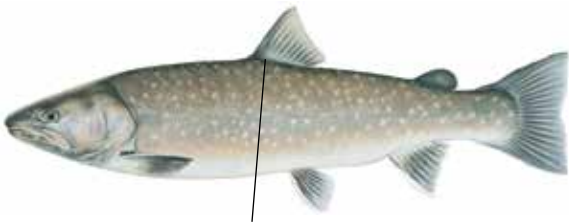
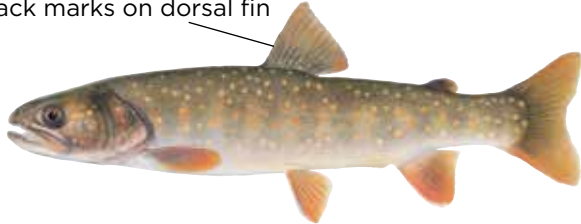


# FISH IDENTIFICATION

Illustrations © Joseph Tomelleri



No black marks on dorsal fin



## Bull Trout **No Harvest Allowed**

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.

Bluish halos

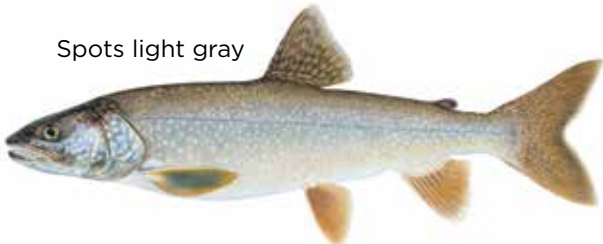


White border

## 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.

Spots light gray



## Lake Trout (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.



## 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. Three subspecies of cutthroat are native to Idaho



## Rainbow Trout

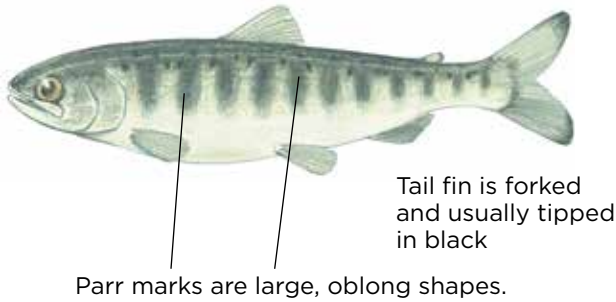
Body color variable. May be silvery in lakes and reservoirs. Back olive to greenish blue, belly white to silvery. Sides may show red or pink streak, white tip on pelvic (belly) and anal fin usually evident. Irregular spots on back, sides, head, dorsal fin and tail. Spots are more evenly distributed from head to tail on rainbow trout than Cutthroat Trout. NATIVE.



## Sockeye Salmon **No Harvest Allowed**

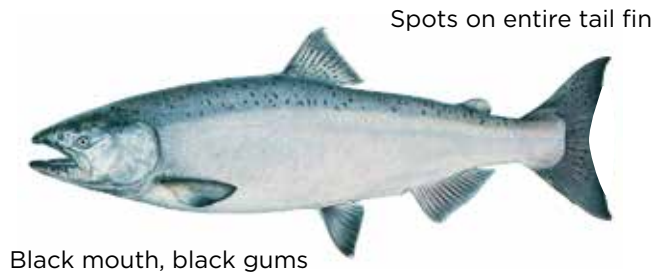
An anadromous (ocean going) relative of kokanee salmon. Non-spawning color is silver to steel blue. Males turn a bright red on the back and a darker red on the sides at spawning time. Females also turn red, but the red on the sides is somewhat darker. Sockeye typically spend two years in freshwater and one year in the ocean before returning to spawn in Idaho. NATIVE.

### Juvenile Chinook Salmon



Parr marks are large, oblong shapes.

**No Harvest Allowed  
In waters with ocean-going  
salmon or steelhead**



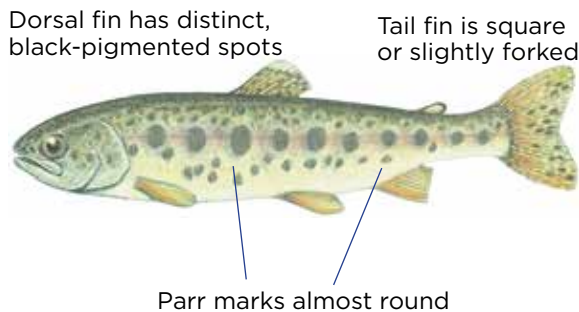
Spots on entire tail fin

Black mouth, black gums

### Adult Chinook Salmon

Adults 24-40 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.

### Juvenile Rainbow Trout/Steelhead



Dorsal fin has distinct, black-pigmented spots

Tail fin is square or slightly forked

Parr marks almost round



Spots on entire tail fin

White mouth, white gums

### Adult Steelhead

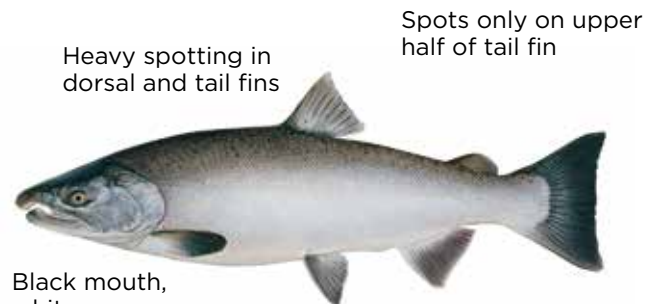
Adults generally 20-40 inches in length. Irregularly shaped black spots on back, dorsal fin and tail. STEELHEAD are ocean-run rainbow which spawn in Snake, Clearwater and Salmon drainages; juveniles migrate to the ocean, return as adults after 1-2 years. NATIVE. See Pages 41-46.



Spots only on upper half of tail fin

### Kokanee (Blueback)

Back greenish blue with faint speckling and few if any spots. Sides and belly silvery. Forked tail with large eye. Typically, 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.



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. Chinook salmon can be distinguished from coho by black inside of mouth and gums, while coho have white or gray gums. INTRODUCED.



### Tiger Trout

A hybrid or cross between a Brown Trout and Brook Trout. Very pronounced dark vermiculations (tiger like stripes) all over a brownish, gray body and dorsal fin. Adipose fin and tail with spots and/or vermiculations. INTRODUCED.

Blue-gray halos



No spots or very few spots on tail fin

**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.



**Burbot**

Commonly referred to as cod or ling and found in the Kootenia River basin. Burbot are streamlined, elongated fish with a wide flattened head and have one single barbel in center of lower jaw and very long secondary dorsal fin. No true spines in fins. Yellow light brown or tan with background color being overlain with dark brown or black lace-like pattern. NATIVE.



**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.



**White Sturgeon No Harvest Allowed**

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 54 for more information.



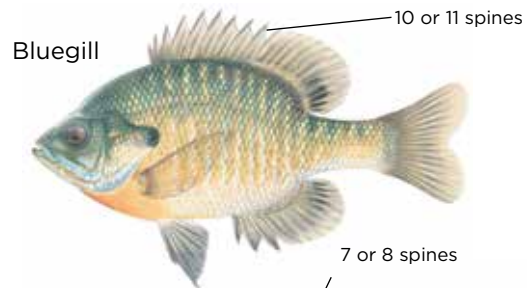
**Tiger Muskie**

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



**Northern Pike**

Bluish-green to gray on back and sides with irregular rows of light-colored HORIZONTAL SPOTS on sides. INTRODUCED.



Bluegill

Black Crappie



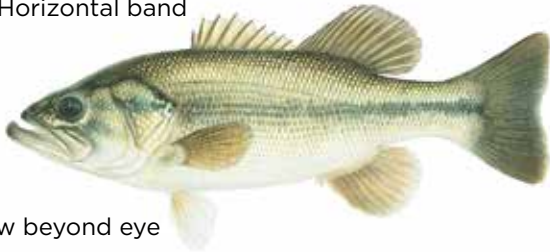
White Crappie



**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.

Horizontal band



Jaw beyond eye

**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.

Vertical bands



Jaw not 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.



**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.



**Sucker**

Eight species of suckers found in Idaho. Bronze, brown or grayish on back and sides; and white, cream or pale yellow color on belly. Breeding male in spring have rosy or dark stripe along sides. Long compressed torpedo shaped bodies. Short conical head with distinct down facing mouth with weak and fleshy lips, no teeth in mouth. Soft rayed dorsal fin. NATIVE.

Channel catfish



Forked tail

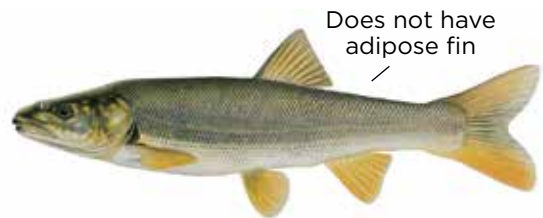
Bullhead



Rounded tail

**Channel Catfish and Bullhead**

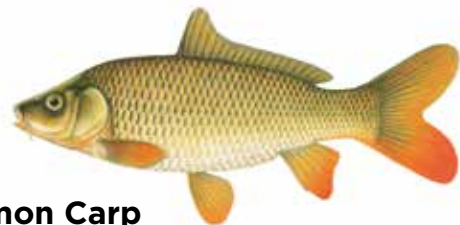
MEMBERS of the catfish family have 4 pairs of barbels (whiskers), spines on their dorsal and pectoral fins, and no scales. Bullheads in Idaho are normally a more solid brown. INTRODUCED.



Does not have adipose fin /

**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.



**Common Carp**

Deep bodied with triangular head, often large in size. Olive green to gold on the back and sides becoming yellow to pale yellow on belly. Paired barbels at margins of mouth, resemble a large goldfish. Aquarium koi are Common Carp bred for ornamental purposes. INTRODUCED.



**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.