

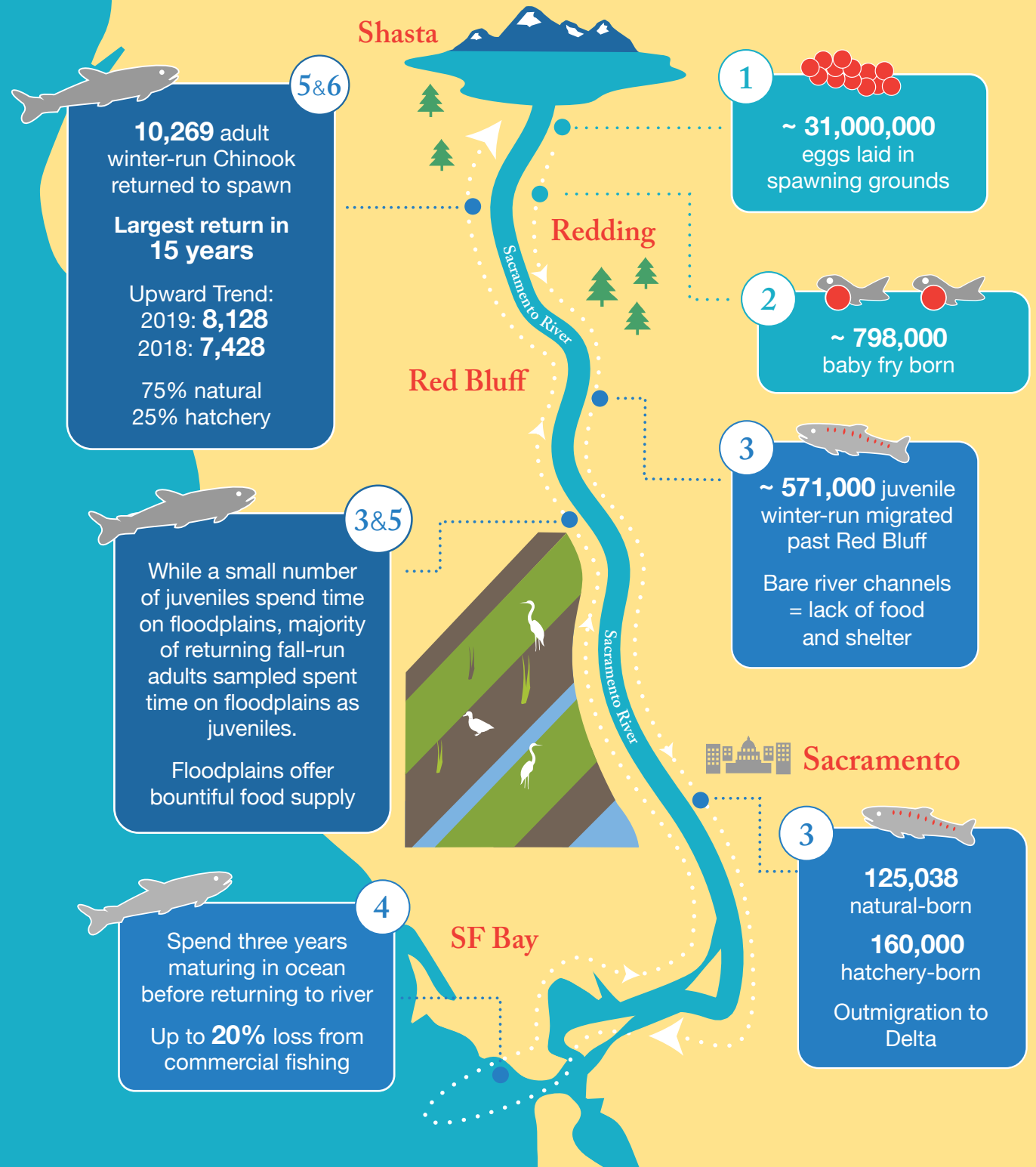
# 2021 Salmon Snapshot

## Seeing the Whole Picture

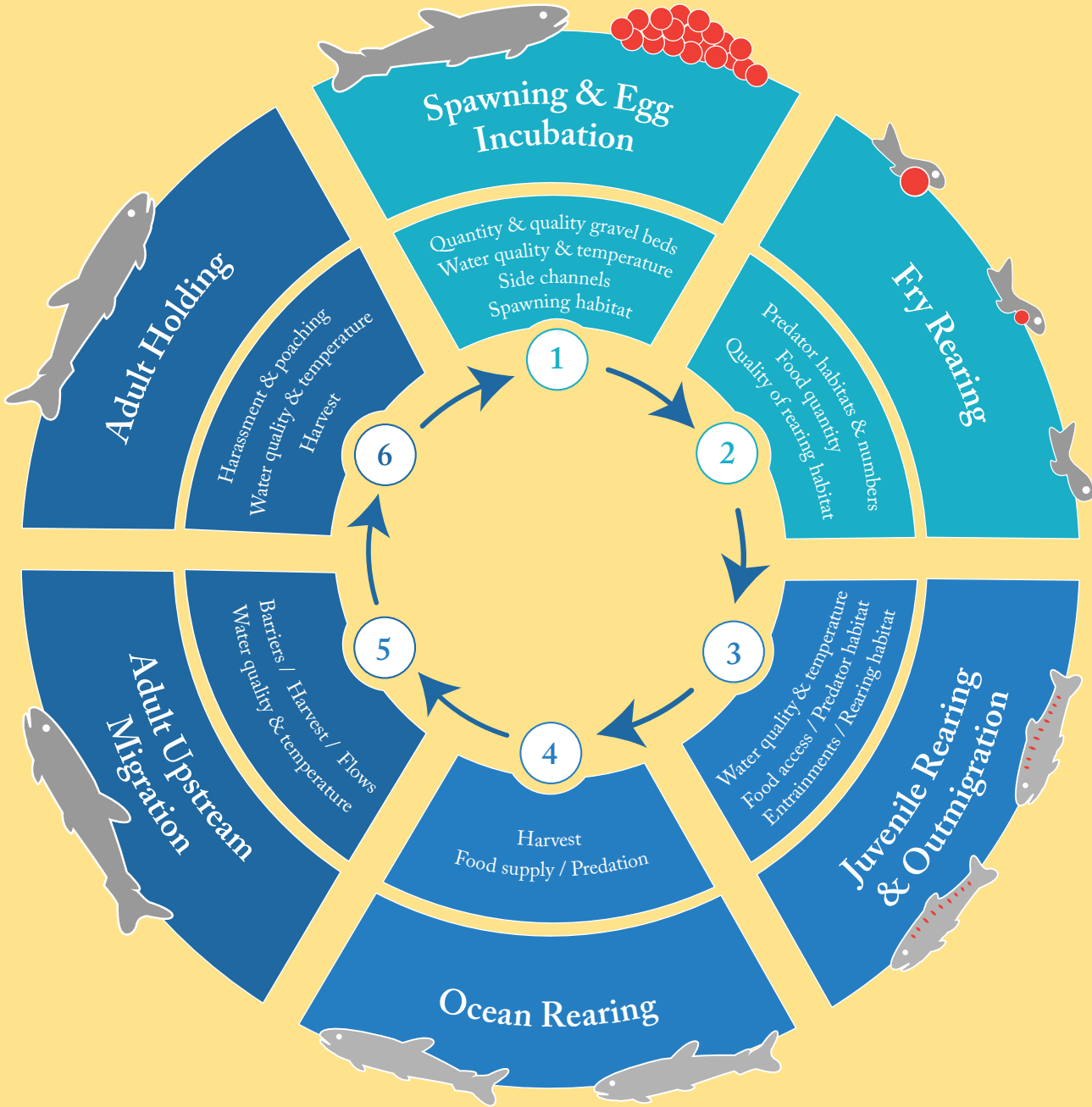
A view of the *entire salmon life cycle* and the attrition factors endured at each stage in the Sacramento River.

Despite tremendous challenges and hardships, salmon continue to demonstrate that they are a resilient species. The dry and hot conditions in 2021 were not ideal for salmon nor any other part of the ecosystem that depends upon freshwater. Even so, adults returned to the Sacramento River in solid numbers; they spawned, and fry and smolts are continuing to make their journey down the Sacramento River.

The data reflects salmon population numbers reported by state and federal biologists for 2021. [Click here](#) for a detailed salmon summary.



# The Six Stages of a Salmon's Life Cycle



This graph details the attrition of salmon that occurs in nature and the challenges a salmon faces during each of its life-cycle stages as it migrates up and down the river system.

These six stages prove why we must focus our recovery plan on every part of the salmon's life to help improve conditions for their survival. While we are very encouraged that the salmon runs were solid in 2021, we must continue to be aggressive and act in a concerted effort with various partners throughout the Sacramento River Basin. The best pathway to success entails improving conditions at every life-cycle stage for all runs of Chinook salmon – and this can be accomplished through the **Sacramento Valley Salmon Recovery Program**.