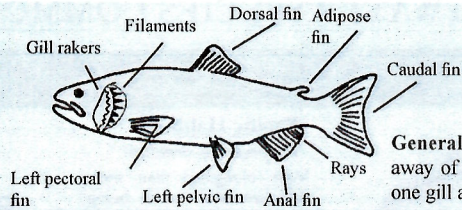
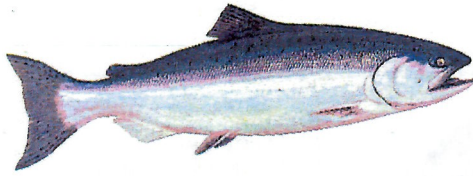


HOW TO IDENTIFY SALMON, TROUT, AND OTHER SPECIES COMMONLY FOUND IN ALASKA



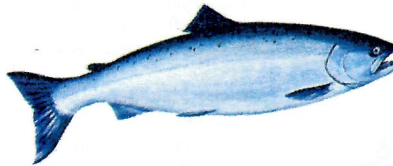
General Characteristics of Fish: cut away of operculum (gill-cover) showing one gill arch, filaments, and gill rakers.

ALASKA'S WILD SALMON ARE FOUND IN BOTH FRESH AND SALTWATERS



King (Chinook) Salmon
Oncorhynchus tshawytscha

Small black spots on back and both lobes of tail. Gum line on lower jaw black. Less than 25 gill rakers, 15-17 anal fin rays. The largest of all Pacific salmon, 30-55 inches.



Silver (Coho) Salmon
Oncorhynchus kisutch

Small black spots usually occur only on upper lobe of tail and on back. Gum line on lower jaw not black. Scales large; less than 25 gill rakers, 13-15 anal fin rays. Size 24-28 inches.



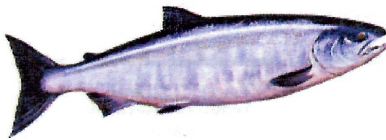
Sockeye (Red) Salmon
Oncorhynchus nerka

No distinct black spots on back or tail; over 30-40 long, fine, serrated and closely spaced gill rakers over 12 anal fin rays. Relatively large eye, Size 18-24 inches.



Pink (Humpback) Salmon
Oncorhynchus gorbuscha

Large oval black spots on back and on both lobes of tail; scales very small; usually over 12 anal fin rays; males develop a pronounced hump during spawning. Size 15-24 inches.



Chum (Dog) Salmon
Oncorhynchus keta

No distinct black spots on back or tail; 18-28 smooth, short, stout, and widely spaced gill rakers; usually over 12 anal fin rays. Size 24-32 inches.



Steelhead
Oncorhynchus mykiss

Sea-run rainbow trout with bluish gray back and bright silvery sides. Small black spots on back, sides and tail. Pink/red coloration develops after returning to fresh water to spawn. Size several inches to over 40 inches.



Rainbow Trout
Oncorhynchus mykiss

Freshwater residents. Green to bluish black with silvery to yellowish-green sides. Broad pinkish band along side and black spots on back, sides, and tail. Upper jaw usually does not extend past eye.



Dolly Varden/Arctic Char
Salvelinus malma, S. alpinus

Round, red, pink or yellow spots on sides, tail slightly forked; 8-12 anal fin rays; no dark green wavy marks on back or dorsal fin. Arctic char occur from Bristol Bay to polar regions.



Lake Trout
Salvelinus namaycush

Body dark green to grayish with oval irregular white to yellowish spots on sides and back, tail deeply forked; 8-12 anal fin rays; no dark green wavy marks on back or dorsal fin.



Cutthroat Trout
Oncorhynchus clarki

Spots on body dark brown or black; 8-12 anal fin rays, no red band on sides; red to orange slash on underside of lower jaw; upper jaw extends well behind eye in adults.



Arctic Grayling
Tymallus arcticus

Dorsal fin much longer than in whitefish (especially in males) and fan-like. Rows of reddish to orange and/or purple to green spots on dorsal fin; sides of fish are black spotted; scales larger than in trouts.



Burbot
Lota lota

Two dorsal fins and one anal fin present; no adipose fin as in trouts, salmon, grayling and whitefish; pelvic fins very far forward and just under head; body long and tapering; barbel on chin.



Whitefish

Whitefish are distinguished from the trout and salmon by the small, weak, or absent teeth and the presence of large scales; distinguished from Arctic grayling by the much smaller dorsal fin.



Northern Pike
Esox lucius

Dorsal and anal fins positioned rearward; no adipose fin as in trouts, salmon, grayling and whitefish; long flattened jaws with large mouth and many sharp teeth, sides are yellowish gray.

Several common species that occur in AK are the round and humpback whitefish, least cisco, and sheefish. A sheefish is shown.