

A poem by children of Bill Quay School

Fertilizing the Future

It's good to be home
 After this long dangerous journey,
 Swimming side to side
 In the long winding sea.
 A shattered exhausted salmon
 Glorious, proud and relieved, a last
 Journey to lay eggs.

We arrive,
 Hundreds of salmon breeding,
 Fishy fighters, head-banging
 Swim away, swim away
 Get away from me lass.
 I'm going to win with my clown-like face.
 I'm going to reach my spawning place.

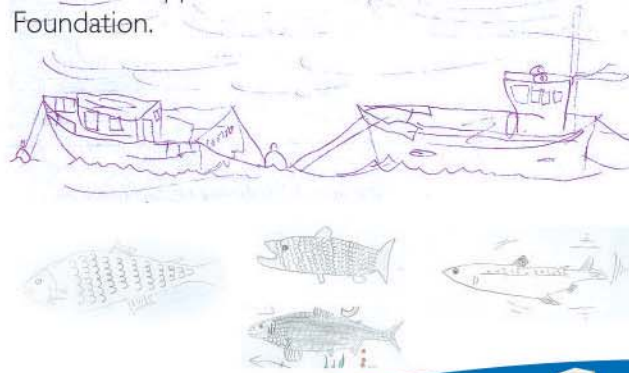
I'm a handsome chap,
 We're together,
 Shivering and quivering
 Like a blender, shaking
 Burying eggs,
 Eggs like glass eyes
 In the gravel

I felt sad when the salmon died
 And I think he did too.
 Salmon helped the flowers to grow.
 Their death made other things live.
 Coming back to their place of birth
 In their final journey
 Fertilizing the future.



Children from Bill Quay Primary School learning about salmon in the River Tyne

This leaflet was prepared as part of a joint 'Citizenship' collaboration between young people from Bill Quay Primary School (Gateshead), Akzo Nobel Powder Coatings (Felling, Gateshead) and Newcastle University. The children provided artwork and poetry, which was written with Malcolm Green. Illustrations and text for 'The Story of the Salmon Life Cycle' by Joanna Stockill. Photos courtesy of the Environment Agency. The leaflet has been funded under Akzo Nobel's Corporate Social Responsibility initiative, with additional support from the Esmée Fairburn Foundation.



the environment

OUR JOINT RESPONSIBILITY

super salmon in our tyne

History and Threats to Salmon in the Tyne



An Atlantic salmon, *Salmo salar*

In the 1950s, the water quality of the Tyne was at its worst due to sewage and

industrial discharges. Salmon populations in the river were low. Their numbers were further affected by construction of the Kielder reservoir in the 1970s, which led to a loss of salmon spawning and rearing areas. To ease the problem, the Kielder hatchery stocking programme was established.



An 'eyed' salmon egg

Stocking, together with natural population growth following improvements in water quality between the 1960s and 1980s, has led to an increase in the numbers of salmon. The Tyne now has the best rod catch for salmon in England and Wales. However, threats remain for salmon in the Tyne, including poaching, over fishing, pollution, and global warming. Now more than ever, we must look after the River Tyne environment, which plays such an important role in the life cycle of these incredible fish.



This is the story of a salmon's life cycle and the incredible journey he makes through the Tyne