



Salmon Species

Adapted from Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife
Salmon and Trout Enhancement Program
Fish Eggs To Fry Volunteer Guide

Chinook Salmon — *Oncorhynchus tshawytscha*

Other Names: King, Tyee, Spring, Quinnot, Blackmouth, Winter Salmon

Life History:

- Spring/Summer and fall runs
- Adults in ocean 2-5 yrs
- Spawn in large and small rivers



Ocean (aquarium.org)

Identification:

- Silvery sides, gray back
- Maroon/brown when spawning
- Spots on back
- Spots on both tail lobes
- Black mouth and gums
- Adults weigh 10-40 lbs



Spawning (epa.gov)

Chinook Salmon - juveniles



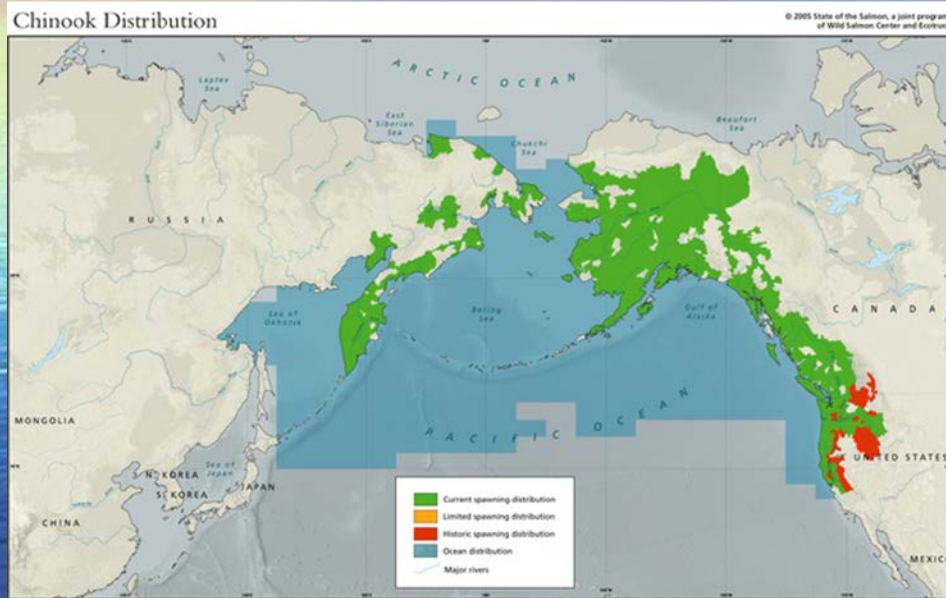
Chinook fry – White tip on dorsal fin; leading edge of anal fin white; anal fin straight, distinctive parr markings; remain in streams anywhere from 3 months to more than a year



Chinook smolt – fish begin to lose parr markings and gain silvery coloration, gills and kidneys prepare for life in the ocean; can remain in estuaries for up to a few months

Smolt (photos from idfg.idaho.gov)

Chinook Salmon Habitat and Range



Map courtesy Ecotrust

Chinook salmon range from central California north to Alaska, the Arctic Ocean and Russian Far East.

These are the most sought after food salmon for their high quality of flesh.

In freshwater they prefer mainstem large and small rivers.

Coho Salmon — *Oncorhynchus kisutch*

Other names: Silver salmon



Spawning buck (idfg.idaho.gov)

Identification:

- Silvery sides, green blue back
- Maroon color when spawning
- Small black spots on back
- Spots on upper tail fin only
- Black mouth with white gums
- Adults weigh 5 – 20 lbs



Ocean (Oregon zoo)

Life History:

- Late fall, early winter spawning run
- Adults in ocean 2 yrs
- Spawn in smaller streams and rivers

Coho Salmon - juveniles

Coho fry – Leading edge of anal fin white and black; anal fin curved; may stay in streams for more than 1 year



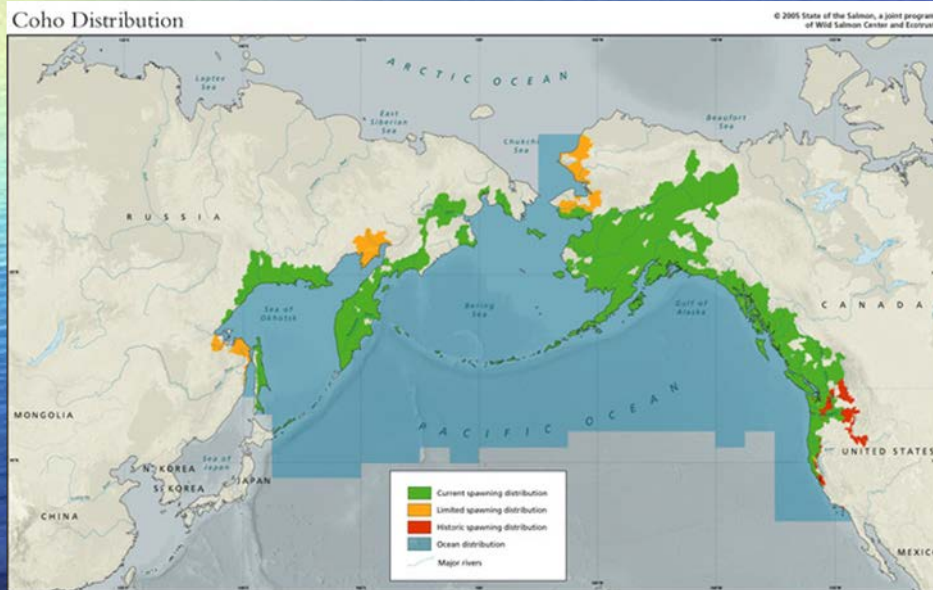
Coho smolt – remain in estuaries from a few days to a month



Coho Salmon Habitat and Range

Coho salmon range from central California north to Alaska, and Russian Far East.

In freshwater they prefer smaller rivers and tributary streams.



Map courtesy Ecotrust

Sockeye Salmon – *Oncorhynchus nerka*



Identification:

- dark, blue-black back, silver sides
- Bright red when spawning
- No spots on tail
- Adults weigh 10-40 lbs

Other Names:

Red salmon, Blueback, Redfish, Summer Sockeye, (Kokanee – remain in freshwater)



Spawning Adults



Life History:

- Fall spawning run
- Adults in ocean 1-4 yrs
- Spawn in streams near lakes

Sockeye Salmon - juveniles

Sockeye fry – irregular parr markings, can spend up to 3 years in freshwater streams



Sockeye smolt – remain in estuaries for only a few days



Sockeye Salmon

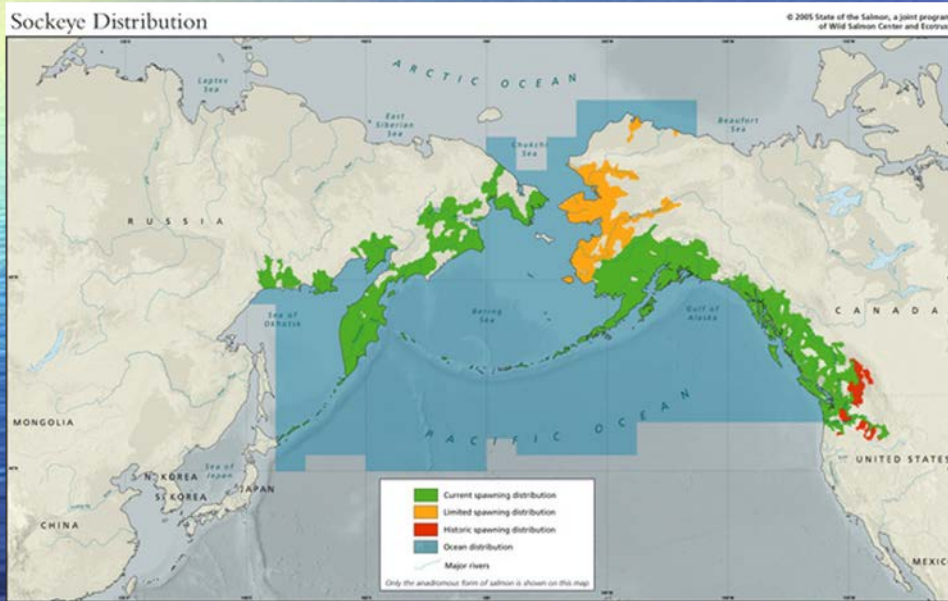
Habitat and Range

Sockeye salmon range from central California north to Alaska, and Russian Far East.

The largest numbers of sockeye are in Alaska, British Columbia and the Russian Far East.

While in freshwater, sockeye salmon live in lakes.

Unlike all other salmon species, sockeye are filter feeders.



Map courtesy Ecotrust

Pink Salmon — *Oncorhynchus gorbuscha*

Other Names: Humpback salmon, Humpy

Identification:

- Silvery body
- Large spots on back and tail
- Dull gray when spawning
- Male has spawning hump
- Adults weight 3-10 lbs



Adult — oceanic (above), spawning buck (right)

Life History:

- Fall spawning run
- Adults in ocean 1.5 yrs
- Spawn in lower river reaches



Pink Salmon - juveniles

Pink fry – no parr markings, immediately migrate toward ocean after a few days or weeks

Fry – Eiko Jones



Pink smolt – remain in estuaries for only a few days, this stage is almost indistinguishable from the fry



Pink Salmon Habitat and Range

Pink Distribution

© 2005 State of the Salmon, a joint program of Wild Salmon Center and Ecotrust



Map courtesy Ecotrust

Pink salmon have an extensive range including Alaska, British Columbia, Arctic Ocean and the Russian Far East. In the past they also spawned in rivers along much the U.S. West Coast.

Found in rivers but spend very little time in freshwater.

Unlike all other salmon species, pink salmon return to fresh water every other year.

Chum Salmon - *Oncorhynchus keta*



Adult – buck (above), hen (below)

Other Names:

Dog salmon,
Calico Salmon



Identification:

- Yellow-silver body
- No spots on back and tail
- Green sides when spawning
- Red side bars when spawning
- Adults weight 8-12 lbs

Life History:

- Fall spawning run
- Adults in ocean 2.5 - 7 yrs
- Spawn in lower river reaches

Chum Salmon - juveniles



Chum fry – parr markings smaller than the eye, immediately migrate toward ocean after a few days or weeks



Chum smolt – remain in estuaries for only a few days

Chum Salmon

Habitat and Range



Map courtesy Ecotrust

Like pink salmon, chum salmon also have an extensive range including parts of Oregon and Washington, Alaska, British Columbia, Arctic Ocean and the Russian Far East.

Chum and pink salmon often spawn in the same rivers, but spawn at different times to avoid interbreeding.

Spawn in rivers but spend very little time in freshwater.

Steelhead – *Oncorhynchus mykiss*

Other Names: Steelhead trout

<https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/species/steelhead-trout#overview>



Identification:

- Silver body, greenish back
- Reddish band on side
- Dark spots on back and tail
- Green sides when spawning
- Adults weight 5-30 lbs

Life History:

- Summer and fall spawning runs
- Adults in ocean 1 - 4 yrs
- Spawn in streams and rivers

Adults- buck (foregorund) hen (background)

Steelhead Salmon - juveniles

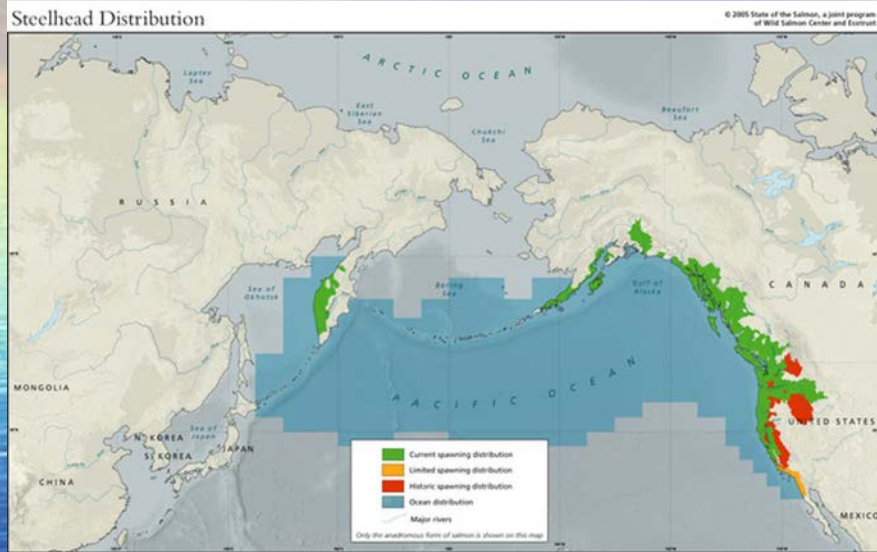


Steelhead fry – parr markings on sides and from head to dorsal fin, white tip on dorsal fin, can spend up to 3 years in freshwater streams, jawbone does not extend past eye



Steelhead smolt – remain in estuaries for only a few days

Steelhead Range



Kelts are steelheads that don't die after spawning, they can return to the ocean up to 2 more times

Steelhead range from southern California up to southern Alaska and on the Kamchatka Peninsula in the Russian Far East. Steelhead once ranged as far south as Mexico.

Compared to salmon, steelhead are relatively uncommon. They are a sea-run rainbow trout and not a salmon species.

When in freshwater, steelhead generally frequent tributary streams of larger rivers.