Juvenile Salmonid and Small Fish Identification Aid

ADF&G
Habitat & Restoration Division

Version 1.1
March 27, 2003
Compiled by Ed Weiss

This aid was developed to assist staff in the field identification of juvenile salmonids and other small fishes commonly caught during field sampling of freshwater streams and lakes.

Juvenile salmon sketches were adapted from sketches by the Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife's Aquatic Education Program. Photos are from ADF&G, USFS and CIAA file archives as well as personal collections.

Special thanks goes out to all who contributed:

Mike Anderson
Joe Buckwalter
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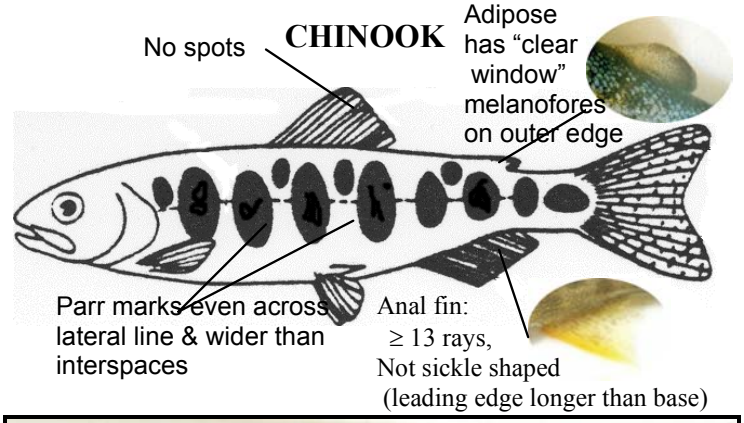
Bill Hauser
Susie Hayes
Doug Hill
Frances Inoue
Betsy McCracken
Cecil Rich
Stewart Seaberg
Mike Wiedmer

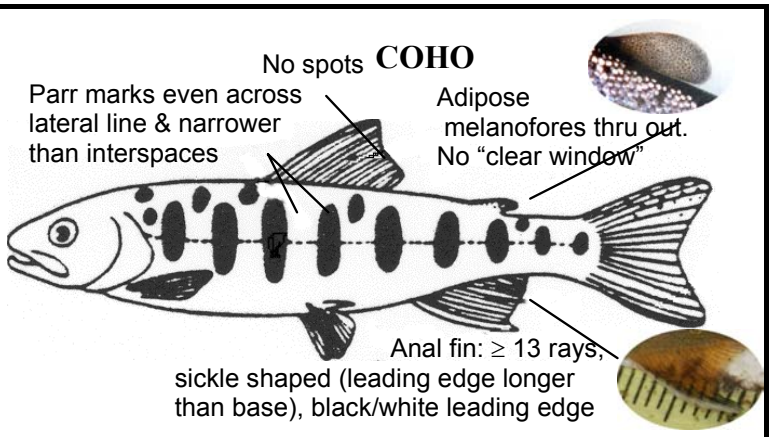
CHINOOK



CHINOOK

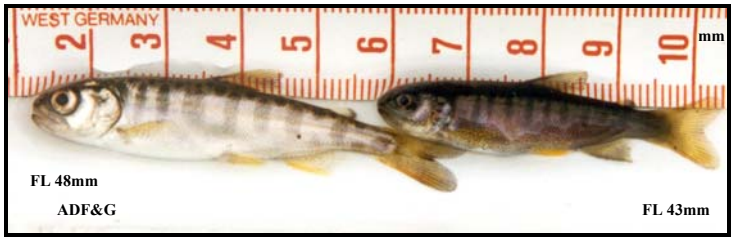
Chinook Coho

COHO



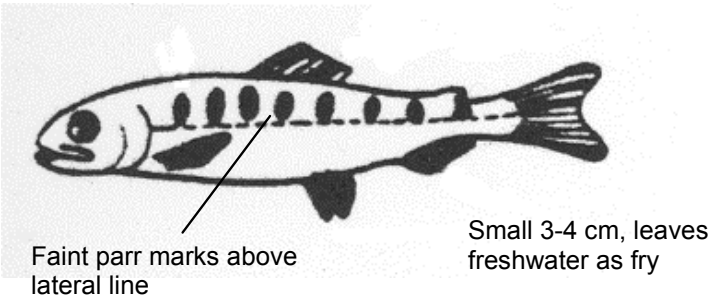
COHO

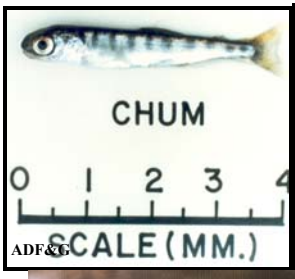
Coho smolt



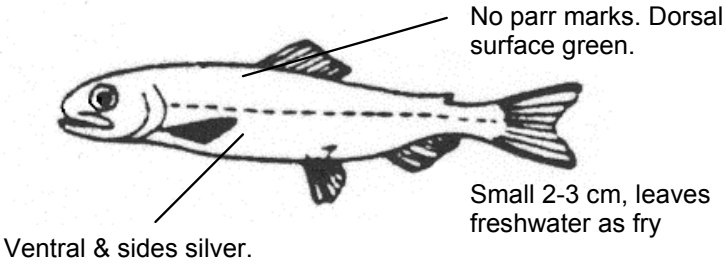
Chinook parr Coho parr

CHUM

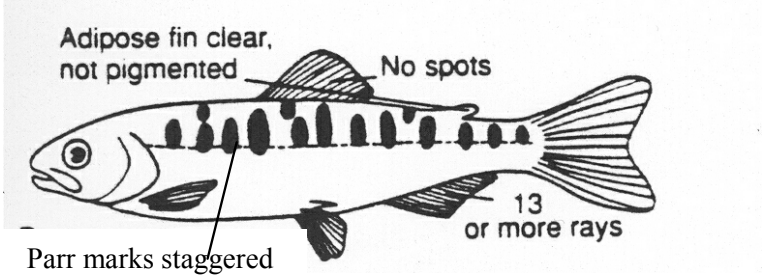




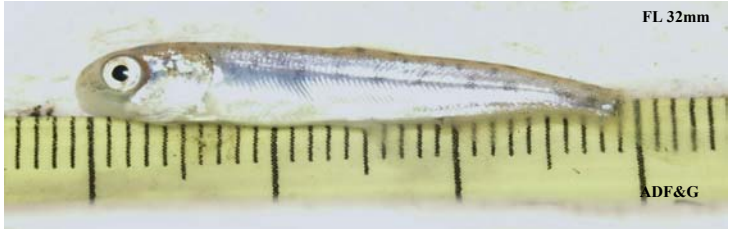
PINK



SOCKEYE



Parr marks staggered across lateral line



Fry

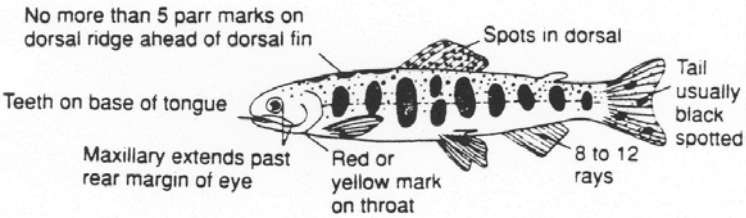
Fry

SOCKEYE

Parr

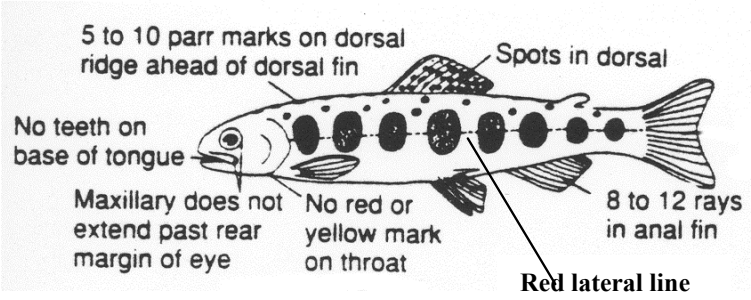
Smolt

CUTTHROAT



CUTTHROAT

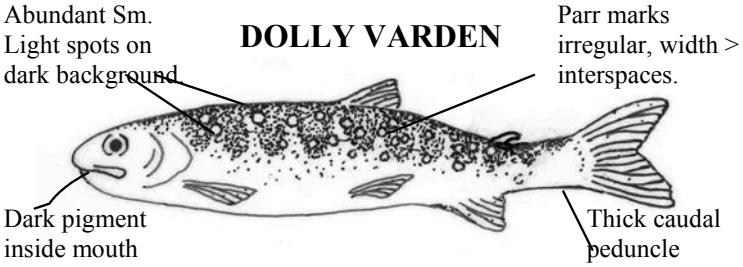
RAINBOW / STEELHEAD



RAINBOW / STEELHEAD

Rainbow Trout Dolly Varden

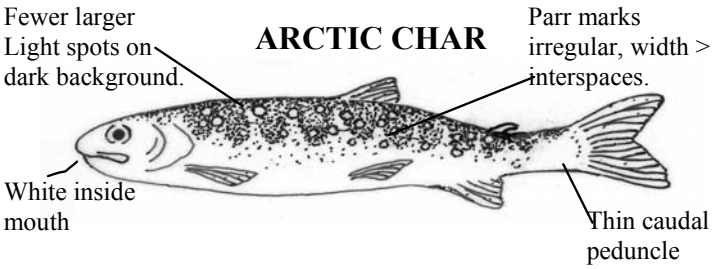
DOLLY VARDEN



- P. cecae = 21 – 39 (30). Gill Rakers 15 – 23.
- Anadromous dominant type but also lake or stream residents, usually a stream spawner
- In spawning, paired fins red/black with white leading edge, lower body red, orange or pink.

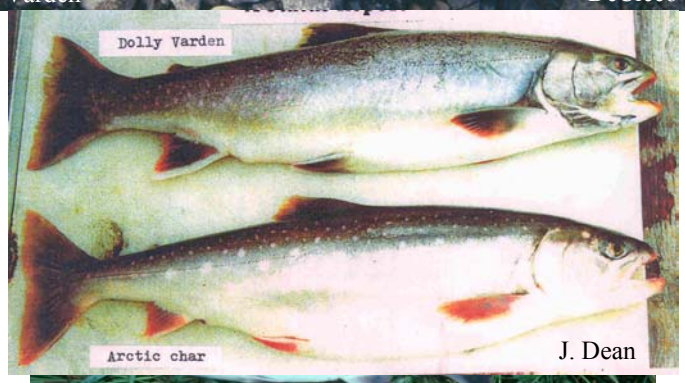
DOLLY VARDEN

ARCTIC CHAR



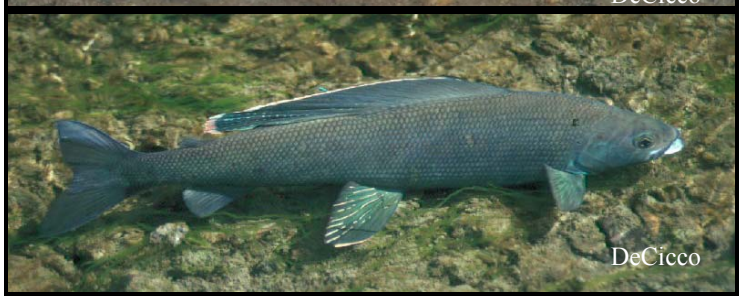
- P. cecae = 30 – 64 (45). Gill Rakers 21 – 27.
- No known anadromous populations in AK.
- Lake spawner/resident, sometimes moving into streams.
- In spawning, paired fins red/black with white leading edge, lower body red or gold. Spots red or orange.

ARCTIC CHAR



ARCTIC GRAYLING

ARCTIC GRAYLING



ALASKA BLACKFISH

BURBOT

SLIMY SCULPIN

COAST RANGE SCULPIN

9 SPINE STICKLEBACK

3 SPINE STICKLEBACK

LONGNOSE SUCKER

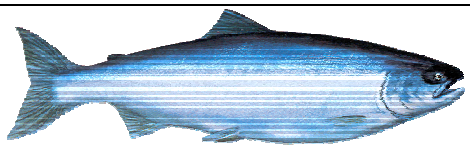
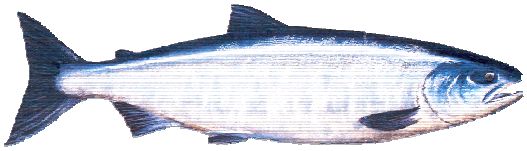
SALMON – Parr

Chinook	
Coho	
Sockeye	
Pink	
Chum	

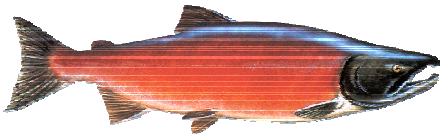
Trout - Parr

Rainbow	
Cutthroat	
Dolly Varden	
Arctic Char	

SALMON - Adult

Chinook	
Coho	
Sockeye	
Pink	
Chum	

SALMON – Adult Spawning

Chinook	
Coho	
Sockeye	
Pink	
Chum	

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