

Oncorhynchus tshawytscha

Chinook salmon



CONICET
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MARINE-COASTAL EXOTIC SPECIES GUIDE FOR ARGENTINA

DESCRIPTION

Photo: www.7wallpapers.net

- Elongated and laterally flattened fish of up to 60 Kg.
- Dorsal dark color that turns into light silver towards the ventral area, with black dots mostly above the lateral line.
- Silver tail densely covered with black dots.
- Inside the mouth and tongue black.



Typical color and shape of the Chinook salmon ocean-phase.



Up to 150 cm large.



Photo: Laura Wolinski

HABITAT

It spends most of its life (up to 9 years) in estuarine and open sea waters up to 400 m deep. It can swim across thousands of kilometers in sea, brackish and freshwater. It prefers temperatures of 8 °C to 12 °C.

Adult showing the typical color, deformed jaw and dorsal bump of spawning river-phase.

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SIMILAR SPECIES

- *Oncorhynchus mykiss*: Exotic. Smaller (25 Kg) and tail more square than *O. tshawytscha*, with black dots scattered on the sides and a pale purple lateral band.
- *Salmo trutta*: Exotic. Smaller (50 Kg) and less tolerant to high salinity than *O. tshawytscha*. Pointy head and black dots above and below the lateral line but rare on tail.

INVASIVE STATUS

Native to the west coast of North America. Deliberately introduced to South America in 1904, followed by multiple voluntary and accidental introduction events in many rivers and lakes. Currently present along the Atlantic coast of Patagonia.

IMPACT ON NATIVE COMMUNITIES

This species is a voracious predator of insects, fish, cephalopods, crustaceans and other invertebrates, capable of exerting a negative impact on native biodiversity. It can alter the nutrient flow in invaded ecosystems when large numbers of dead individuals accumulate at the end of each breeding season in the headwaters. It is also vector of fish diseases.

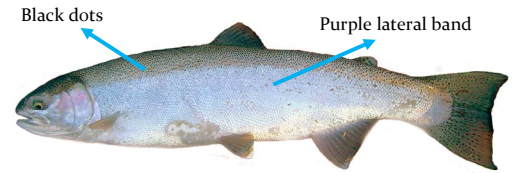


Photo: Internet.

Oncorhynchus mykiss, ocean-phase.

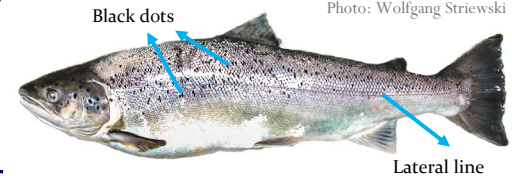


Photo: Wolfgang Striewski

Salmo trutta, ocean-phase.

CONTACT US

This guide has been developed by the Grupo de Ecología en Ambientes Costeros (GEAC), from CENPAT (CONICET). If you find this species outside the reported areas, please contact us and let us know the date, locality, approximate number of individuals and, if possible, send us a picture:

 especiesexoticasarg@gmail.com

 Grupo de Ecología en Ambientes Costeros (GEAC)