



THANKS TO THE  
OREGON DEPARTMENT OF  
FISH AND WILDLIFE  
"STREAM SCENE"  
CURRICULUM

Length of life cycle varies with species and conditions

**SALMON HANDOUT 4.3**

**Table 1. WHERE ARE THE SALMON, WHEN?**  
 Generalized Life History Patterns of Salmon, Steelhead, and Trout in the Pacific Northwest

	ADULTS RETURN TO STREAMS FROM OCEAN	SPAWNING LOCATION	EGGS IN GRAVEL	YOUNG IN STREAM	FRESH WATER HABITAT	YOUNG MIGRATE DOWNSTREAM	TIME IN ESTUARY	TIME IN OCEAN	ADULT WEIGHT (average) English(Metric)
<b>COHO</b>	Sept.-Jan	coastal streams shallow tributaries	Sept.-May	1+ years	tributaries, main stem side channels, and slack water	Mar-Jul (2 <sup>nd</sup> year)	few days to one month	2 years	5-20 lb (8)
<b>CHUM</b>	Sept.-Jan	coastal rivers and streams, lower reaches	Sept-Mar	days-weeks	little time spent in freshwater	shortly after young leave gravel	7-14 days	2.5-3 years	8-12 lb. (10)
<b>CHINOOK</b> Spring run Summer run Fall run	Jan. - July Jun-mid Aug Aug. - Nov.	main stem-large and small rivers	Jul-Jan Sept-Nov Sept-Mar	1+ years 1+ years 3-7 months	main stem-large and small rivers	Dec - Mar. (2 <sup>nd</sup> year) Spring (2 <sup>nd</sup> year) Dec. - Mar (2 <sup>nd</sup> year)	days-months	2-5 years	10-20 lb. (15) 10-30 lb. (14) 15-40 lb.
<b>CUTTHROAT</b> (Coastal-Sea Run)	Jul-Dec	tiny tributaries of coastal streams	Dec-Jul	1-3 years (2 avg)	tributaries	Mar-Jun (of 2 <sup>nd</sup> -4 <sup>th</sup> yr)	days-months	0.5-1 year	0.5-4 lb (1)
<b>PINK</b>	Jul-Oct	main stem of streams, tributaries, and lower reaches	Aug.-Jan	days-weeks	little time spent in freshwater	Dec-May	few days	1.5 years	3-10 lb (4)
<b>SOCKEYE</b>	Jul-Aug	streams, usually near lakes	Aug.-Apr	1-3 years	lakes	Apr-Jun (of 2 <sup>nd</sup> -4 <sup>th</sup> yr)	few days	1-4 years	3-8 lb (6)
<b>STEELHEAD</b>									
<b>Winter run</b>	Oct-Jun	tributaries and small and mid-size streams and rivers	Feb-Jul	1-3 years	tributaries	Mar-Jun (of 2 <sup>nd</sup> - 5 <sup>th</sup> yr) Spring & Summer (of 3 <sup>rd</sup> - 4 <sup>th</sup> yr) Mar-Jun (of 3 <sup>rd</sup> - 5 <sup>th</sup> yr) Mar-Jun (of 2 <sup>nd</sup> - 5 <sup>th</sup> yr)	less than a month	1-4 years	5-28 lb (8)
<b>Summer run</b>	Jun-Oct (Columbia) Apr-Nov (Coastal)		Dec-May Feb-Jun Feb-Jul	1-2 years 1-2 years 1-3 years					5-20 lb 5-30 lb (8)

Adapted by Pacific State Marine Fisheries commission. Sources: Ocean Ecology of North Pacific Salmonids, Bill Pearcy, University of Washington Press, 1992. Fisheries Handbook of Engineering Requirements and Biological Criteria, Milo Bell, U.S. Army corps of Engineers, 1986; Adopting A Stream, A Northwest Handbook, Steve Yates, Adopt-A Stream Foundation, 1988.