

HOW TO IDENTIFY THE FIVE SALMON SPECIES FOUND IN ALASKA

KING (Chinook, tye, blackmouth) SALMON:
Blue-gray back with silvery sides. Small, irregular-shaped black spots on back, dorsal fin, and usually on both lobes of the tail.



Black mouth with **BLACK** gums at base of teeth on lower jaw. ↑



Spawning king salmon adults lose their silvery bright color and turn maroon to olive brown.

COHO (silver) SALMON:

Greenish-blue back with silvery sides. Small black spots on the back, dorsal fin, and usually on upper lobe of tail only.



Black mouth with **WHITE** gums at base of teeth on lower jaw. ↓

Spawning coho salmon adults develop greenish-black heads and dark brown to maroon bodies.



Photographs courtesy of Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife. Salmon mouth illustrations courtesy of California Department of Fish and Game.

SOCKEYE (red) SALMON:

Dark blue-black back with silvery sides. No distinct spots on back, dorsal fin, or tail.



Spawning sockeye salmon adults develop dull-green heads and brick-red to scarlet bodies.



CHUM (dog, keta, calico) SALMON:

Dull gray back with yellowish-silver sides. No distinct spots on back or tail. Large eye pupil—covers nearly the entire eye.



Spawning adults develop olive green coloration on the back with maroon sides covered with irregular dull red bars. Males exhibit many large canine-like teeth.

PINK (humpy) SALMON:

Large spots on the back and large black oval blotches on both tail lobes. Very small scales.



Spawning adults turn dull gray on their backs and upper sides and creamy white below. Males develop a pronounced hump.

