

## Ice Circles on the Salmon River



Ice circles are thin and circular slabs of ice that rotate slowly in the water. They can be found occasionally in slow moving water in the cold winter months when temperature fluctuations cause the river to freeze and thaw and the ice breaks up.

Generally they form in eddy currents. In fluid dynamics, an eddy is the swirling of a fluid and the reverse current created when the fluid flows past an obstacle or disturbance to the flow, such as a bay. This phenomenon can be used to explore the movement of water in currents, fluid physics, or as a way to visualize a component of the complex river ecosystem.



### Additional Resources

- Boise State Public Radio article [Amazing photo of an ice circle](#)
- ID Farm Bureau video [Salmon River Ice Disc](#)

### Performance Standards

2 <sup>nd</sup> Grade	5 <sup>th</sup> Grade	Middle School	High School
2-ESS-2.3. Obtain information to identify where water is found on Earth and that it can be solid, liquid or gas.	5-ESS-2.1. Develop a model using an example to describe ways the geosphere, biosphere, hydrosphere, and/or atmosphere interact.	MS-ESS-2.4. Develop a model to describe the cycling of water through Earth's systems driven by energy from the sun and the force of gravity.	HS-ESS-2.5. Plan and conduct an investigation of how the chemical and physical properties of water contribute to the mechanical and chemical mechanisms that affect Earth materials and surface processes.



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