WHITEFISH

HUMPBACK WHITEFISH

Silver-gray with greenish yellow back and fleshy, darker fins. Large scales, small inferior mouth, no teeth. Pronounced dorsal hump just behind gills.



SHEEFISH (INCONNU)

The largest member of the whitefish family. Large jaws with the lower jaw extending beyond the upper. Silvery sides (no spots) and large, prominent, silvery scales. Tail is deeply forked.



LEAST CISCO

Light silver, slender, herring-like body with small head and small, superior mouth. Gray to olive-green back.



Greenish back and sides with vellowish white irregularshaped spots. Flattened head with alligator-like jaws containing many large, sharp teeth. Fins are tinged with orange.

ARCTIC GRAYLING



Light copper to dark purple back fading to bluish gray, with black spots from just behind the gill plate to mid-body. Orange stripes on pelvic fins. Large, sail-like dorsal fin with red and aqua to violet spots—iridescent on large fish. Dorsal fin of mature male extends to or past the adipose fin; female dorsal fin is considerably shorter.



RAINBOW TROUT

Green to bluish back with silvery to vellowish-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.



BURBOT

The only freshwater cod in North America. Slim, mottled brownish black body with smooth skin (scales are nearly microscopic). Elongated dorsal and anal fins run from mid-body to tail. Flattened head and wide mouth with many small teeth: a barbel (whisker-like extension) hangs from its lower jaw.

DOLLY VARDEN CHAR

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.

CHAR

ARCTIC CHAR



Brown to olive background with light spots (usually larger than its pupil); sides fade to a pale belly. Spawning colors are brilliant orange or gold, and underbody fins have bright white leading edges. Arctic char live in lakes; they have a shorter head than Dolly Varden. Their tail is slightly forked, but not as pronounced as a lake trout, and has a narrower base than the Dolly Varden's.



The lake trout is a char. It can be distinguished from other char by the many whitish-yellow spots covering its head, entire tail, back and sides. 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.

HOW TO IDENTIFY TROUT and OTHER SPECIES FOUND IN ALASKA