

PINK SALMON

DESIRAE DETEMPLE



TAXONOMY

- ◉ Kingdom-Animalia
- ◉ Phylum-Chordata
- ◉ Class-Actinopterygii
- ◉ Order-Salmoniformes
- ◉ Family-Salmonidae
- ◉ Genus-Oncorhynchus
- ◉ Species-*O. gorbuscha*

IDENTIFICATION AND CHARACTERISTICS

- ◉ During the fall migration, adult males will undergo changes in morphology. A hump back and a slight hooked jaw will develop. While females remain relatively normal in body shape and color.
- ◉ Range in length from 35cm to 76cm(in the Great Lakes they range from 40 to 48 cm)
- ◉ When in the ocean they are silver in color with a slightly darker back
- ◉ Large oval spots can be found along its back, as well as the entire tail fin of the fish. These spots are much larger than the spots on a coho and chinook salmon.
- ◉ As they migrate into streams for spawning, their body color will turn to dark green.

SIMILAR SPECIES

- ◉ Coho salmon-long anal fin with 13-15 rays; spots are reduced on back
- ◉ Chinook salmon-long anal fin with 15-17 rays; numerous small spots on back
- ◉ Atlantic salmon-long anal fin with about 9 rays; dark pectoral fins
- ◉ Pink salmon-long anal fin with 13-17 rays; large oval dark spots on back and caudal and dorsal fin



Coho Salmon
Oncorhynchus kisutch



Chinook Salmon
Oncorhynchus tshawytscha



Atlantic Salmon
Salmo salar



Pink Salmon
Oncorhynchus gorbuscha

DISTRIBUTION AND STATUS



Green-current spawning distribution
Gold-limited spawning distribution
Red-historic distribution
Dark blue-ocean distribution

- ◉ Pink Salmon can be found from the Arctic coast in Alaska and territories in Canada to central California

LIFE HISTORY

- ◉ Spawn from August to October
- ◉ They tend to spawn closer to tidewater than most of the other Pacific salmon species (generally 48.2803 km from a river mouth)
- ◉ They usually spawn at depths of less than 0.3048 meters to just over 0.9144 meters
- ◉ They are anadromous fish (they migrate up rivers to breed in freshwater)
- ◉ Pink salmon have the lowest reproductive potential of Pacific salmon

DISTRIBUTION AND STATUS

- ◉ Populations are generally healthy in the Pacific Northwest
- ◉ Both the US and Canada cooperate in the sustainable management of Pacific Salmon through the Pacific Salmon Treaty
- ◉ They were accidentally introduced into Lake Superior in 1956; they are now found in the Great Lakes

LIFE HISTORY

- ◉ Males compete in order to breed with spawning females
- ◉ The eggs are fertilized when deposited into the nest
- ◉ Females remain with the nest about one to two weeks after spawning
- ◉ The incubating eggs and resulting fry spend the winter in the stream gravel
- ◉ Juveniles leave the spawning gravel and migrate to the ocean when they are 0.181436 grams in weight (half the weight of a paper clip)
- ◉ They live for about two years

INTERACTION AND IMPORTANCE TO HUMANS

- ◉ Pink salmon are commercially harvested
- ◉ They are often canned, smoked, or salted



QUESTIONS?



REFERENCES

- ◉ http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/fishwatch/species/pink_salmon.htm