

Atlantic salmon - How Many Salmon Return?

Can you work out how many salmon return to the river to spawn?

How many left?

A hen salmon lays **5000** eggs in a redd

5000

500 eggs were not fertilised

50 eggs were washed away

Mud washed into the stream and suffocated **1000** eggs

After the eggs hatched **500** of the alevins died because they were not strong enough

The alevins developed into fry. **500** were eaten by bigger fish

The fry became parr, **50** were eaten by predatory birds

The parr matured into smolts and headed for salt water.
350 smolts died on their way to the oceanic feeding grounds

250 smolts were mistakenly caught by fishermen targeting mackerel

While maturing at sea **1000** salmon were eaten by bigger fish

The mature salmon return to the river of their birth to spawn.
650 were caught in high seas fisheries

70 salmon were eaten by seals

55 salmon were caught in coastal drift nets

The salmon enter the river of their birth and stop feeding.
15 were caught by anglers

5 salmon were not strong enough to make it back to their ancestral spawning ground.

How many salmon returned to spawn?
