

SALMONIDS IN THE CLASSROOM: SALMON DISSECTION

STEP 7



SWIM BLADDER

- Salmon fill their swim bladder with air for the first time as swim-up fry. The air provides buoyancy, allowing them to float in the water.
- Salmon can adjust the air in their swim bladder so they can hover at different levels in the water.
- Often the swim bladder remains full of air after the salmon dies.



1. If the swim bladder is flat, show it by inserting a straw in the tear and gently adding air.



2. Remove the swim bladder by gently scraping it away from the sides of the body with the flat side of the knife.



3. At the vent end of the fish, reach one finger under the swim bladder and pull it away.



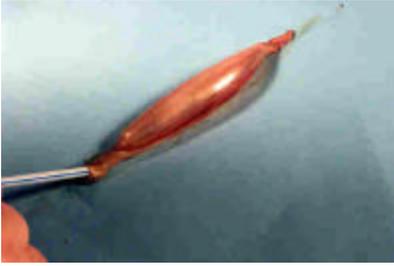
4. Continue pulling up to the throat where a gentle tug will release it.



5. Make a clean cut at the vent end of the swim bladder.



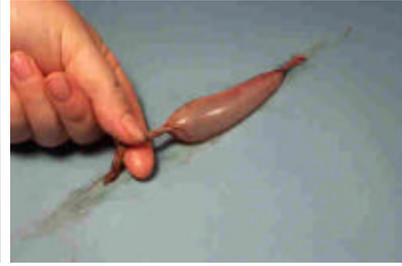
6. With a fingertip, gently pull back the top layer of the bladder 1/2 cm. With a straw blow firmly at this end, and it will open up.



7. Slide the straw into the opening and gently blow to fill the bladder.



8. Seal the bladder opening by pinching it against the straw. Now slide the bladder off the straw.



9. Twist the bladder to lightly seal the opening.



10. Float in water to demonstrate buoyancy.