Lower Yukon River Salmon

Coho

Small black pupil (eye) compared to chum

Black mouth area with white gums by teeth on bottom jaw

Sockeye

Almost toothless

Similar body size to coho and chum

Chum

Large black pupil (eye) compared to coho

Well-developed teeth closer to spawning maturity

Chinook

Black mouth with black gums near teeth on bottom jaw.

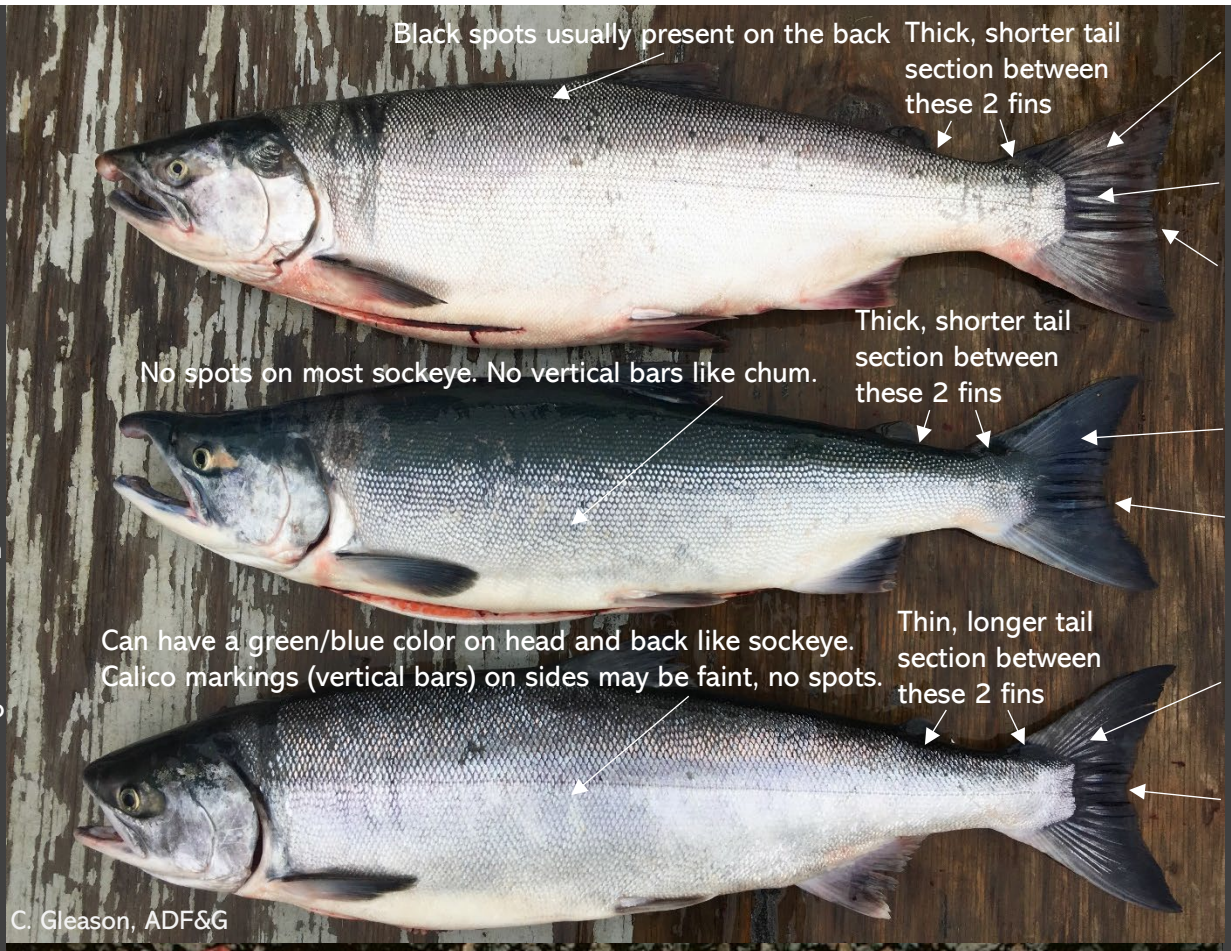
Large teeth

Large body size, except for jacks

Pink

Small body size

Very small scales



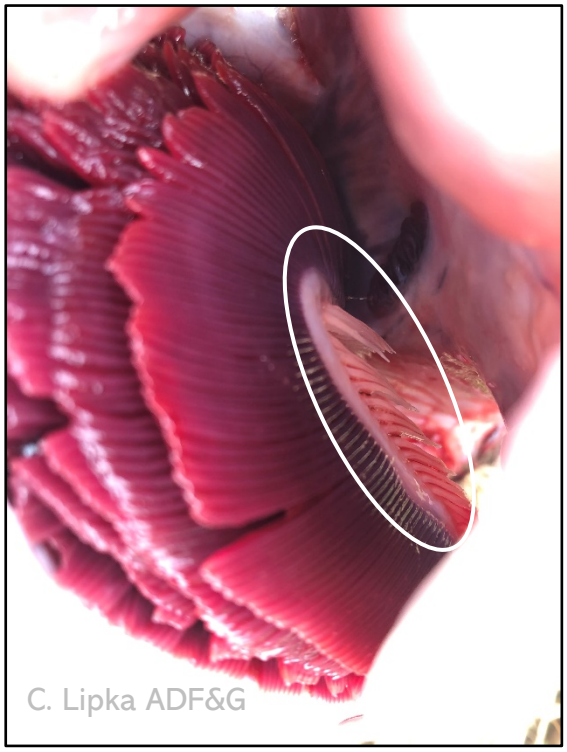
Sources:

Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) 2018 Southcentral Regional Booklet, available online at https://www.adfg.alaska.gov/static/regulations/fishregulations/PDFs/Southwest/2018sw_sfregs_salmon_id.pdf

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, available online at http://www.north-slope.org/assets/images/uploads/pac_salmon_id.pdf

Mecklenburg, C.W., T.A. Mecklenburg, and L.K. Thorsteinson. 2002. Fishes of Alaska. American Fisheries Society, Bethesda, MD.

If fish are calm, you can gently view the white gill rakers to tell a *chum* from a *sockeye* salmon.

Chum salmon- short, stout white gill rakers spaced apart
(less than 30 on the entire arch)

Sockeye salmon- long, thin white gill rakers spaced closed together
(more than 30 on the entire arch)