

# About Trout

## Coastal Cutthroat Trout

(*Oncorhynchus clarki*)

Average size: 2-3 lbs, up to 17 lbs

Spring spawner



*Illustration by Joseph Tomelleri*

*Three varieties of Cutthroat trout are available to Washington and Oregon anglers. The most common is the Coastal Cutthroat, which includes both resident and anadromous--or sea-run--strains. Resident Coastal Cutthroat are found in many streams and beaver ponds. In some of these small waters they may grow no larger than 8 or 9 inches long.*

*Although there are variations among the subspecies (and among races within the subspecies), Cutthroats usually have greenish backs with yellow or silver sides showing many dark grey or black spots, and a slash of red on the lower jaw, which inspired its name. Where Cutthroats cross-breed with Rainbows, the rainbow's markings dominate, making hybrids difficult to distinguish from pure Rainbows.*

*Sea-Run Cutthroat spawn in many coastal tributary streams. While still thriving in some coastal river systems, many cutthroat populations have declined due to stream pollution and loss of small-stream habitat. Wild-cutthroat-release regulations and bait-fishing restrictions are now in effect on many Washington streams, so anglers should read the fishing regulations carefully before pursuing these eager biters.*

*Westslope Cutthroat are more common in eastern lakes and streams. They are also stocked in many high-country lakes. They can be caught on all standard trout lures and baits, but since their diet consists mostly of insects, fly-fishing is especially effective. Some bodies of water have special barbless hook and bait/lure regulations, so be sure to check the fishing regulations pamphlet.*

*Lahontan Cutthroat are relative newcomers, where they have been stocked in only a few highly alkaline, east-side lakes. Artificial flies, spoons, spinners and wobbling plugs all work well for these big cutthroats that have adapted to desert lakes.*