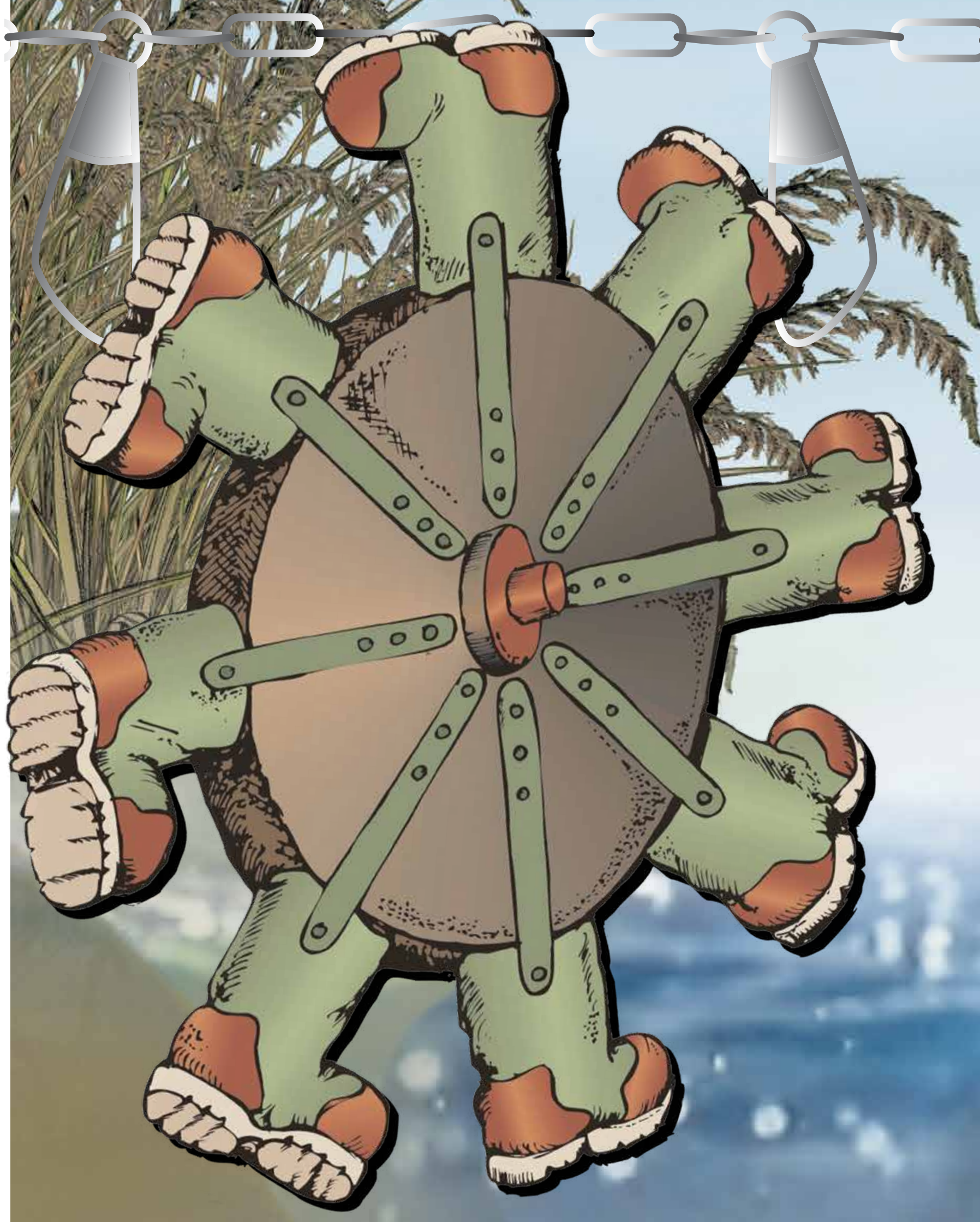


# What's on Your Line?

Ocean-bright salmon look similar to each other, but all five species of Pacific salmon are found here and must be properly identified if caught.

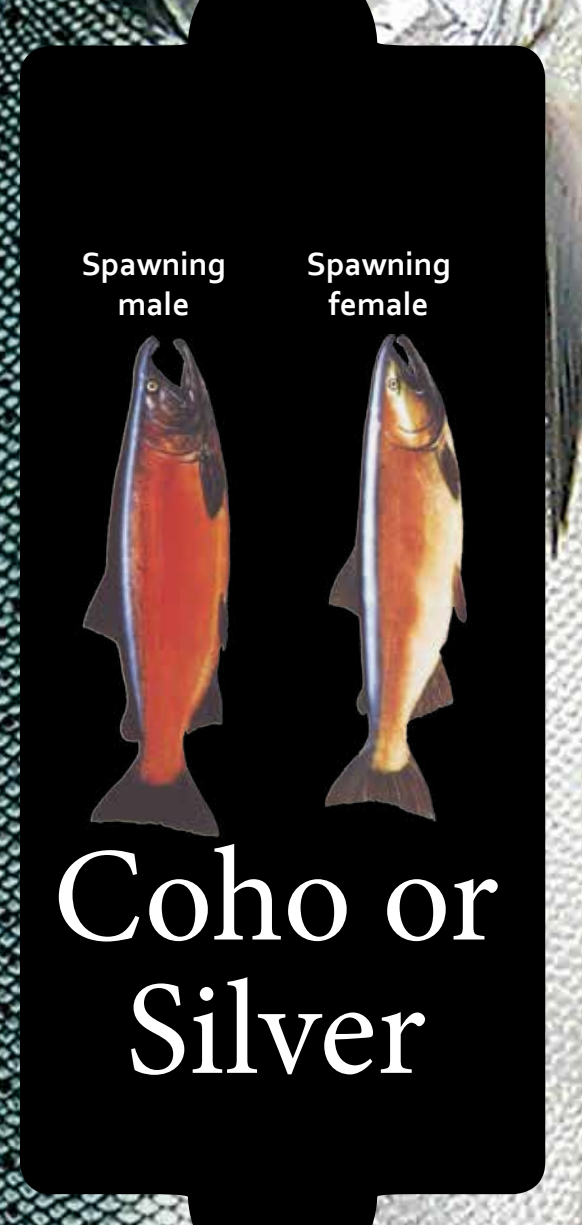


Fewer Plants  
↓  
More Mud  
↓  
Fewer Fish

## Homecoming

Salmon travel thousands of miles to return to the place of their birth. When they arrive, they will need a riverbank with lots of plants and a pebbly-bottomed stream with cool, clear-flowing water. This is perfect for salmon to make nest-like redds and lay thousands of eggs—some of which will grow into the full-sized adults that you are here to catch!

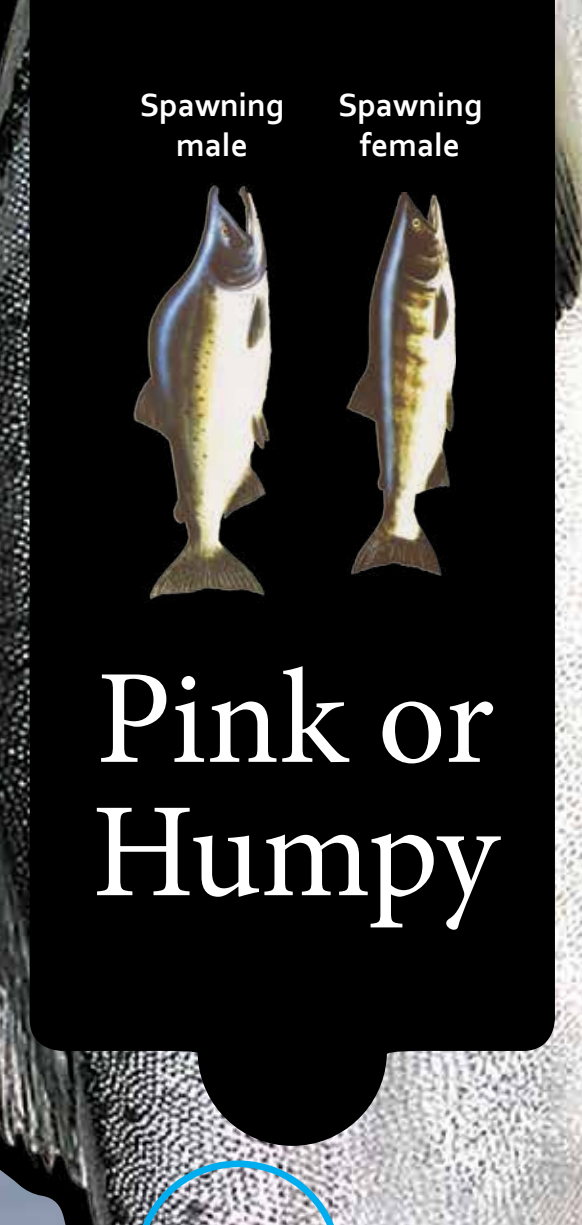
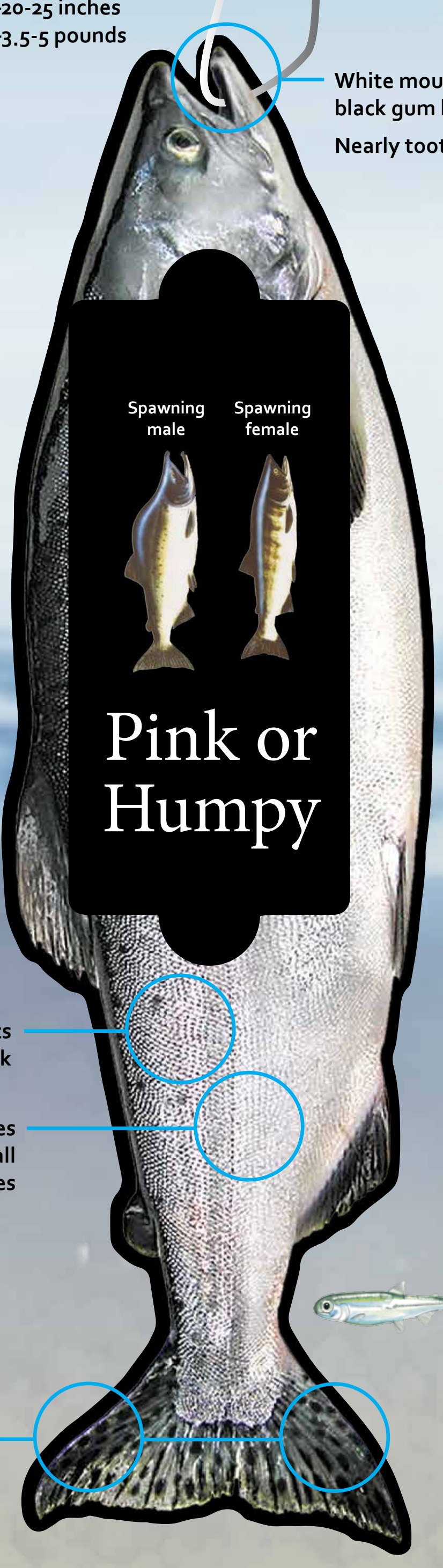
**Extra clue:** Spawning salmon develop greenish-black heads and brown to maroon bodies.  
**Averages:**  
Length—24-30 inches  
Weight—8-12 pounds



**Coho or Silver**

Light mouth with whitish gum line  
Medium-sized teeth

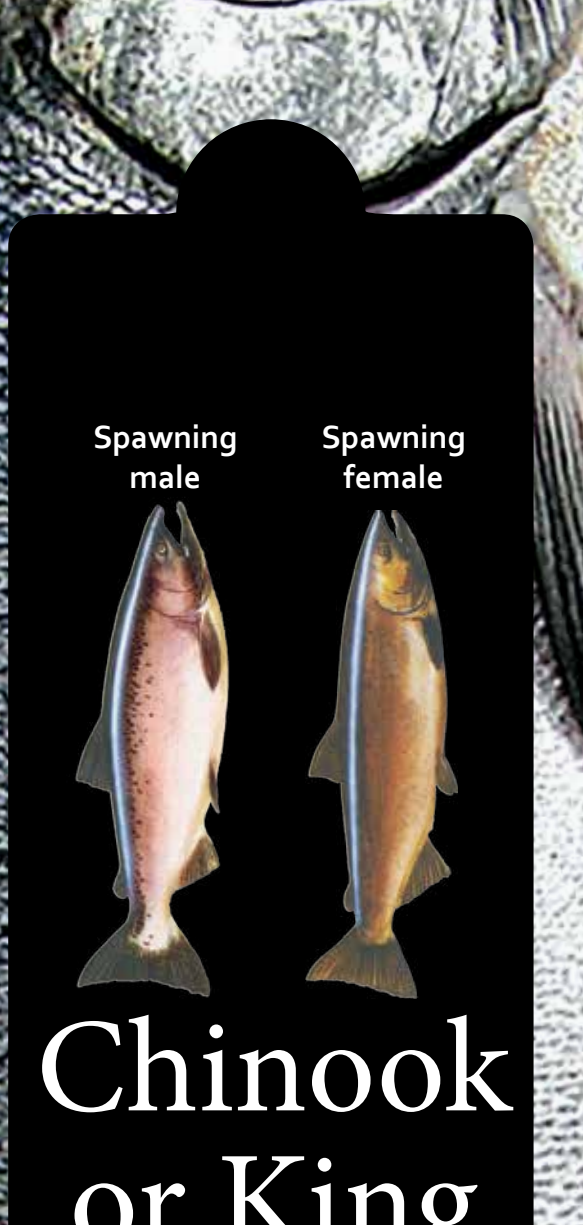
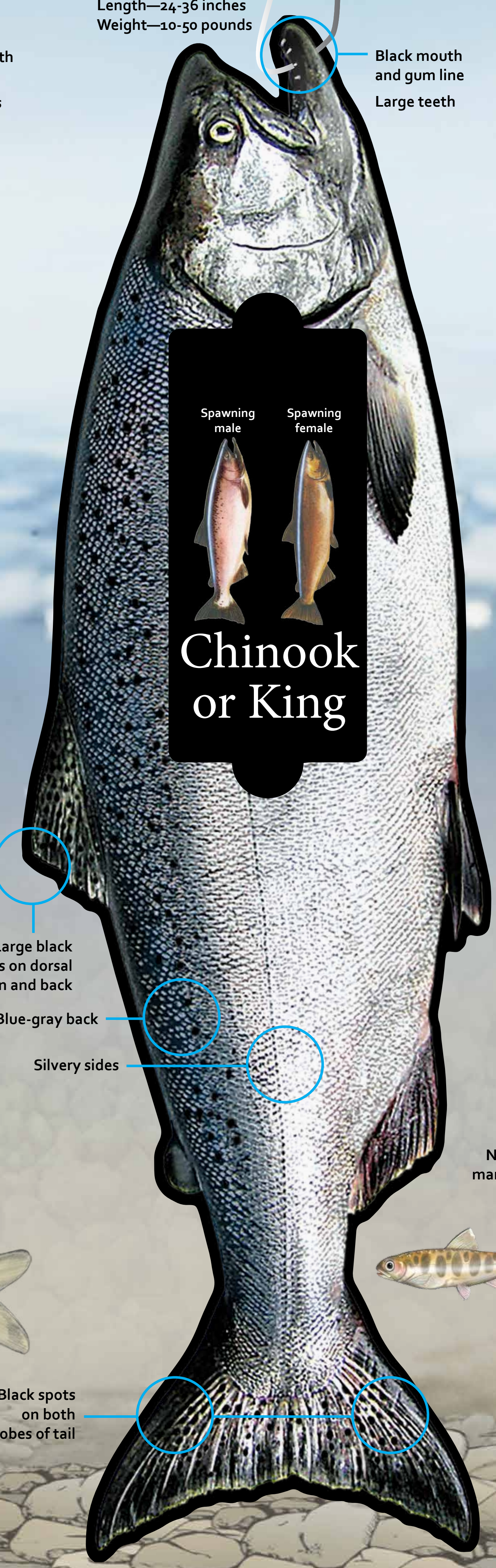
**Extra clue:** Spawning salmon turn gray with creamy undersides. Males develop a back hump.  
**Averages:**  
Length—20-25 inches  
Weight—3.5-5 pounds



**Pink or Humpy**

White mouth with black gum line  
Nearly toothless

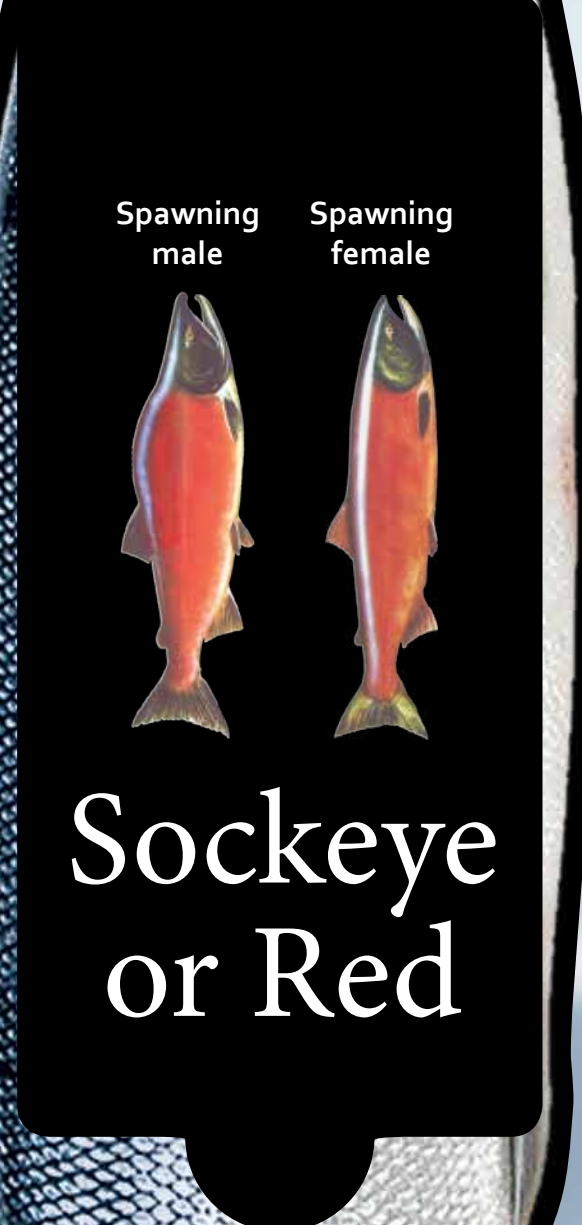
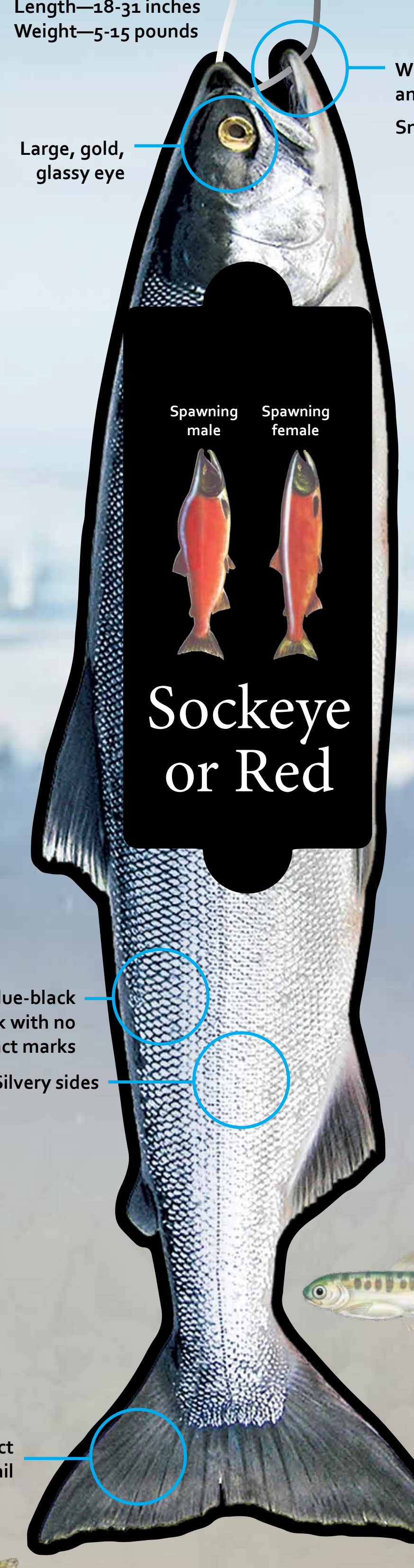
**Extra clue:** Spawning salmon turn maroon to red.  
**Averages:**  
Length—24-36 inches  
Weight—10-50 pounds



**Chinook or King**

Black mouth and gum line  
Large teeth

**Extra clue:** Spawning salmon have green heads; bodies turn red.  
**Averages:**  
Length—18-31 inches  
Weight—5-15 pounds



**Sockeye or Red**

White mouth and gum line  
Small teeth

**Extra clue:** Spawning salmon turn olive-green and maroon with irregular red bars. Males grow large teeth.  
**Averages:**  
Length—24-28 inches  
Weight—10-13 pounds

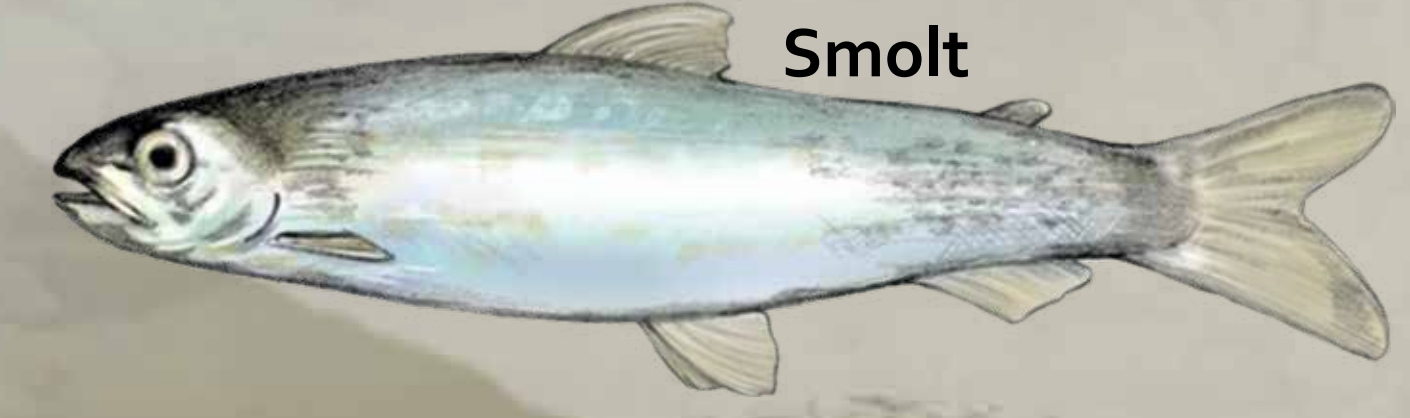


**Chum or Dog**

White mouth and gum line  
Well-developed teeth

## Costly Mistake

Misidentifying a fish can add up to an expensive fishing trip! Test your salmon identification skills using these clues.



Smolt



Fry

Eyed eggs

Alevins

Eggs in redd

Spawning adults look for clear water that is not muddied by a trampled bank where they can lay and fertilize their eggs.

