

FISH CREEK CHUMS



Fish Creek Chum Salmon

From July to September, the largest chum salmon (*Oncorhynchus keta*) in North America return to spawn in Fish Creek. These chums can be twice as big as other chum salmon. Some weigh as much as a young child.



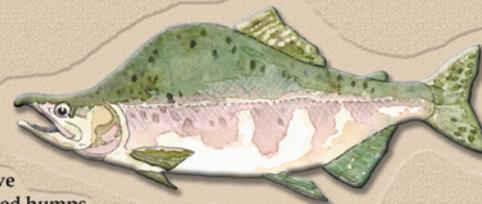
Chums are dirty red on the side and dusky below with irregular purplish green bands on the side (especially males). There are no distinct black spots.

spawning colors

Males have elongated, hooked jaws and enlarged teeth during spawning.

Fish Creek Pink Salmon

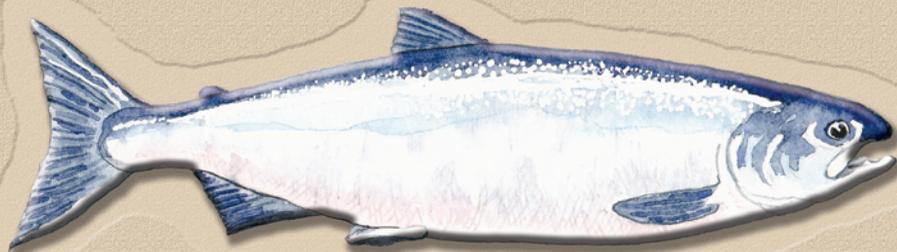
Weighing up to four pounds, pink salmon (*Oncorhynchus gorbuscha*) are the smallest, but most abundant, of the Pacific salmon. They return from late July through early September to share the creek with chums. While in Fish Creek, they lay up to 2,000 eggs in redds, or nests.



Males have pronounced humps and elongated hooked snouts during spawning.

spawning colors

Pinks are dark on the back and red with brownish green blotches on the side. Large oval black spots occur on the upper body and on both lobes of the tail.



ocean-going colors

Fish Creek chum salmon

- 30–40 inches (77–102 cm)
- 15–40 pounds (7–18 kg)

Average chum salmon

- 23 inches (59 cm)
- 13 pounds (6 kg)

State and federal biologists continue to study Fish Creek chum salmon to better understand and manage activities that might affect this unique population.



ocean-going colors

Average pink salmon

- 18 inches (46 cm)
- 4 pounds (2 kg)



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