

HOW TO IDENTIFY TROUT AND OTHER SPECIES FOUND IN ALASKA

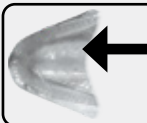
TROUT

RAINBOW TROUT



Green to bluish back with silvery to yellowish-green sides. Broad pinkish band along side and black spots on back, sides, and tail. Upper jaw usually does not extend past eye on adult.

STEELHEAD



White mouth with white gums at base of teeth on lower jaw.

California Department of Fish and Game

Sea-run rainbow trout with bluish-gray back and bright silvery sides. Slender body profile; 8-10 anal fin rays. Small black spots on back, sides, and tail. Pink/red coloration develops after returning to fresh water to spawn.

CUTTHROAT TROUT



Yellowish-green body with no pinkish band along sides. Many black spots on back, sides, and tail. Upper jaw extends well past eye on adults. Red to orange slash on underside of lower jaw.

ARCTIC GRAYLING



Light copper brown to dark purple back, fading to bluish-gray with black spots on sides. Very large dorsal fin with red and violet spots.

NORTHERN PIKE



Back and sides usually greenish with yellow-white spots. Head depressed forward with duck-like jaws containing many large, sharp teeth.

BURBOT



The only fresh water cod in North America. Slim mottled brownish-black body with smooth skin. Elongated dorsal and anal fins run from mid-body to tail. Flattened head with wide mouth and one barbel (whisker-like extension) hanging from its lower jaw.

CHAR

DOLLY VARDEN



Bluish gray or silver background with light spots (usually smaller than its pupil). No spots on head or tail. Easily confused with Arctic char, but Dolly Varden occur mainly in rivers, have a more squared-off tail, a more elongated head (especially spawning males), and a wider tail base than Arctic char. Pelvic and anal fins often have a white leading edge.

ARCTIC CHAR



Very difficult to distinguish from Dolly Varden. Arctic char are generally found in the Bristol Bay area and throughout western Alaska, and Dolly Varden are found on Kodiak Island, throughout the waters of southcentral and southeastern Alaska, and on the North Slope. Brown to olive background with light spots (usually larger than its pupil); sides fade to a pale belly.

LAKE TROUT



Dark green to grayish back and light silvery sides with oval or irregular white to yellowish spots. No other Alaskan char species has spots on face and tail. Lake trout also have deeply forked tails, unlike other char, and, although normally lake dwellers, they are sometimes found in northern Alaska rivers.