

Chum



Also known as: Dog, Keta, Calico, Silverbrite

Scientific Name: *Oncorhynchus keta*

Average Weight: 9-15 lbs, up to 45 lbs

Length at Maturity: 25-40 inches

Status in Puget Sound: Hood Canal summer run is listed as threatened.

Chum Life Cycle

- Adults migrate and spawn between November and January.
- Upon hatching, juvenile chum will almost immediately migrate to the estuarine and ocean waters.
- Chum will grow and mature in the ocean for 3-5 years before returning to their home stream (60-90% mature at 4 years)

Habitat

- Chum spawn in the lower reaches of rivers and streams, often near streams. They will rarely spawn farther than 62 miles from the ocean.
- Since Chum do not spend much time in freshwater, the condition of the estuarine and marine waters is much more important for their development than the freshwater.

Interesting Information

- Most abundant wild salmon in Washington state and second largest Pacific salmon
- Unlike other salmon, chum form schools.
- Spawning males have large, almost canine-like, fangs.