

Salmon Watcher Program Training Slideshow



You can follow along and takes notes
on the slideshow printout.

Life Cycle of Pacific Salmon

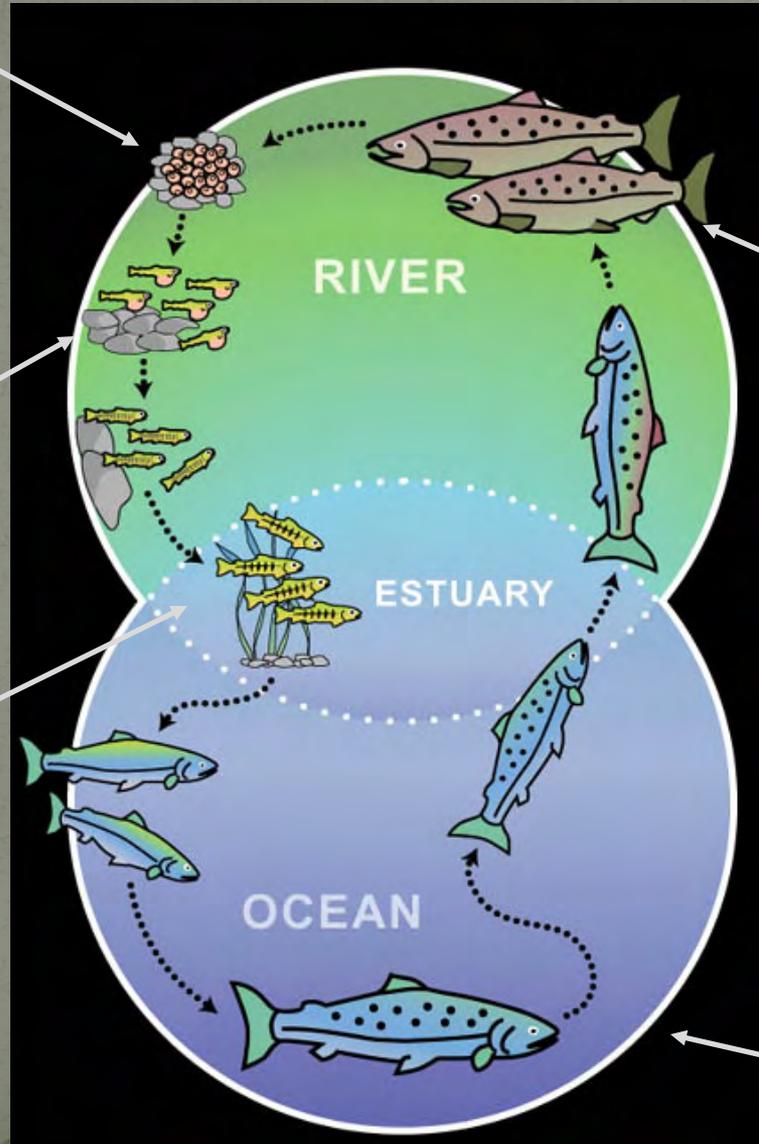
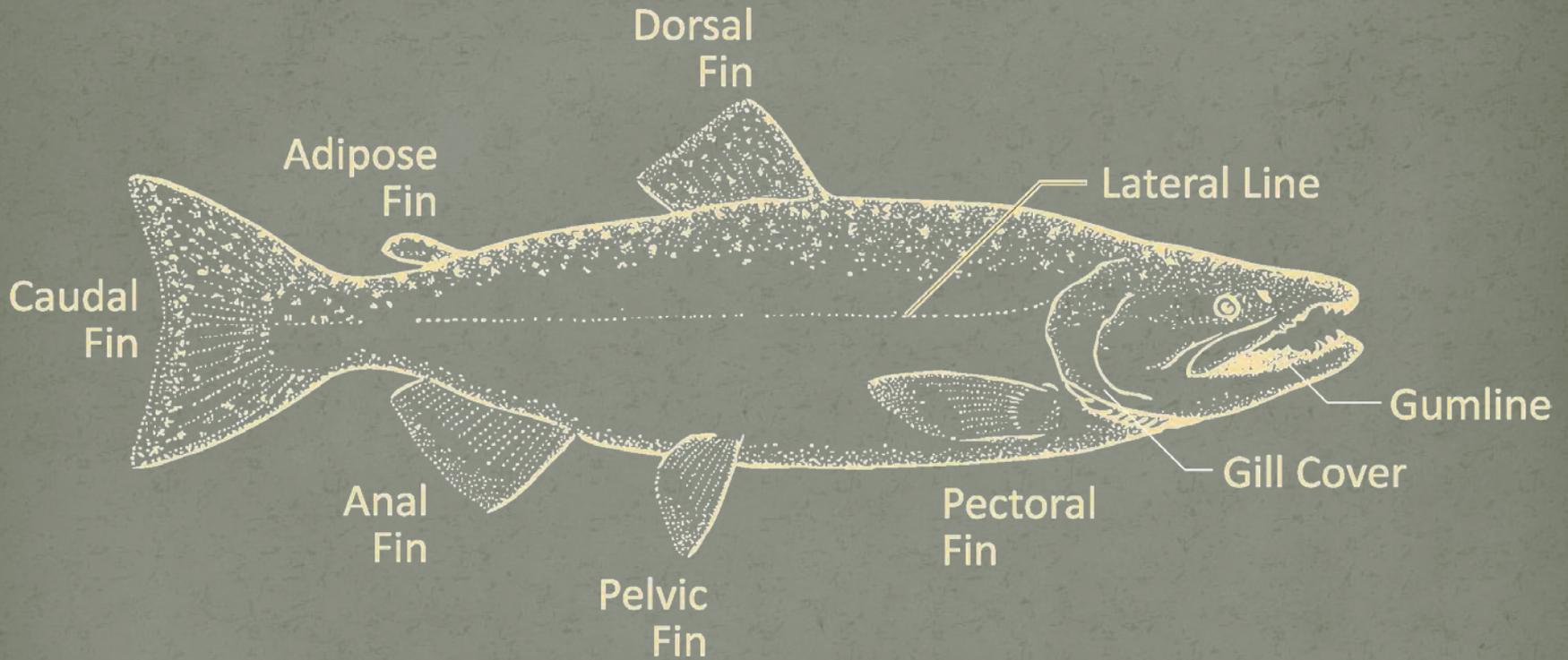


Photo by Al Solonsky

Key Identification Features



Questions to Ask When Identifying Salmon

1. Size

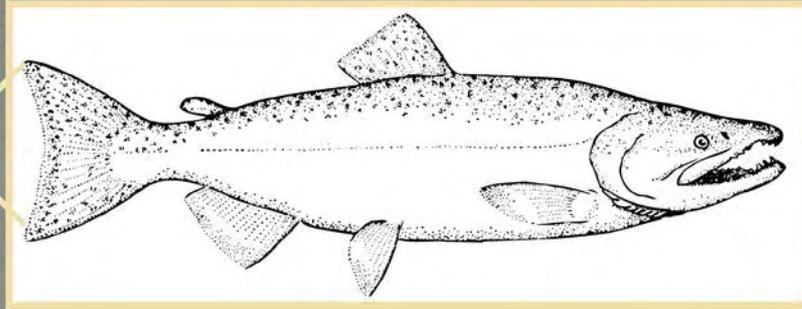
2. Spots

3. Color

4. Other behavioral characteristics

Chinook ("King," "Tye," "Blackmouth")

Spots on BOTH
upper and lower
lobe of tail



Female



Olive brown
to dark brown
to red

Male



← 2 feet to 5 feet in length →

Photo by Carla Milesi



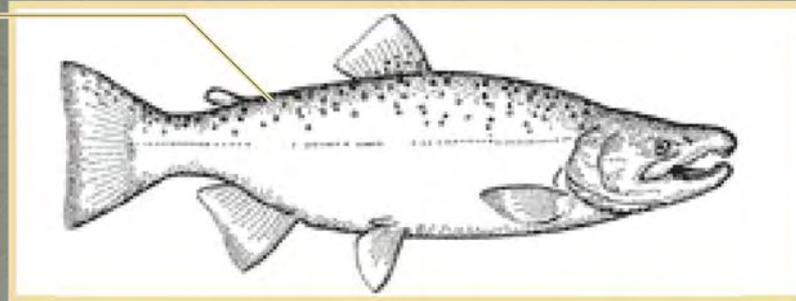
Chinook



Photo by Geoff Clayton

Coho ("Sivers")

Round black spots



Spots on back and UPPER lobe of tail fin only



Female

Back and head dark blue-green

Lower sides red-purple



Male

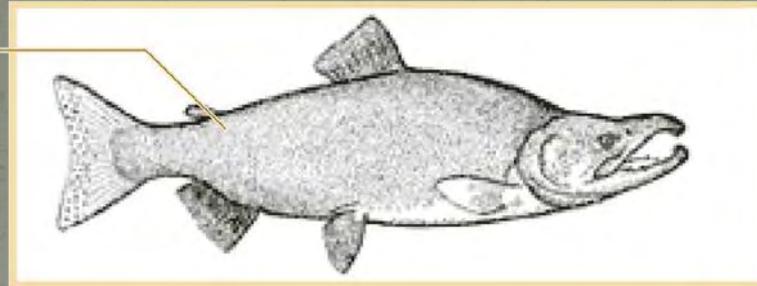
← 16 to 29 inches in length →

Coho

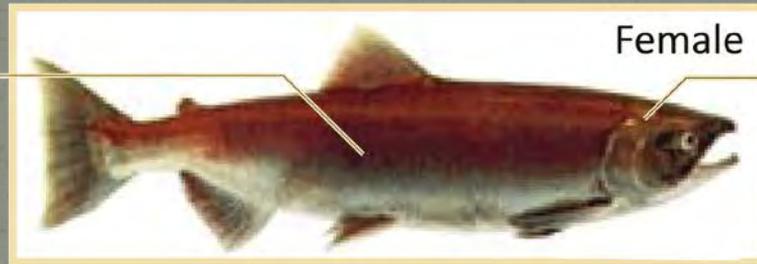


Sockeye ("Red")

No obvious spots



Possible dark band



Female

Red body,
green head



Male

Distinctive hump
on males

Distinctive kype
on males

← 20 to 28 inches in length →

Sockeye

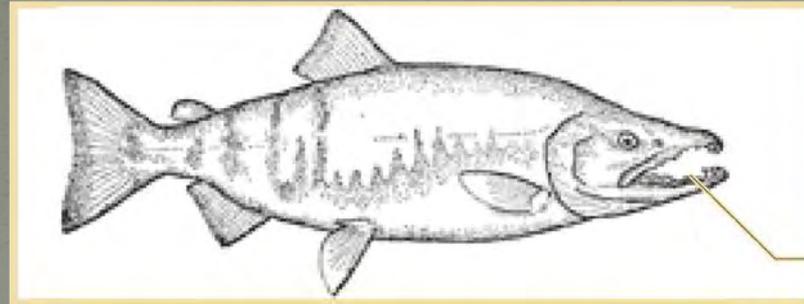


Photo by Kollin Higgins



Photo by Salmon Watcher Katie Klein

Chum ("Dog", "Keta")



Well developed teeth

No distinct black spots



Female

Dark blue above with reddish-purple vertical markings



Male

← Approximately 26 inches in length →

Chum



Photo E.R. Keeley

Pink, or Humpback

Numerous small scales

Dark band along lateral line



Rarely travel far up river to spawn - most likely seen in coastal streams, very rarely found in Lake Washington

Large oval spots on back and both lobes of the tailfin



Males develop a large hump on their back (hence the nick name "Humpback" or "Humpy")

Pink salmon spawn in central and south Puget Sound drainages ONLY in ODD numbered years

Pink Salmon



Photo E.R. Keeley

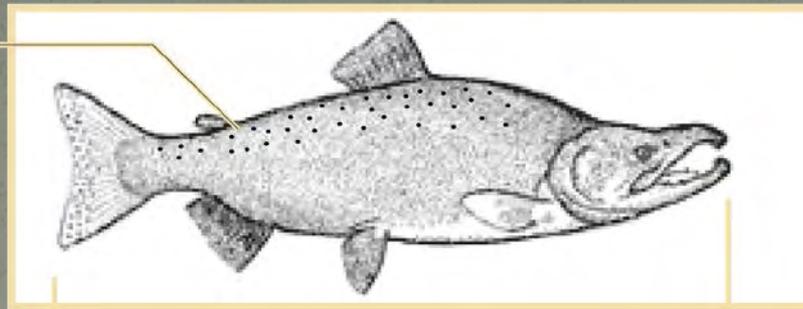
Look at boot for scale



Photo by Kirk Anderson

Kokanee ("Silver Trout" or "Little Sockeye")

Small dark spots



← 8 to 22 inches in length →

Colors not
as bright as
Sockeye



Female



Male

Photos by
Scott Craig,
USFWS

Kokanee



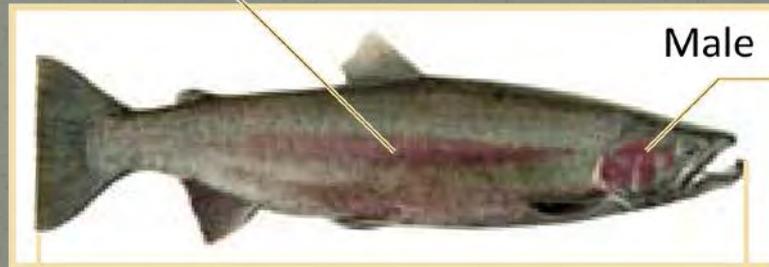
Steelhead Trout: *Spawn in Winter* *VERY RARELY SEEN*

Distinct small spots on dorsal fin



Head blunt, jaw does not extend past the eye

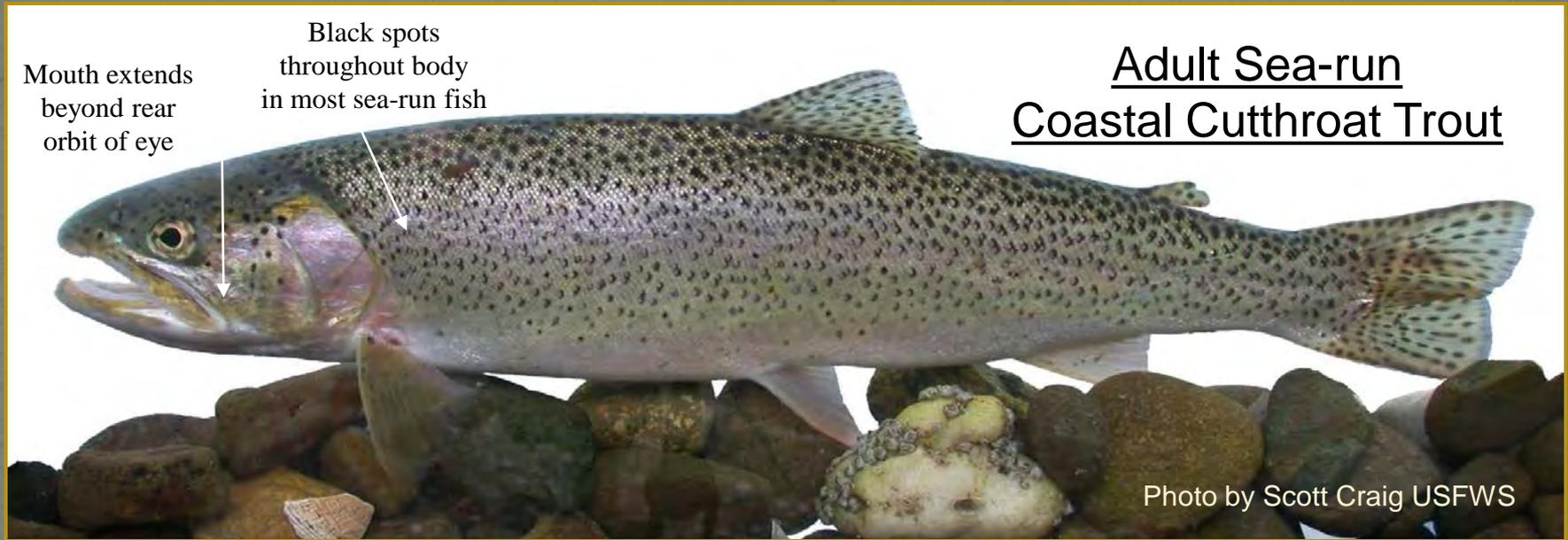
Often has reddish stripe along sides



Gill cover reddish

← Up to 45 inches in length →

Cutthroat Trout



You will likely only see *juvenile* cutthroat trout. Coastal streams may see sea-run coastal cutthroat late in the season.

Length = 6-8"



Chinook



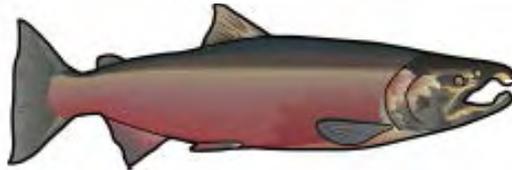
24-60"

Chum



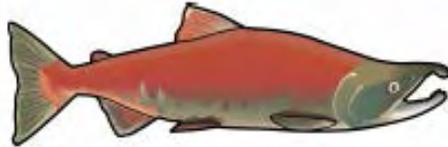
30-42"

Coho



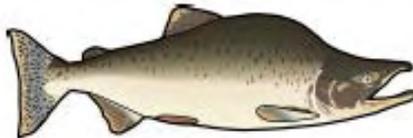
17-38"

Sockeye



20-28"

Pink



16-30"

Kokanee



8-22"

Cutthroat



up to 30"

Size

Spots

Chinook



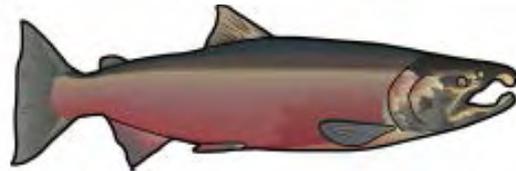
Large, splotchy,
on top and
bottom of tail fin

Chum



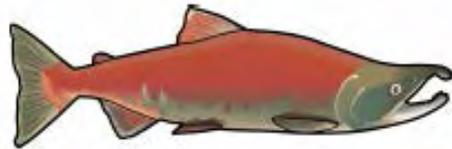
No defined spots

Coho



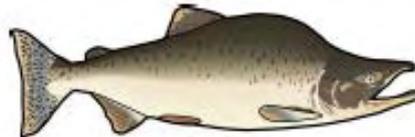
Small and distinct,
only on top half of
tail

Sockeye



No defined spots

Pink



Large, oval

Kokanee



May have small spots

Cutthroat

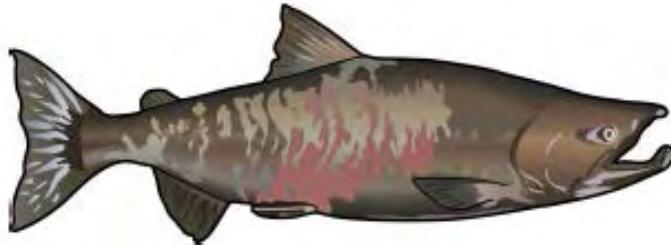


Numerous small
spots, top & bottom

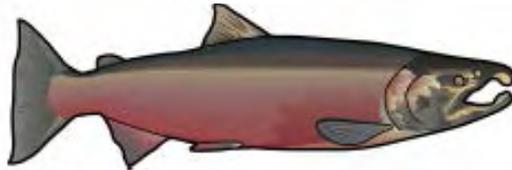
Chinook



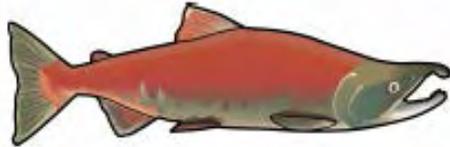
Chum



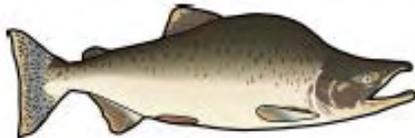
Coho



Sockeye



Pink



Kokanee



Cutthroat



Color

Wide color range
from red to green
to brown

Red/purple flame
like markings

Red on belly and gill
covers, green back

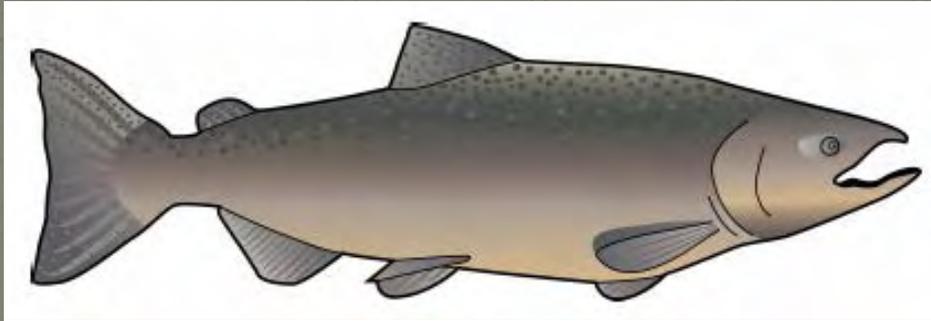
Red body, green
head and tail

Green back,
white belly

Varies red to brown

Silvery

Chinook



Large splotchy spots

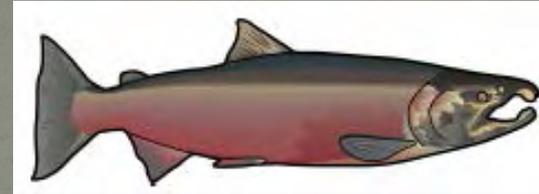
Spots on top & bottom of tail

May have red over entire body

Spawns September through mid
December

Often seen at same time/location
of sockeye

Coho



Small distinct spots

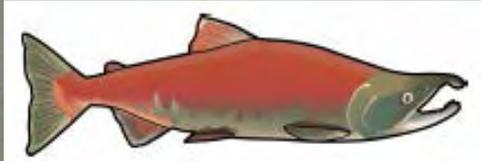
Spots only on top half of tail

Red on belly & gill cover

Spawns mid October
through early January

Very skittish

Sockeye



No distinct spots

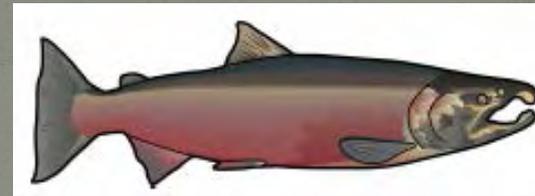
Red body

Distinct green head & tail

Spawns early August through
late December

Spawns in large numbers

Coho



Small distinct spots

Red on belly & gill cover

Back is dark, bluish green

Spawns mid October through
early January

Very skittish

Review











Photo by Vali Eberhardt









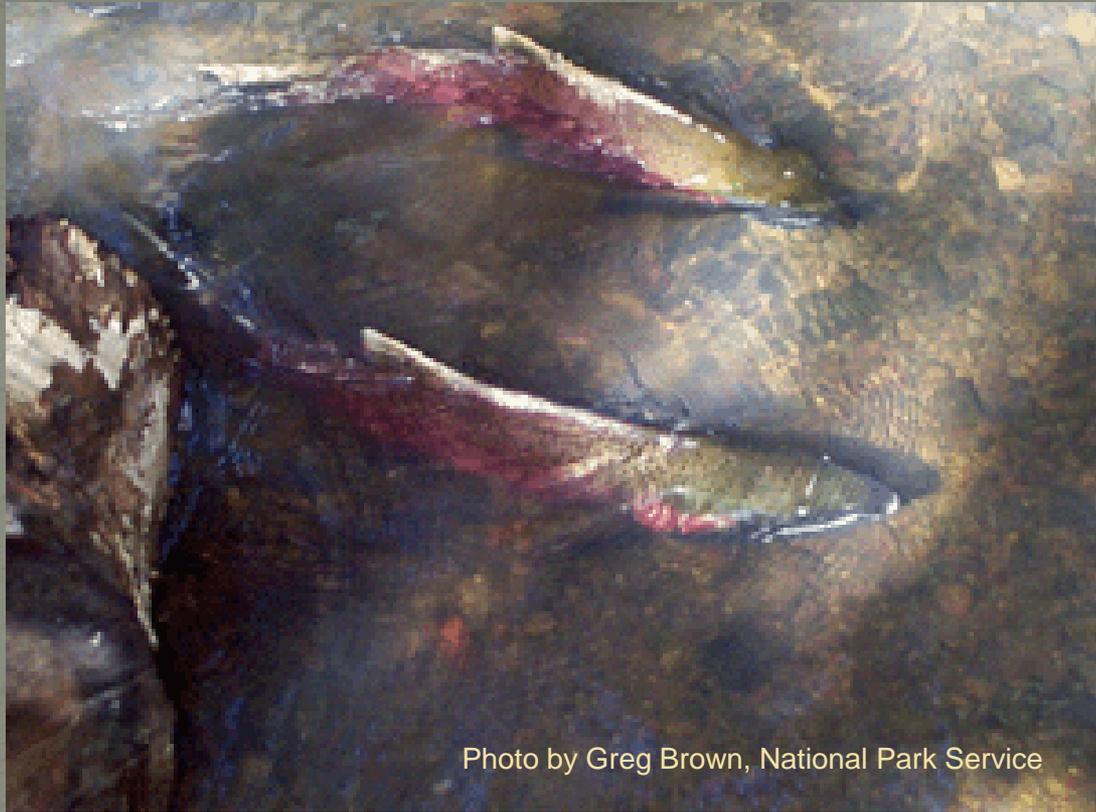


Photo by Greg Brown, National Park Service





Photo by Chris Carrel, Friends of Hylebos Wetlands



In the field and at home...

Disc and
temperature tags in
2011
on Chinook



Call Hans Berge at 206-296-1964



Photo by Gina Artero, Volunteer

Coho Pre-Spawn Mortality

For more information, or if you see dead coho salmon that are silvery, like the one above, please contact **Steve Damm: Steve_Damm@fws.gov**

Thanks!



<http://www.kingcounty.gov/environment/animalsAndPlants/beavers.aspx>



Stormwater
is not treated



pugetsoundstartshere.org

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IT'S

Salmon SEASON AGAIN!

SPOT THE SPAWNERS
in the Lake Washington/Cedar/
Sammamish Watershed this fall!
Visit www.kingcounty.gov/salmon
and click on Salmon SEESon!

Fall is here, and salmon are returning to streams and rivers around Puget Sound. Watch for these natural beauties at the listed spots around the watershed as they make their seasonal journey!



Now for the Data...