

# Chinook Salmon

(*Oncorhynchus tshawytscha*)

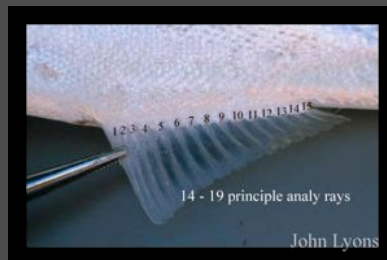
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# Taxonomy

- Class- Actinopterygii
- Subclass- Neopterygii
- Infraclass- Teleostei
- Superorder- Protacanthopterygii
- Order- Salmoniformes
- Family- Salmonidae
- Genus - Oncorhynchus
- Species- Oncorhynchus tshawytscha

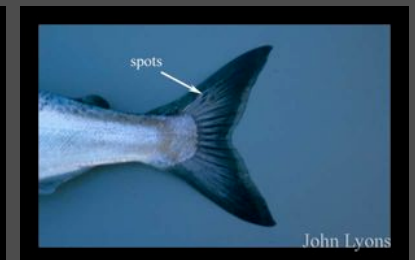
# Identification



➤10-14 dorsal rays

➤14–19 anal rays

# Identification



➤130-135 lateral line scales,  
dark spots on back

➤Spots on tail

## Identification

- Males have a hooked lower jaw, while the females do not



## Identification

- Mouths completely black in breeding adults



## Similar Species

### Coho Salmon

- White gums, some dark lines in mouth
- No spots on tail
- 12-17 anal rays
- 9-12 dorsal rays



### Atlantic Salmon

- X-shaped spots all over body
- light colored mouth
- 7-12 anal rays
- 11-12 dorsal rays



## Habitat / Spawning

- Born in freshwater streams
- Migrate to lakes or oceans
- Live in deeper areas of the lakes or oceans
- Upon maturity, they migrate back to birth stream
- Lay eggs in faster moving areas, with lots of gravel
- Energy cost of spawning causes them to die before the eggs hatch

## Range

- West coast of North America
- Michigan's Great Lakes



## Life History

- Juveniles spend 3 months – 2 years in freshwater before moving to ocean or lake.
- Mature at 3-8 years, and die after spawning.
- Can reach sizes of up to 120 lbs.

## Diet

- Juveniles eat insects, amphipods, and crustaceans
- Adults mainly prey on other fishes

## Introduction to Michigan

- Introduced in 1967
- Used to control Alewife populations, which once made up nearly 90% of the fish in the great lakes
- Became one of Michigan's number one sport fish
- Helped to boost the economy