

Coho



Also known as: Silver

Scientific Name: *Oncorhynchus kisutch*

Average Weight: 6-12 lbs, up to 35 lbs

Size at Maturity: 24-38 inches

Status in Puget Sound: listed as a species of concern

Coho Life Cycle:

- Mature adults return to spawn from August-October.
- Coho spawn in small streams with consistent water flow that are often not used by other salmon species.
- Juvenile Coho typically live in streams for 1-2 years then head straight to the ocean without spending time in the estuary.
- Most Coho will spend one year at sea, but some spend two years.

Habitat Needs:

- Small streams with cool, unobstructed water flow and small to medium size gravel.
- Estuary conditions are not as important for Coho since they spend little time there.

Interesting Information:

- Spawning males develop a strongly hooked snout and large teeth.
- Some males will return to spawn after only a few months at sea.
- Some populations will spend their entire lives in lakes and never go to the ocean.
- Some extinct population are believed to have migrated hundreds of miles inland to spawn in the upper reaches of the Snake River in Idaho and the Columbia River in Washington.