

Lower Yukon River Salmon



Coho

Small black pupil (eye) compared to chum

Black mouth area with white gums by teeth on bottom jaw



Black spots usually present on the back

Thick, shorter tail section between these 2 fins

Black spots on upper tail lobe only

May have silver streaks

Flat edge on tail, little to no fork

Sockeye

Almost toothless

Similar body size to coho and chum



No spots on most sockeye. No vertical bars like chum.

Thick, shorter tail section between these 2 fins

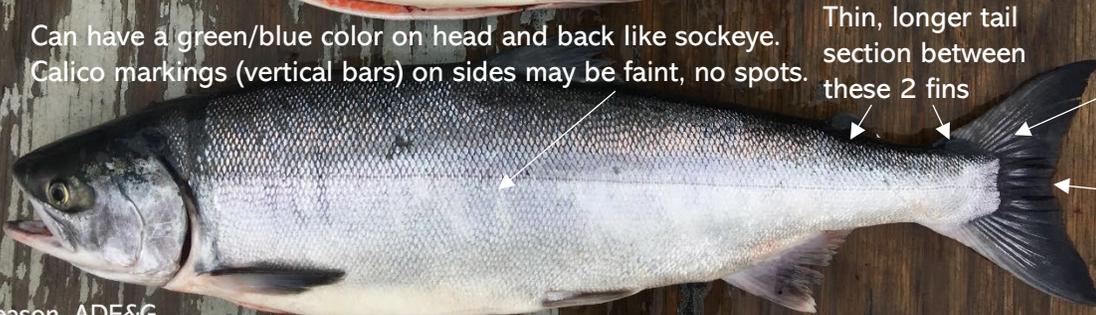
No spots or silver streaks

Forked tail

Chum

Large black pupil (eye) compared to coho

Well-developed teeth closer to spawning maturity



Can have a green/blue color on head and back like sockeye. Calico markings (vertical bars) on sides may be faint, no spots.

Thin, longer tail section between these 2 fins

No spots. May have silver streaks

Forked tail

C. Gleason, ADF&G

Chinook

Black mouth with black gums near teeth on bottom jaw.

Large teeth

Large body size, except for jacks



Black spots on back (larger than coho spots)

Spots on both tail lobes

ADF&G staff

Pink

Small body size

Very small scales



Black oval spots on back. Males have humped back.

Large, black, oval spots on both tail lobes

No silver on tail

J. Paes, ADF&G

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)

