

How do Salmon Navigate

1. <https://www.usgs.gov/faqs/how-do-salmon-know-where-their-home-when-they-return-ocean>
2. How do they know where their home is?
3. How do they navigate

Magnetism : Salmon have their own GPS device to navigate

A new study into the life cycle of salmon, involving magnetic pulses, reinforces one hypothesis: **The fish use microscopic crystals of magnetite in their tissue as both a map and compass and navigate via the Earth's magnetic field.** Findings were published in the Journal of Experimental Biology.

Lateral Line

The lateral line has been called a “sixth sense” for fish. It runs from gills to tail along the sides of the fish, right in the middle. You can see it when you catch a trout. A page from the [University of Minnesota Sea Grant](#) describes this amazing organ:

Sometimes referred to as **the “sense of distant touch,”** lateral lines **convert subtle changes in water pressure into electrical pulses** similar to the way our inner ear responds to sound waves. Running lengthwise down each side of the body and over the head, these **pressure-sensing organs** help their owners **avoid collisions, participate in schooling behavior, orient to water currents, elude predators, and detect prey.**

Lateral lines are composed of neuromasts (**hair cells** surrounded by a protruding jelly-like cup) that usually lie at the bottom of a visible pit or groove. These hair cells — the same sensory cells found in all vertebrate ears — **convert mechanical energy into electrical energy when moved.** Presumably, auditory and lateral line pathways evolved in close association since they share many features. [Emphasis added.]



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