Adult herring spawn in the intertidal and eggs stick to kelp and seagrass for 21 days.

Eggs hatch into larvae and drift with the ocean currents for 90 days. They need to find food soon after they’ve absorbed their yolk sacs.

Spend about 227 days schooling in bays and fjords spend the summer feeding to build up energy stores for the winter.

During the spring adults move close to shore to spawn; other times of the year they are far offshore.

They survived their first winter but are not yet mature enough to spawn spend the springs and summers feeding.

Graphic by Michele Buckhorn