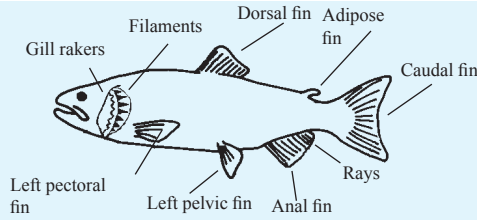


HOW TO IDENTIFY SALMON, TROUT, AND OTHER SPECIES COMMONLY FOUND IN ALASKA



ALASKA'S WILD SALMON ARE FOUND IN BOTH FRESH AND SALTWATERS



King (Chinook) Salmon

Oncorhynchus tshawytscha

Small black spots on back and both lobes of tail. Gum line on lower jaw black. Less than 25 gill rakers, 15-17 anal fin rays. The largest of all Pacific salmon, 30-55 inches.



Silver (Coho) Salmon

Oncorhynchus kisutch

Small black spots usually occur only on upper lobe of tail and on back. Gum line on lower jaw not black. Scales large; less than 25 gill rakers, 13-15 anal fin rays. Size 24-28 inches.



Sockeye (Red) Salmon

Oncorhynchus nerka

No distinct black spots on back or tail; over 30-40 long, fine, serrated and closely spaced gill rakers over 12 anal fin rays. Relatively large eye, Size 18-24 inches.



Pink (Humpback) Salmon

Oncorhynchus gorbuscha

Large oval black spots on back and on both lobes of tail; scales very small; usually over 12 anal fin rays; males develop a pronounced hump during spawning. Size 15-24 inches.



Chum (Dog) Salmon

Oncorhynchus keta

No distinct black spots on back or tail; 18-28 smooth, short, stout, and widely spaced gill rakers; usually over 12 anal fin rays. Size 24-32 inches.



Steelhead

Oncorhynchus mykiss

Sea-run rainbow trout with bluish gray back and bright silvery sides. Small black spots on back, sides and tail. Pink/red coloration develops after returning to fresh water to spawn. Size several inches to over 40 inches.



Rainbow Trout

Oncorhynchus mykiss

Freshwater residents. Green to bluish black with silvery to yellowish-green sides. Broad pinkish band along side and black spots on back, sides, and tail. Upper jaw usually does not extend past eye.



Dolly Varden/Arctic Char

Salvelinus malma, S. alpinus

Round, red, pink or yellow spots on sides, tail slightly forked; 8-12 anal fin rays; no dark green wavy marks on back or dorsal fin. Arctic char occur from Bristol Bay to polar regions.



Lake Trout

Salvelinus namaycush

Body dark green to grayish with oval irregular white to yellowish spots on sides and back, tail deeply forked; 8-12 anal fin rays; no dark green wavy marks on back or dorsal fin.



Cutthroat Trout

Oncorhynchus clarki

Spots on body dark brown or black; 8-12 anal fin rays, no red band on sides; red to orange slash on underside of lower jaw; upper jaw extends well behind eye in adults.



Arctic Grayling

Thymallus arcticus

Dorsal fin much longer than in whitefish (especially in males) and fan-like. Rows of reddish to orange and/or purple to green spots on dorsal fin; sides of fish are black spotted; scales larger than in trouts.



Burbot

Lota lota

Two dorsal fins and one anal fin present; no adipose fin as in trouts, salmon, grayling and whitefish; pelvic fins very far forward and just under head; body long and tapering; barbel on chin.



Whitefish

Whitefish are distinguished from the trout and salmon by the small, weak, or absent teeth and the presence of large scales; distinguished from Arctic grayling by the much smaller dorsal fin.



Northern Pike

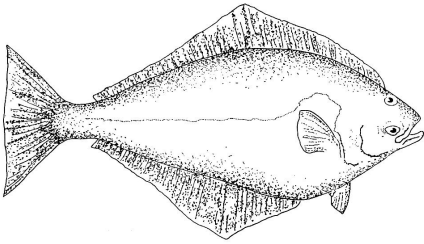
Esox lucius

Dorsal and anal fins positioned rearward; no adipose fin as in trouts, salmon, grayling and whitefish; long flattened jaws with large mouth and many sharp teeth, sides are yellowish gray.

Several common species that occur in AK are the **round** and **humpback** whitefish, **least cisco**, and **sheefish**. A sheefish is shown.

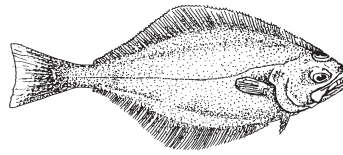
SALTWATER SPECIES COMMONLY FOUND IN ALASKA

FLATFISH



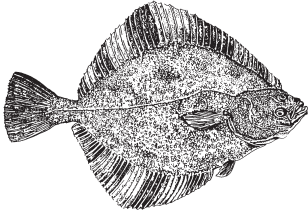
Pacific Halibut

Hippoglossus stenolepis
More elongated than most flatfishes, with width being about one-third the length. Adults have both eyes on their dark or upper side. Color on the dark side tends to assume the coloration of the ocean bottom. The underside is lighter, often white.



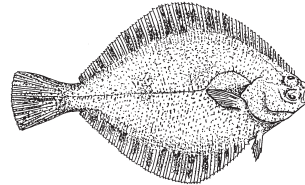
Arrowtooth Flounder

Atheresthes stomias
Large mouth and numerous sharp teeth. Little arching of lateral line. Upper eye reaches top of head. Length to 34 inches.



Starry Flounder

Platichthys stellatus
Black and yellow to orange bands on fins. Length to 36 inches.



Rock Sole

Lepidopsetta bilineata
Lateral line arched over pectoral fin. Jaw does not extend below middle of eye. Length to 24 inches.

ROCKFISH

More than 30 species occur in Alaska's coastal waters, and about a dozen are commonly taken in Alaska sport fisheries, including **yelloweye, black, dusky, quillback, copper, tiger, china, canary, redstripe, silvergray, rougheye** and **shortraker** rockfish. These fish are characterized by having bony plates or spines on the head and body, a large mouth, and pelvic fins attached forward near the pectoral fins. The spines are venomous, and although not extremely toxic, can cause pain and infection. Some species are brightly colored, and many are difficult to distinguish from one another.



Black Rockfish

Sebastes melanops
Often misnamed "black bass". Dark gray to black with dusky white belly. Jaw extends to rear of eye. Up to 25 inches.



Yelloweye Rockfish

Sebastes ruberrimus
Also called red snapper. Orange red and orange yellow, with bright yellow eye. Size up to 36 inches. This is a non-pelagic rockfish; bottom dwelling and found on or near the ocean floor.



Dusky Rockfish

Sebastes ciliatus
There are both dark colored species (uniformly black, no white belly), and light dusky rockfish (brownish body color, whitish belly).



Copper Rockfish

Sebastes caurinus
Olive brown to copper with pink or yellow blotches, white on sides and belly. Up to 22 inches. Non-pelagic.

OTHER SALTWATER SPECIES



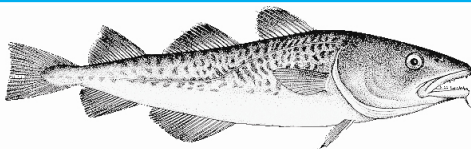
Lingcod

Ophiodon elongatus
Brown to reddish-brown with spots or blotches. Sharp teeth. Elongated body, large head and mouth, no barbel. Single dorsal fin, notched past the middle of its length. Can grow to 5 ft.



Kelp Greenling

Hexagrammos decagrammus
In the same family as lingcod, but lacking rigid spines on the dorsal fin. Male kelp greenling have irregular blue spots; females are various shades of golden yellow on their heads and fins. Only grow to about 21 inches.



Pacific Cod, Tomcod, and Pollock

All have three distinct dorsal fins, and two anal fins. No rigid spines on their fins. Small teeth. Pacific cod and tomcod have a prominent barbel beneath their chin; on pollock it is very small or absent. Pacific cod grow to 40 inches.



Sablefish, also known as "Black Cod"

Anoplopoma fimbria
Sablefish, commonly known as black cod, have a streamlined, elongated body, black to dark gray above fading to gray or white in the belly, with two dorsal fins and small teeth. Larger fish found in deep water, can grow to 40 inches.