



Iascach Intíre Éireann
Inland Fisheries Ireland

Pink salmon

Oncorhynchus gorbuscha

Non-native Fish Species Alert!



Anglers and commercial fishers who encounter pink salmon in river systems are requested to contact us immediately and record:

- date and location of capture,
- length and weight of the fish,
- and take a photograph.



info@fisheriesireland.ie ☎ 01 8842600
To report any sightings of pink salmon please contact
☎ 0818 34 74 24





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What are pink salmon?

Pink or humpback salmon are a migratory species of salmon, native to river systems in the northern Pacific Ocean and adjacent regions of the Bering Sea and Arctic Ocean. Outside of its native range, the species has established self-sustaining populations in rivers in northern Norway and in the far northwest of Russia. These populations are believed to have originated from stocking programmes undertaken in this part of Russia in the second half of the 20th century.

Potential reoccurrence of pink salmon in Ireland

The recent occurrences of pink salmon in Ireland biennially since 2017 have been unprecedented, with fish recorded in a number of river systems throughout the country. Previous to this, pink salmon were rarely recorded here. With a typical two-year lifecycle, there is potential for pink salmon to re-occur particularly in odd-years (e.g. 2025, 2027) and anglers and commercial fishers are asked to be vigilant to this.

Identification of pink salmon

- Adult fish fresh from the sea are blue-green to steel blue on the back, with silver sides and a white underbelly
- Typical length range: 40–55 cm (maximum 76 cm)
- Typical weight range: 1.0–2.5 kg (maximum 6.8 kg)
- Males develop a pronounced humpback in freshwater
- Large black oval spots on tail
- Very small scales, much smaller than a similarly-sized Atlantic salmon
- Upper jaw typically extends beyond eye
- Anal fin rays: 11-19. Atlantic salmon have 7-11 rays
- No dark spots on gill cover

Dead specimens may be encountered along rivers, as these fish die after spawning