

Pink

Dorsal Fin



Also known as: Humpy, Humpback

Scientific Name: *Oncorhynchus gorbuscha*

Average Weight: 3.5-5 lbs, up to 12 lbs

Length at Maturity: 20-25 inches

Status in Puget Sound: not listed as threatened or endangered

Pink Life Cycle:

- Pink mature and return to spawn in late June-October when they are two years old. Because of the two year cycle, specific populations will have adults returning in odd years or even years, but not both.
- After juveniles hatch, they migrate directly to sea making virtually no use of freshwater for growth. Therefore, Pink salmon can spawn at very high densities because food, rather than space for growing juveniles, limits the density of juveniles in streams.
- Pink salmon spend roughly one and a half years at sea before returning to spawn at two years of age.

Habitat Needs:

- Tend to spawn closer to the mouth of the river than other species. May spawn in the mouth of the river, or the intertidal zone if enough fresh water is present.

Interesting Information:

- Most abundant salmon species and the smallest at maturity.
- In Washington State, Pink salmon return only in odd numbered years.
- Male pink salmon will develop a pronounced hump on their back when they mature.