

Coho *Oncorhynchus kisutch*

Bright silver with metallic-blue back. White gums, black tongue, a few spots on the upper portion of their silver-coloured tails. Wide tail base. Mature coho are reddish on the sides, green on the back and head, often dark on belly. Females are less strongly coloured.

Fascinating Fact: Coho generally spawn in streams.

Class
Osteichthyes
"Bony Fishes"
Order
Salmoniformes
Family
Salmonidae



Fisheries and Oceans
Canada

Canada

Spawning male

Average size 1.3kg – 14kg
Life cycle 3 years.
Prefer small streams for spawning.

Black spots on back and upper part of caudal fin.



Canada

Coho *Oncorhynchus kisutch*

Bright silver with a metallic blue dorsal surface. White gums and mouth, black tongue, sharp teeth; a few spots on the upper portion of their silver-coloured, square tails. Wide tail base.

Fascinating Fact: Referred to as "silver" salmon in the US.

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Marine male

Average size 1.3kg – 14kg
Life cycle 3 years. After fry emerge from gravel, they remain in streams for at least a year. They spend 6–18 months in the ocean.

Black spots on back and upper half of caudal fin.



Pink *Oncorhynchus gorbuscha*

Mature males are yellowish gray on sides, blotched with brown and dark along back. Females are olive green on sides of body with dusky stripes. Both are dirty white below the later line. Tails have large oval spots.

Fascinating Fact: Mature males are known as "humpies" because of the hump they develop on their backs.

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Spawning male

Average size 2.2kg – 5.5kg
Life cycle 2 years.
Spawn mainly in coastal rivers and streams.

Spots on back. Spots and stripes on all of caudal fin.



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Pink *Oncorhynchus gorbuscha*

Black gums and white mouth. Silver body with spotted backs and tiny scales. V-shaped tail has large oval spots, no silver streaking.

Fascinating Fact: Newly-hatched fry travel by night and develop a preference for light once they form schools.

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Marine male

Oval black spots on back and all of caudal fin.



Sockeye *Oncorhynchus nerka*

Silvery-purplish tinge, turning to bright scarlet with a green head as they reach the spawning grounds. Female usually are less brightly coloured.

Fascinating Fact: In Alaska, sockeye are called "red salmon" because of their spawning colours.

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Spawning male

Average size 2.2kg – 3.1kg
Life cycle 4 to 5 years.
Spawning males develop hooked jaw and humped back, while females remain sleek.

Red with green head.



Canada

Sockeye *Oncorhynchus nerka*

Average size 2.2kg – 3.1kg

Life cycle 4 to 5 years. Young sockeye remain in lakes a year or more before migrating to sea. Most Canadian sockeye spend at least 2 years in the North Pacific before returning to their rivers of origin to spawn.

Fascinating Fact: Name derived from Aboriginal word *sukkai*.

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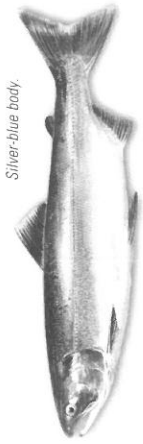


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Marine male

Silver-blue body.



Steelhead *Oncorhynchus mykiss*

Metallic blue on back, silvery on sides, small black spots on the upper body. Short head. Wide tail base, square tail with uniform spots. Spawning males have a pink or red band on side; extended snout; females are more subdued in colour.

Fascinating Fact: Some fish may return to spawn a second or third time.

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Spawning male

Average size 3kg – 10kg
Life cycle Up to 7 years.
Some fish may return to spawn a second or third time.

Black spots on upper body and all of caudal fin.



Canada

Steelhead *Oncorhynchus mykiss*

Metallic blue on back, silvery on sides. Small black spots on the upper body. Short head. Wide tail base, square tail with uniform spots.

Fascinating Fact: Steelhead is an anadromous rainbow trout longer than 50cm.

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Marine male

Black spots on upper body and all of caudal fin.



Chinook *Oncorhynchus tshawytscha*

Lightly spotted blue-green back, black gums and a silver, spotted tail. Mature chinook become very dark in colour, some dark reddish, others almost black.

Fascinating Fact: The largest salmon – record size in BC: 57kg.

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Spawning male

Average size 1.5kg – 30kg
Life cycle 3 to 7 years.
Most return to spawn in their fourth or fifth years.

Irregular spots on back and all of caudal fin.



Canada

Chinook *Oncorhynchus tshawytscha*

Lightly spotted blue-green back, black gums and silver, V-shaped, spotted tail.

Fascinating Fact: Also known as a "spring" in Canada, as a "king" in the US, and those chinook over 13.5 kg are known as "tyee."

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Marine male

Irregular spots on back and all of caudal fin.

