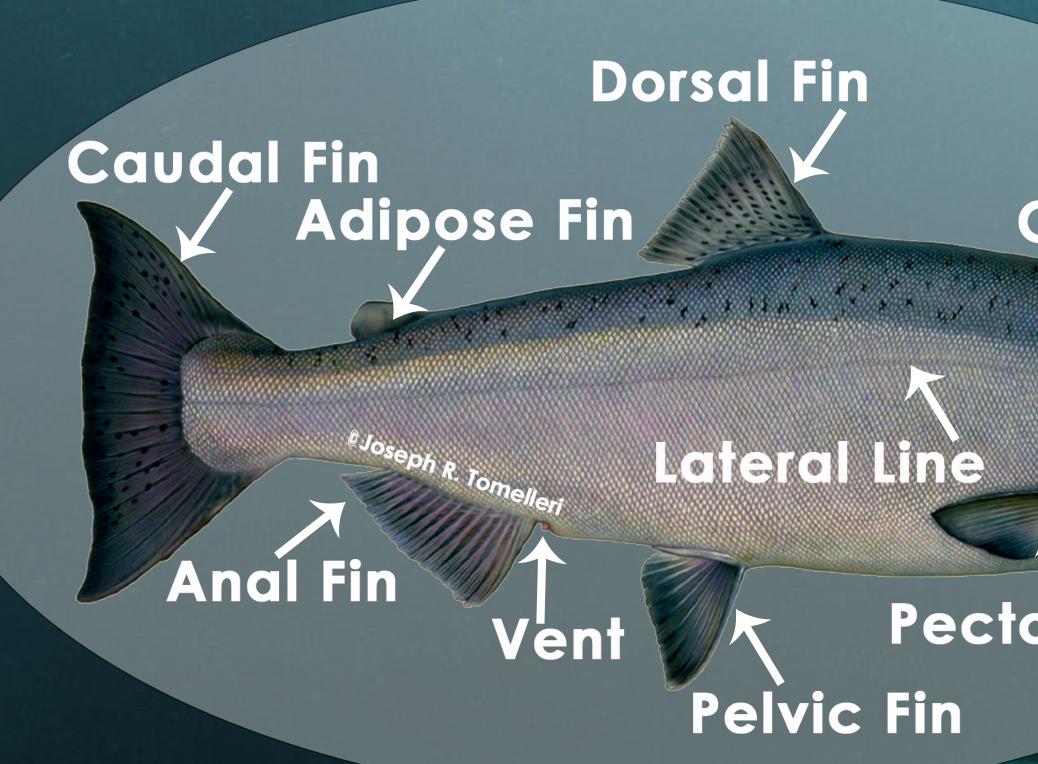
Salmon in the Classroom

Hundreds of classrooms around the state raise Chinook salmon - from eggs to smolt - then release them in the spring. The Salmon in the Classroom program is run by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources.

Chinook salmon

Salmon were introduced to the Great Lakes in the 1960s from fish native to the Pacific Northwest. Not only did they suddenly provide an excellent sportsfishery, but they also helped to control invasive alewive populations. Currently there are Atlantic salmon, and 3 Pacific salmon species in the Great Lakes - Chinook, coho and pink.



Raising the young salmon encourages students to think about conservation, and creates a connection between caring for their fish in the classroom, and caring for their local environment.

Operculum

Pectoral Fin

Spawning Phase Darker color. Returns to river in early fall to spawn and die

> Lake Phase Silver coloration Feeds in Great Lakes for 1.5 to 3.5 years

Chinook salmon are a charismatic educational tool. They grow fast, get large, and do well in captivity. Their lifecycle also perfectly lines up with the school year. Parents, local businesses, sports groups and non-profits sponsor tanks in classrooms around the state.

To learn more visit michigan.gov/SIC



Sac Fry (Alevin) Hatch in early winter Feed off yolk sac

Chinook Salmon Lifecycle

Parr Feeds in rivers in spring

Smolf Moves downstream into lake in summer