

Pacific Salmon ID - Marine Phase

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife

Available online at wdfw.wa.gov/fishing/basics/salmon



Chinook

- Mouth is dark with a black gum line
- Large, sharp teeth
- Spots on both lobes of tail
- Large spots on back



Coho

- Mouth is light with a white gum line
- Medium-size, sharp teeth
- Spots only on upper lobe of tail
- Spots on back
- Wide caudal peduncle



Pink

- Mouth is white with a black gum line
- In marine areas, almost no teeth
- Large oval spots on both lobes of tail
- Large black spots on back
- Pointed lower jaw
- No silver on tail
- Very small scales



Chum

- Mouth is white with a white gum line
- Well-developed teeth
- No spots on tail or back
- Calico markings (vertical bars) - faint on bright fish
- Narrow caudal peduncle
- White tip on anal fin



Sockeye

- Mouth is white with a white gum line
- Almost toothless
- No spots on tail or back
- Large, bright gold, glassy eye





Chinook

- Jaw—The mouth is dark, and the gums are black.
- Tail—Both the upper and lower lobes of the tail are covered with spots, and silver is prominent.



Coho

- Jaw—The mouth is white and the gum line is almost white, but the tongue may be black. The teeth are sharp and strong.
- Tail—The tail has just a few scattered spots, usually on the upper lobe, with silver streaks. It has a wide caudal peduncle.



Pink

- Jaw—The mouth is white, but the gums and tongue are black. It does not have “teeth” on its tongue.
- Tail—The tail is covered with large oval spots. It does not have silver on the tail. The scales are very small compared to other salmon of the same size.



Chum

- Jaw—The mouth and gum line are white, but the tongue may be black. The lips are fleshy, with well-developed teeth in both jaws, but there are no teeth on the base of the tongue.
- Tail—The tail has no spots, but does have silver streaks covering about half of the fin. The caudal peduncle is narrow.



Sockeye

- Jaw—The mouth and gum line are white. The lips are fleshy. The teeth are small and well developed in both jaws. There are no teeth on the base of the tongue.
- Tail—There are no spots.

