

# FISH IDENTIFICATION



**NO HARVEST ALLOWED**

## BULL TROUT

Olive green with brown above and on sides, shading to white on belly. Lacks wormlike markings as in BROOK TROUT. Upper body with yellow spots, sides with red or orange spots. No bluish halos around spots and white borders on fins less distinct than in BROOK TROUT. Tail is slightly forked. NATIVE. *Illustration by Joseph Tomelleri.*

## CUTTHROAT TROUT

Red to orange slashes on underside of lower jaw. Body color variable. Back steel gray to olive green. Sides may be yellow brown with red or pink along belly. Spotting more closely grouped toward tail. May spawn in wild with rainbow. NATIVE. *Illustration by Joseph Tomelleri.*

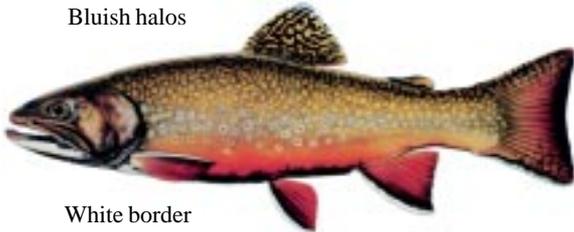


## RAINBOW TROUT

Body color variable. May be silvery in lakes and reservoirs. Back olive to greenish blue, belly white to silvery. Sides may show red or pink streak, white tip on pelvic (belly) and anal fin usually evident. Irregular spots on back, sides, head, dorsal fin and tail. NATIVE. *Illustration by Joseph Tomelleri.*



Bluish halos



White border

## BROOK TROUT

Dark green or blue black on back, to white on belly. Belly and lower fins may turn brilliant red in spawning males. Upper body and dorsal fin with mottled or wormlike markings. Sides with pale spots and reddish spots which may have bluish rings around them. Lower fins, including tail, have distinct white leading edge. Tail square, or only slightly forked. INTRODUCED. *Illustration by Joseph Tomelleri.*

## HYBRID CUTTHROAT/RAINBOW TROUT

Some regulations have been modified to allow harvest of trout hybrids. Anglers should use the following guidelines to differentiate hybrids from cutthroat.

**General:** Cutthroat/rainbow trout hybrids display variable color and markings, representing a range of shared characteristics from rainbow and cutthroat trout. All hybrids show spotting patterns similar to rainbow trout with spots more evenly distributed from head to tail and above and below the lateral line.

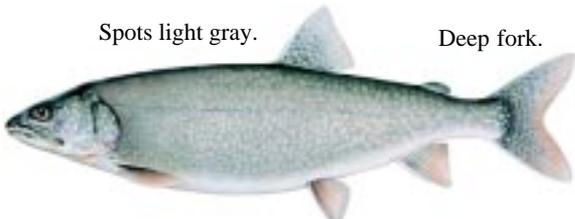
### All drainages north of, and including the Salmon River:

Westslope cutthroat/rainbow hybrids show a red or orange slash under the jaw that is incomplete and faint in coloration.

**Snake River Drainage:** Yellowstone cutthroat/rainbow trout hybrids in the Snake River drainage are identified by the presence of white fin tips.

Spots light gray.

Deep fork.



## LAKETROUT (MACKINAW)

Dark gray or gray green above, belly light gray to white. Irregular shaped light gray spots on back, sides, dorsal fin and tail. Pink or blue spots ABSENT. White borders on fins less distinct than in BROOK TROUT. Tail deeply forked. Inhabits only large, deep lakes. INTRODUCED. *Illustration by Joseph Tomelleri.*

Spots over most of body and head

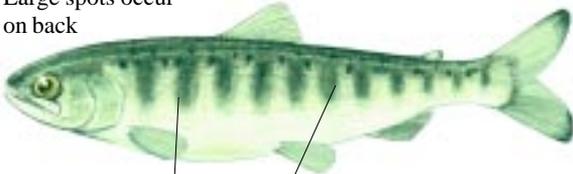


red or orange slash

white fin tips  
(South Fork Snake River)

**JUVENILE CHINOOK SALMON**

Large spots occur on back



Parr marks are large, oblong shapes

Tail fin is forked and usually tipped in black.

**NO HARVEST ALLOWED IN ANADROMOUS WATERS**



**ADULT STEELHEAD**

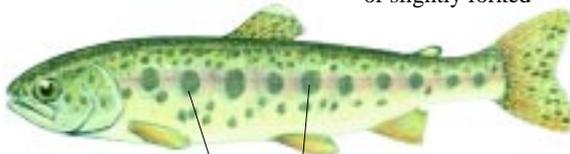
Adults generally 20-40 inches in length. Irregularly shaped black spots on back, dorsal fin and tail. STEELHEAD are ocean-run rainbow which spawn in Snake, Clearwater and Salmon drainages; juveniles migrate to the ocean, return as adults after 1-2 years. NATIVE. See pages 61-63.

*Illustration by Joseph Tomelleri.*

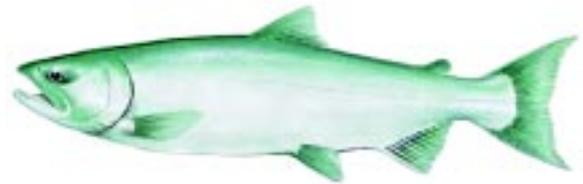
**JUVENILE RAINBOW TROUT/STEELHEAD**

Dorsal fin has distinct, black-pigmented spots

Tail fin is square or slightly forked



Parr marks almost round



**KOKANEE (Blueback)**

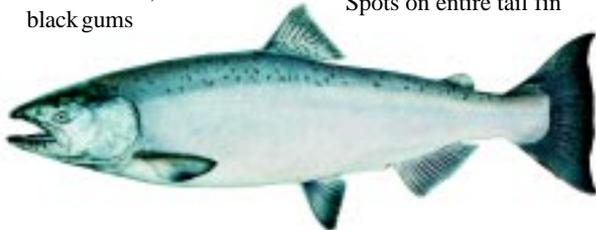
Back greenish blue with faint speckling and few if any spots. Sides and belly silvery. No distinct spotting in dorsal fin or tails as in RAINBOW. During spawning (September-December in both streams and shoreline gravels), bodies become 'leathery' and turn dark red to bright scarlet and heads dusky green. Spots are visible on the back half of the fish when in spawning coloration. Kokanee are native to the Payette lakes and the Stanley Basin lakes and have been established in other large lakes and reservoirs throughout the state. NATIVE.

**ADULT CHINOOK SALMON**

Adults generally 18-40 inches in length. Irregularly shaped black spots on back, dorsal fin and tail. Teeth well developed. Black mouth and gum line. Adults return to Snake, Salmon and Clearwater rivers to spawn after 1-3 years at sea. Juveniles migrate to ocean after 18 months in streams. NATIVE. See pages 64-65. *Illustration by Joseph Tomelleri.*

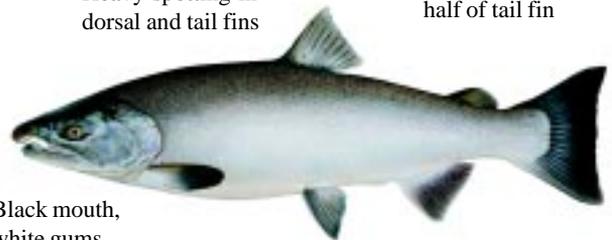
Black mouth, black gums

Spots on entire tail fin



Heavy spotting in dorsal and tail fins

Spots only on upper half of tail fin



Black mouth, white gums

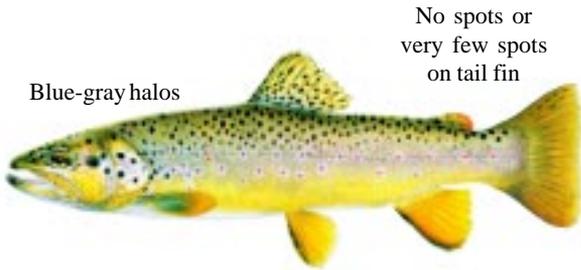
**COHO SALMON**

Appearance similar to kokanee with spotting on back, dorsal and upper lobe of tail fin. Sharp teeth on tongue and roof of mouth. 14-16 rays in anal fin. Can be confused with rainbow trout in reservoirs. Landlocked chinook salmon can be distinguished from coho by black inside of mouth and gums, while coho have white or gray gums. INTRODUCED.

*Illustration by Joseph Tomelleri.*

**BROWN TROUT**

Back brown or olive with large black spots. Sides light brown to yellowish with numerous brown, black and red spots surrounded by halos of blue gray. Adipose fin usually with orange border. Few, if any, spots on tail. Tail slightly forked. INTRODUCED. *Illustration by Joseph Tomelleri.*



**TIGER MUSKIE**

A sterile hybrid cross of a northern pike and a muskellunge. Olive green to dark gray color with VERTICAL MARKINGS on sides. INTRODUCED. *Illustration by Joseph Tomelleri.*

**MOUNTAIN WHITEFISH**

Color light grayish blue on back; silvery on sides; and dull whitish on belly. Small mouth without teeth. Five other species of whitefish are found in Idaho. NATIVE. *Illustration by Joseph Tomelleri.*



**NORTHERN PIKE**

Bluish-green to gray on back and sides with irregular rows of light-colored HORIZONTAL SPOTS on sides. INTRODUCED. *Illustration by Joseph Tomelleri.*

**WHITE STURGEON**

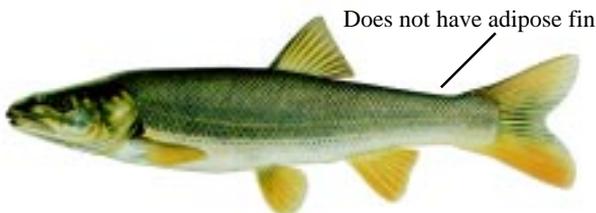
Five rows of bony plates or scutes; mouth directed downward; four barbels in front of mouth; size up to 10 feet in Snake, Salmon and Kootenai rivers. NATIVE. See page 65 for more information. *Illustration by Joseph Tomelleri.*



**NO HARVEST ALLOWED**

**NORTHERN PIKEMINNOW** (formerly the northern squawfish)

Body color has a general yellowish tone, back is dark olive green, sides are grayish-silver, belly is yellowish-white. Tail fin is distinctly forked, the mouth is large. Fins without spots. NATIVE. *Illustration by Joseph Tomelleri.*



Bluegill



Black Crappie



White Crappie



**BLUEGILL and CRAPPIE**

Have spines in the dorsal fin. Bluegill have a blue spot on the gill cover, the back is olive to dark green with a bluish luster, sides are bluish, belly is yellowish. Crappie are grayish to silvery green on the head, with lighter sides and a silvery-white belly. Heavy black spotting or splotches on body and fins. INTRODUCED. *Illustrations by Joseph Tomelleri.*

**LARGEMOUTH BASS**

Dark green on back and sides, belly white. Dark, irregular HORIZONTAL band along sides. Upper jaw, when closed, extends behind the eye. INTRODUCED. *Illustration by Joseph Tomelleri.*

Horizontal band



Jaw beyond eye

**SMALLMOUTH BASS**

Dark olive to brown on back, sides bronze, belly white. Dark VERTICAL bands on sides. Eyes reddish. Upper jaw, when closed, does NOT EXTEND behind eye. INTRODUCED. *Illustration by Joseph Tomelleri.*

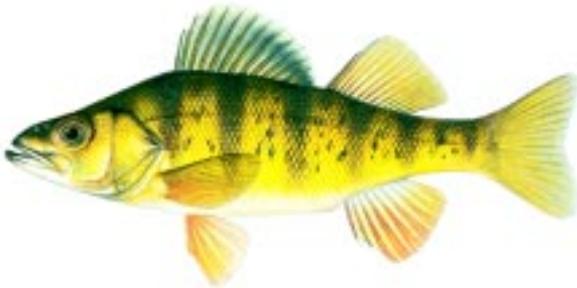
Vertical bands



Jaw not beyond eye

**YELLOW PERCH**

Dark green back and yellow sides with 6 to 8 dark vertical bars. Front fin has sharp spines and cheek has serrated edges. INTRODUCED. *Illustration by Joseph Tomelleri.*



**WALLEYE**

Closely related to the yellow perch, but lacks vertical bars and has prominent "canine" teeth. Lower lobe of tail fin is white tipped. INTRODUCED. *Illustration by Joseph Tomelleri.*



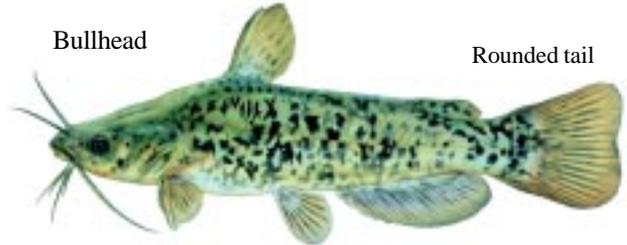
Channel catfish

Forked tail



Bullhead

Rounded tail



**CHANNEL CATFISH and BULLHEAD**

MEMBERS of the catfish family have 4 pairs of barbels (whiskers), spines on their dorsal and pectoral fins, and no scales. INTRODUCED. *Illustration by Joseph Tomelleri.*



**CHISELMOUTH**

Body color is dark grayish brown on back with lighter sides and a grayish white belly. Head is blunt, snout rounded, lower lip is curved with a hard cartilage that has a straight cutting edge (like a chisel). Average length 8-10 inches. Typically found in Snake River and impoundments from Boise to Lewiston. NATIVE. *Illustration by Joseph Tomelleri.*



**UTAH CHUB**

Body color is black to olive brown on back with yellowish sides and a silvery to white belly. Typically has a plump body and a small mouth. Average length 8-12 inches. Found in the Bear River and Upper Snake River drainage. NATIVE. *Illustration by Joseph Tomelleri.*