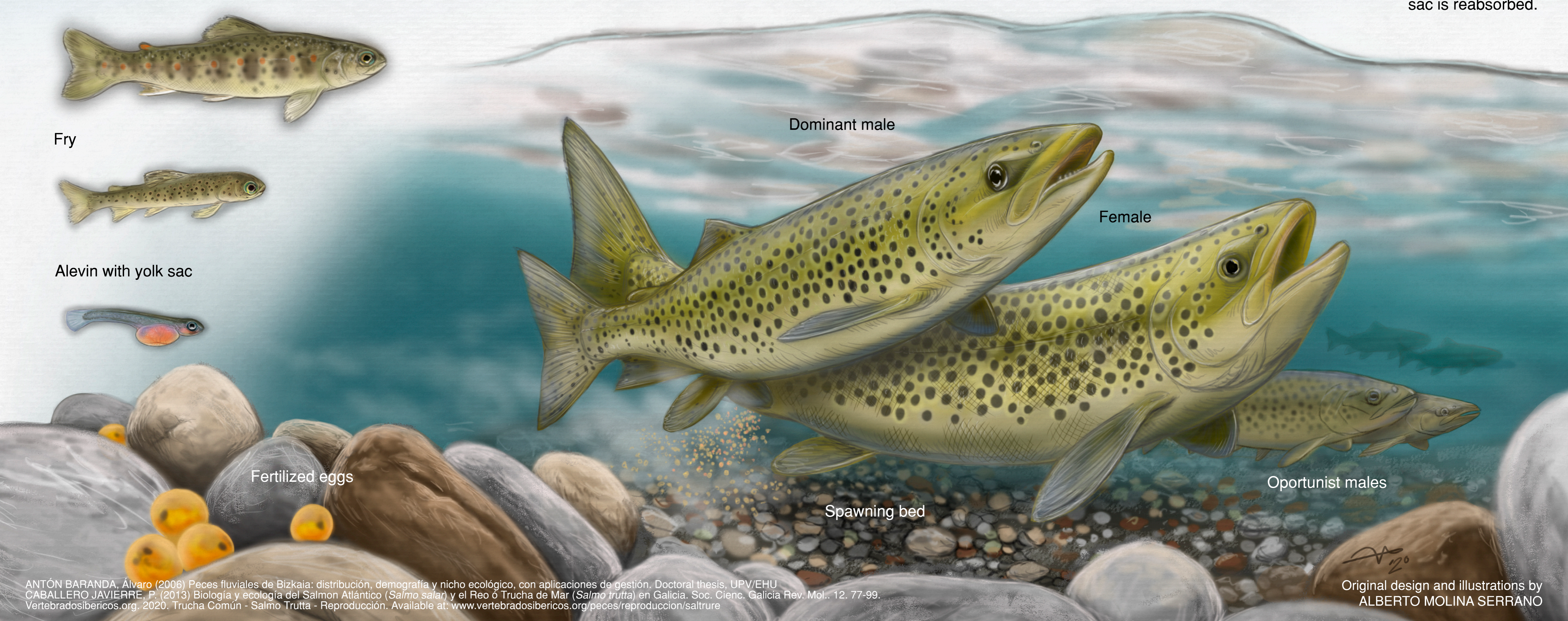
Fry



Alevin with yolk sac



After the autumn, the adults meet in the high sections of cold and running waters with gravel and pebble bottoms, where the reproduction or "spawning" takes place. The females prepare the "spawning beds" while the males fight. After courtship and spawning, the females bury the eggs to prevent predation. The gestation time of the eggs depends on the temperature. The fry will not leave the ground to acquire active swimming until the yolk sac is reabsorbed.



Dominant male

Female

Opportunist males

Fertilized eggs

Spawning bed