Salmon Trollers fish for Chinook or Coho salmon by towing lures or baited hooks through the water. Fishing lines are attached to a pair of outriggers (trolling poles). When lowered, the outriggers hold the fishing lines away from the boat.

Trolling is a hook and line fishery, and does not use nets. It allows fishermen to target specific species that are found at certain depths, thereby reducing bycatch of other fishes.

In Oregon, the trolling season usually occurs from April through October. The salmon are caught one at a time, immediately cleaned, and packed on ice.

When they return to port, the fish are delivered to a processor for shipping preparation and distribution, or sold directly to restaurants and markets. Some fishermen also have permits to sell fresh fish to the public from their boat.

Salmon Fishery Management

Salmon fishing is regulated by state and federal managers. Each year, open seasons and quotas are established by estimating the number of adults that will return to their native stream to reproduce. This policy helps ensure that the harvest of the resource is balanced with long term sustainability.

Chinook salmon, Oncorhynchus tshawytscha, are the largest of the Pacific salmon. On average, adult Chinook salmon grow to a length of 3 feet and weigh 15-30 pounds.

Coho salmon, Oncorhynchus kisutch, look very similar to Chinook salmon with a few subtle differences. Coho salmon have white gums, while Chinook salmon have black gums. Coho salmon have black spots on the top half of their tail fin, and Chinook salmon have black spots throughout the whole tail fin.