

COHO SALMON

Silver or hooknose



Qakiiyaq, Needlii, Qalugraug

Description: Greenish-blue back; silvery sides; small black spots along back, dorsal fin, and upper lobe of tail; broad tail base with silver radiating into tail; greenish-black heads and brown to maroon bodies; **hooked nose when spawning.**

Range: Southeast Alaska to Point Hope; most abundant July through September in marine waters, and through October in fresh waters.

Length: 24 to 38 inches.

CHUM SALMON

Dog



Teggmaarrluk, Iqalugruaq, Qalugruaq, Hii (Shii), Iqalluk

Description: Metallic greenish-gray back; yellowish-silver sides; no distinct spots; fine black speckles in ocean bright phase; **olive green and purple bars on sides with white edges on fins when spawning;** males develop **large, sharp teeth.**

Range: Wide distribution throughout coastal and marine and fresh waters from July through August. A distinct spring run and a fall run of chum are experienced in some areas.

Length: 24 to 32 inches.

“Out of all subsistence animals and everything that we take to eat, the one thing that is called ‘The Food’ is the fish. It’s the staple you know, the backbone of everything.”

Evelyn Thomas, Crooked Creek

CHINOOK SALMON

King



Taryaqvak, Iqalugruaq, Luk choo, Tagayukpuk

Description: Blue-grey back; silvery sides; small black spots along back, dorsal fin, and tail; **maroon to olive brown when spawning.**

Range: Southeast Alaska to the Yukon River; most abundant May through August in marine and fresh waters.

Length: 30 to 55 inches.



Division of Subsistence

Mission Statement:

To scientifically quantify, evaluate, and report information about customary and traditional uses of fish and wildlife resources.

The core services of the Division of Subsistence are to:

1. Research, quantify, and provide the resulting information to the public about customary and traditional uses by Alaskans of fish and wildlife resources.
2. Provide scientifically-based information for fisheries and wildlife management programs; and to Board of Fisheries and Board of Game for their use in evaluating reasonable opportunities for customary and traditional uses.

Photo credits: whitefish identification photos Randy Brown, USFWS; salmon identification and ocean phase photos ©1997-2005 Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW). Each WDFW salmon image is a reproduction of a Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife photo. The accuracy of the reproduction cannot be guaranteed by WDFW.

WATERPROOF GUIDE

Guide to Salmon and Whitefish in Alaska



Alida Trainor, ADF&G

This field guide will help you to identify all species of salmon, whitefish, and sheefish present in Alaska. Species accounts include English and some Alaska Native names, descriptions, color photos, ranges, and more!



ADF&G

Division of Subsistence

© 2015 Alaska Department of Fish & Game

www.subsistence.adfg.state.ak.us

ADF&G complies with OEO requirements as posted at <http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=home.oekomstatement>

HUMPBACK WHITEFISH

*Pikuktuuq, Cingiikegleq
Qaalgiq, Neeghan*



Description: Small head; wide body from stomach to backbone; silver-colored with large scales.

Range: All drainages north of the Alaska Range; Copper and Susitna rivers; Bristol Bay drainages.

Length: Up to 22 inches.

SHEEFISH Inconnu

*Cii, Ciiq, Sii,
Siigruaq, Nidlagha,
Shryah, Sresr*



Description: Strong extended lower jaw; streamlined silvery body; darker colored back; often displays a phosphorescent purple sheen when taken from the water.

Range: Wide distribution; most abundant in the Yukon and Kuskokwim river drainages and in Selawik and Kobuk drainages of Kotzebue Sound.

Length: 16 to 30 inches.

LEAST CISCO

*Iqalusaaq, lituliq
Qalusraaq, Ch'ootsik,
Tsabagha*



Description: Slender and herring-like; lower jaw projects beyond the upper; adults brown to olive green above and silvery below.

Range: North of the Alaska Range; south to the Bristol Bay drainage.

Length: Up to 14 inches.

BROAD WHITEFISH

*Taasiza, Aanaakliq,
Qausriluk, Tilay,
Chiishoo, Qaurtuq*



Description: Silver-colored with large scales; can be distinguished from humpback whitefish by its size, deeper head, shorter gillrakers, and short, blunt snout.

Range: Yukon and Kuskokwim drainages; nearshore waters of the Bering and Chukchi seas; Arctic Ocean drainages.

Length: 16 inches.

ROUND WHITEFISH

*Quptik, Tilagha
Savigunnaq, Khaltai',
Cev'eq*



Description: Rounded cigar-shaped body with tiny, pointed snout and single nasal flap; upper jaw extends over the lower so the mouth is below.

Range: Throughout most of Alaska.

Length: Up to 16 inches.

BERING CISCO

*Tiipuq, Imapinraq,
Tipuk, Iltin*



Description: Distinguishable from the least cisco by smaller eyes and scales, more silver color, white pectoral and pelvic fins, mouth at the tip of the body.

Range: Bering Sea drainages of the Seward Peninsula; Cook Inlet; Norton Sound; Yukon, Kuskokwim, and Susitna rivers.

Length: 17 inches.

PINK SALMON Humpback



*Terteq, Cuqpeq,
Pikuktuuq, Amaqtuq,
Neeghan, Hoolaahga*



Description: Blue back; silvery sides; large spots on back; oval blotches on tail lobes; and small scales.

Dull grey back, creamy white belly when spawning; males also develop large, humped backs.

Range: Throughout the North Pacific, returning to Alaska from late June through mid-August.

Length: 15 to 24 inches.

SOCKEYE SALMON Red



*Cayak, Sayak,
Qalugraaq*



Description: Dark blue-black; silvery sides; may have fine pepper-like speckling; relatively large eyes; **brilliant dark red when spawning.**

Range: Throughout the North Pacific and Arctic oceans; abundant from late June to early August, but timing may vary greatly in certain areas.

Length: 18 to 24 inches.

