

Chapter 1 : Cutthroat trout - Wikipedia

Fishing For Freshwater & Saltwater Coastal Cutthroat Trout. There are more things to do than just fish for steelhead during the winter, and not that we do not like steelhead, it is not everyone's choice target.

Then a cutthroat boiled next to a log directly across from me and all was right with the world. The Reverse Spider with its undulating action is one of the most popular wet flies for coastal cutthroat Les Johnson photo My cast dropped reasonably close to where I had spotted the cutthroat. The Reverse Spider came to life as I stripped it back and proved to be irresistible to the cutthroat that streaked up from the dark water. It slammed into the undulating fly and pulled hard back into the stick-ups. It was a good fish that took a while to work out from the protective cover and bring to hand. A inch coastal cutthroat being brought over the net for revival and release Les Johnson photo The cutthroat, with its flanks still silvery from its time in the salt and just the barest hint of orange slashes under its jaw was a big-shouldered, muscular incher that stared up at me defiantly as I backed out the barbless hook. For a short time I held the tired trout facing into the current. After regaining its wind the heavily spotted warrior, probably no more than a week back into freshwater, pulled free of my light grasp and shot back into its shadowy encampment amongst the deadfalls. Photo right, Author with a coastal cutthroat. The silvery sheen indicated that it has recently returned from the salt Preston Singletary photo I have pursued the Coastal Cutthroat trout for more than fifty years in just about every watershed from the Eel River in northern California to the Misty Fjords of southeast Alaska. It is a fascinating and mysterious, predominantly wild trout that has adapted through the centuries to survive in the confines of step-across streams of the high Pacific slope drainages and in relative security in lakes, beaver ponds and inland rivers. It is along the coast however where rivers are open to saltwater inlets and bays, and the Pacific Ocean proper that the coastal cutthroat becomes anadromous, or sea-going and transforms into the true non-conformist of the entire cutthroat family. Through its 8 to 12 year life span the sea-run cutthroat can grow to a respectable inches in length and weigh three pounds, with exceptional specimens stretching the tape to inches and six pounds; a sizable trout by any standard. Reaching such respectable dimensions that includes surviving the rigors of several spawning runs is testimony to its tenacity and lust for life in view of the dangerous environment it shares with larger, faster flesh-eaters like lingcod, seals and sea lions during its annual meanderings in saltwater. When the sea-run cutthroat descends its natal stream in the spring after spawning, or on its inaugural journey to saltwater, it begins patrolling the nearshore, on its own or in small schools, seeking out young-of-the-year sand lance, herring, krill, pill bugs and small sculpins. This high protein diet quickly rebuilds the strength of cutthroat that have recently spawned and puts girth and length on the youngsters that are testing marine waters for the first time. Bob Young with a nice coastal cutthroat Preston Singletary photo Upon acclimating to saltwater the coastal cutthroat sheds its freshwater gold and olive colors for a coat of bright silver with a grayish back. While in salt water most cutthroat will only rarely cross large expanses of deep water and seldom range more than a dozen miles from their parent rivers. Other coastal cutthroat are far-ranging wanderers though. Oregon State University study teams have seined sea-run cutthroat more than forty miles off of the Columbia River plume in the Pacific Ocean and a hundred feet deep. During its time in salt water the sea-run cutthroat will hit spoons, spinners and baitfish-imitating flies or crustaceans with the speed and intensity of an NFL strong safety. Conversely, late in the season when it has returned to its natal river to spawn and winter over, the same cutthroat can sip a size 18 Blue Winged Olive from the surface with a delicate touch more commonly attributed to a choosy spring creek brown trout. A box of flies and a 5 or 6-weight rod with a floating line is all you need to catch cutthroat in fresh or saltwater Les Johnson photo In Washington, anglers enjoy fishing for coastal cutthroat trout year-around. From late summer through Thanksgiving good fishing is available in nearly every river that is open to saltwater. From spring through fall fishing emphasis changes to Puget Sound and neighboring Hood Canal both of which have long stretches of log-strewn public beaches and parks that provide excellent opportunities to cast over good cutthroat water. For Canadians however it is the beaches and rivers on Vancouver Island that are most popular; particularly fly-fishing the streams and shorelines around Campbell River which were so eloquently chronicled in the

works of Roderick Haig-Brown. During the spring outmigration cutthroat moving into the estuaries and bays join other cutthroat that spend most of their lives in salt water. Coastal cutthroat that spend extensive periods in saltwater were once thought to winter-over for a year or more in their marine environment. It has since been concluded that they are unique members of the species born in small, creeks that produce precious little forage rather than larger rivers that provide a good source of food. At spawning time these primarily marine-dwelling cutthroat dart into their small, brush-canopied creeks to complete the spawning ritual during high water periods, usually from November through February but sometimes as late as May. After spawning, they quickly drop back into the salt to resume foraging almost immediately. Marine waters close to the many small streams that drain these lowland areas not only provide anglers with a year-around fishery but are known to grow some of the largest sea-run cutthroat that anglers encounter every season. More than five decades later I still fish for coastal cutthroat in all of its environs only with a fly rod. I have become wed to the fly rod because it is, in my opinion the simplest, most personal form of fishing next to a hand line. Furthermore, I can use the same trout outfit to fish coastal cutthroat in fresh water or salt and need just one box to hold all of the flies I need for either situation. I began working upstream and during the next hour was able to hook one more mature cutthroat of about inches and an eager youngster that had not yet tasted salt water. I continued wading as quietly as possible, watching the far side of the river when a fish boiled at least six feet back under a canopy of alder branches. I stopped and watched it swirl again. There was probably no more than three feet between the branches and the water. A third roll to the surface beneath the foliage let me know that the cutthroat had no interest in moving out into open water where I would have a reasonable chance to drop my fly in front of it. I lengthened my line a few feet and side-armed the Reverse Spider, attempting to put it well back under the branches. Close but no cigar. My next cast was better, slipping under the branches, almost miraculously turning the fly over without fouling. The cutthroat hit the fly as it touched the water and thrashed to the surface showing a hint of its broad olive flank. It was a massive fish and when it turned to pull further under the cover my reel clattered and my arced rod went almost flat. The close-quarter battle was short and violent and never in doubt, at least for the cutthroat. It simply raised hell under the branches, burrowing, thrashing and twisting until the hook came away. The cutthroat and I had done a number on each other and it would not be easily enticed into latching onto another fly anytime soon. I continued upstream for a hundred yards or so and landed one more nice cutthroat. Then I secured my fly in the hook keeper and headed back for my truck. Although it does not receive much attention from anglers outside of its range which conforms remarkably close to the boundaries of the ancient rainforests of the Pacific Coast, the coastal cutthroat, whether resident or sea-run, is a magnificent trout in every respect. With a few exceptions it has survived since the last ice age with precious little assistance from man. Les Johnson photo The coastal cutthroat embraces its hardscrabble life from the moment it comes out of the gravel, when it is pushed from the best water by larger, earlier emerged coho salmon. Its demanding beginnings of competing with young coho for every morsel of food continue as it grows to maturity. The coastal cutthroat thus develops an appetite for a wide variety of feed, which includes clamping down on bait or steel. Its aggressive nature combined with overly generous bag limits had the coastal cutthroat on the ropes in the s. Spring closures in rivers prevented the taking of post-spawners and younger fish making their first migration to salt water. Sportsmen again came to the aid of the coastal cutthroat in when they pushed through rule changes that protect it with catch-and-release regulations in all Washington marine waters. These measures appear to be working. While populations are listed as depressed or unknown in some watersheds, the coastal cutthroat population, according to anglers who pursue them, seems to be stabilizing and even improving in places. Fishermen from all around the world lay down substantial sums of money for airfare, accommodations and guides to fish the rivers and marine waters of Oregon, Washington, Alaska and British Columbia in pursuit salmon and steelhead; places that also hold coastal cutthroat. And, they make these trips without ever tossing a trout rod into their duffel. I guess that those of us who live in coastal cutthroat country should be happy about this oversight. To face off with the coastal cutthroat in fresh or salt water, any month of the year, all that is required is a good pair of waders, warm undergarments, a serviceable rain parka and your trout tackle. For my money you cannot ask more of any trout, anywhere. Les Johnson has been a flyfisher and writer for more than forty years. He is former VP

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and content editor of Greatlodge. Flyfishing for Pacific Salmon II is scheduled for the fall of Les lives in Redmond, Washington with his wife, Carol. He can be reached via e-mail at les. If you would like to comment on this or any other article please feel free to post your views on the FAOL Bulletin Board!

Chapter 2 : "Pursuit of the Coastal Cutthroat - Fly Angler's OnLine

Coastal Cutthroat Trout Fly Fishing Puget Sound, WA May , This is a video I put together after our trip to the NW to catch some Coastal Cutthroat Trout in Puget Sound, WA. We had a.

Introduction The coastal cutthroat is a major subspecies of cutthroat trout that is native to the west coast of North America, for about 2,000 miles from the Eel River in northern California to the Prince William Sound in southern Alaska See Map. Coastal cutthroat are the only subspecies of cutthroat to utilize the marine environment during its life history. However unlike other anadromous salmonids, coastal cutthroat do not attain a very large size in marine waters with an apparent maximum size of around 20 pounds. Life History Information Coastal cutthroat exhibit a wide variety of life history strategies with stream resident, fluvial, lacustrine and anadromous populations occurring across their native range. While steelhead or salmon typically travel hundreds or even thousands of miles during their time at sea, coastal cutthroat are more of home bodies and tend to stay within the confines of the estuary. While in the marine environment coastal cutthroat tend to prefer shallower near shore waters between ten and twenty feet deep. As a general rule cutthroat stay within about five miles of their natal streams but have been found as far as forty miles off shore and in water feet deep off of the Columbia River estuary Behnke While in the in the marine environment, coastal cutthroat feed heavily on baitfish such as sand lance, sculpin, salmon fry, and herring. Krill and other small crustaceans also make up a substantial portion of their diet, especially for cutthroat overwintering in the saltwater. Unlike most anadromous fish, coastal cutthroat do not attain overly large sizes, with a maximum size of around 24 inches and six pounds. Anadromous coastal cutthroat show a great amount of diversity throughout their native range, with run timings and habits being highly variable. Generally these fish will spend less than a year in the marine environment before returning to their natal streams to spawn. However this is not always the case and in the Puget Sound some cutthroat have been known to skip spawning and overwinter in the saltwater. Many other populations may return to freshwater simply to overwinter and may or may not spawn upon returning. The time of return to fresh water varies greatly and in some case there may be two separate run timings of sea-run fish in the same watershed. The Stillaguamish River is noted for having an early run that arrives in late summer through fall and a later run arriving from December through March Behnke This early run timing is common to the larger rivers around the Northwest and also coincides with the return of spawning Pacific salmon, whose eggs the cutthroat feed heavily on. The later run timing is typically more common in small streams feeding directly to the saltwater Trotter Like all Pacific trout, coastal cutthroat are iteroparous meaning that they can spawn more than once. Coastal cutthroat are Winter-Spring spawning fish, with the spawning period extending from December through May. In the southern part of their range from British Columbia to California, the bulk of the cutthroat spawn in February but in Alaska April or May spawning is more common Trotter Much of this spawning occurs in small streams, which contribute a disproportionate amount of rearing habitat for juvenile coastal cutthroat when compared with larger streams Rosenfeld et al. Smolts typically enter the salt water from March to June at an age of two to five years old, with later timing and older ages for smolts found in the northern part of their range Trotter and Johnson et al. Kelts, which are spawning fish that are returning to the saltwater, generally migrate out to sea around the same time as the smolts. This timing coincides with the out migration of juvenile salmon which provide an important food source for sea-run cutthroat. Populations of fluvial and lacustrine cutthroat exhibit habits that are similar to those of anadromous fish, but migrate to a river or lake instead of the marine environment. Lacustrine and fluvial fish have are opportunistic feeders, with their diets be made up of other fish, salmon eggs and aquatic and terrestrial insects. These fish show similar patterns of migration to and from spawning stream as what are found in anadromous populations and also are highly dependent on small streams as rearing habitat Saiget et al. Lake adapted coastal cutthroat have the potential of attaining the largest size of any life history form of coastal cutthroat. A unique lacustrine population of coastal cutthroat occurs in Crescent Lake in Olympic National Park, where individuals have been recorded up to twelve pounds. These fish were cut off from access to the sea and other populations of cutthroat by a massive landslide. At one time these fish were

considered to be a unique subspecies known as the Crescenti cutthroat *Oncorhynchus clarki crescent*, due to their unique silvery appearance. However studies have shown that these fish are simply an isolated lacustrine coastal cutthroat population Behnke Migratory coastal cutthroat have a life span of between seven and nine years. Populations of stream resident cutthroat often occur above barrier falls and have a diet made up of both aquatic and terrestrial insects and generally attain a maximum size of about twelve inches. Status Unlike other subspecies of cutthroat trout, the coastal cutthroat has managed to maintain a hold across their entire native range. However this is not to say that they have not suffered declines since the arrival of Euro-Americans and this is especially true for the migratory life history types of these fish, which are now depressed across much of their native range. Today some populations are so depressed that they have been listed under the Endangered Species Act and others have gone extinct all together. According to Johnson et al. As a result the Umpqua River stock was listed as endangered in However a decision was made to include the Umpqua River stock in with the greater Oregon Coast distinct population segment DPS and to include the much more abundant resident populations in with the overall status of each DPS Johnson et al. As a result of this decision the still extremely depressed Umpqua River stock of coastal cutthroat was removed from the ESA. Of the known extinct populations, two are found in Washington State and 15 occur in British Columbia Trotter In Washington State there are still a lot of questions about the overall status of the coastal cutthroat and the last stock inventory showed that seven populations were depressed, one was healthy and the status of the remaining 32 populations was listed as unknown WDFW Unlike other subspecies of cutthroat trout, coastal cutthroat as a whole have coevolved with coastal rainbow trout throughout their entire native range. Due to this fact, they do not readily hybridize with native rainbows as the two species take advantage of different parts of streams for spawning habitat. However this coexistence between the rainbow and cutthroat trout may break down when hatchery rainbow trout, which have not evolved to coexist with the cutthroat are introduced. Where hybrids are found, they have been shown to occur much more commonly in juvenile fish than adult fish, indicating that there is a negative effect on the fitness of hybrid fish Johnson et al. Isolated stream resident coastal cutthroat populations may be extremely susceptible to hybridization with hatchery rainbow trout and within several generations of the introduction of rainbow trout all that often remains of the cutthroat population is a hybrid swarm Behnke Where coastal cutthroat occur with other species, rainbow trout and juvenile salmon often generally out compete the cutthroat, resulting in the cutthroat having to utilize less than ideal portions of the stream as habitat. The native range of the coastal cutthroat is directly tied to occurrence of the Pacific Northwest temperate rainforest and as such these fish have been greatly impacted logging and urbanization across the region. Coastal cutthroat utilize the higher reaches of small tributary streams as spawning and rearing habitat making them very susceptible to population loss due to poor logging practices. A study done by Young et al. It also took the stream over ten years to fully recover to pre-logging levels. Connolly and Hall suggested that cutthroat populations in extensively clear cut streams may remain low for fifty years of more due to a lack of large woody debris and shade from conifers. Although commercial fishing for coastal cutthroat does not currently occur, there is some degree of cutthroat by catch in certain salmon fisheries but it is unknown what amount of impact this has on cutthroat populations. Cutthroat from small streams often depend on a low number of spawning adults to maintain the population and can be extremely susceptible to over harvest or mortality associated with fishing. As such it is important that the proper gear smaller hooks and preferably flies which have been shown to have the lowest mortality rate and catch and release methods are followed to minimize mortality of these fish. Description Out of all of the subspecies of cutthroat, the appearance of coastal cutthroat shows the least amount of resemblance to the others. The coloration of the back on these fish is generally either greenish-brown or bronze and both anadromous and lacustrine forms tend to have silvery sides with tints of greenish-yellow or golden-yellow. Stream resident coastal cutthroat of may have either a copper or golden-yellow coloration on their sides. As these fish near spawning they become an intense golden yellow color on their sides, which transitions to a dull bronze color as the season progresses. Stream resident fish typically retain violet or purplish color parr marks through adulthood, but these markings fade away on sea-run and lacustrine fish. Coastal cutthroat also can show a rosy color along their lateral line and have a red, orange of crimson slash under their jaws, although these markings

may also fade on anadromous fish. A rosy, golden yellow or silvery color is typically found on gill plates which can become intensely colored with red as spawning approaches. Coastal cutthroat often have spots across their entire body, which range in size from tiny to a large size close to that of inland cutthroat. However the spotting pattern can be extremely variable and ranges from very sparse on some fish to so profuse that the spots become interconnected on other fish. The fins are yellow, pink or a reddish-orange color and the anal and pelvic fins may be tipped with white. Stream Resident Form [Click on images to view a larger picture.](#)

Chapter 3 : Coastal Cutthroat Trout | California Trout, Inc.

An anadromous coastal cutthroat from Washington State's Puget Sound. Introduction. The coastal cutthroat is a major subspecies of cutthroat trout that is native to the west coast of North America, for about 2, miles from the Eel River in northern California to the Prince William Sound in southern Alaska (See Map).

Catch and release Because their numbers are not replenished from hatcheries, only catch-and-release fishing, using barbless hooks, is allowed when fishing for seagoing cutthroats. But since they often live in shallow waters, you can fly-fish for them right from the beach. Because they are so little studied, and because so many things – tides, currents, water temperatures, underwater topography – affect their behavior patterns, sea-run cutthroat can be tough to suss out. We found that fishing in the fall, and especially on a Seahawks game day, means little competition. Even on a relatively busy beach such as Point No Point, at the northern tip of the Kitsap Peninsula, we had no trouble finding space to throw a line. Since I typically fly-fish in mountain rivers, the public park brought surprises, including unusually easy access to bathrooms. I was surprised at the confidence they and boots gave me as I swished through thigh-deep water. At one point, I looked down and saw a giant Dungeness crab following me along the bottom. You can use your freshwater gear for beach fishing, and my beloved Sage Accel fly rod worked just fine. I made sure to rinse it immediately and thoroughly afterward, since saltwater can damage gear. We were optimistic about the presence of cutthroat, especially given how much non-fish wildlife we saw: Many birds, plus both seals and sea lions, patrolled the waters. We decided to try our luck at Kitsap Memorial State Park, on Hood Canal – a special place for Bill and me because we got married there. Another couple was saying vows when we arrived in late afternoon, but instead of crashing that party we made our way down to the beach out of sight and sound of the revelers. There, we encountered an entirely different kind of marine animal: A submarine glided past us on its way from Bangor toward the Hood Canal Bridge. Guides not only have a good idea where fish are, they can show you the best techniques for hooking them and releasing them. The latter is especially important to ensure that released fish live on and do their part to help keep populations going. Cutthroat often hang out in shallow water, especially in rocky stretches or areas with overhangs. Look for seams of moving water, and plan to take a break during slack tides. Just cast into likely-looking water and, bit by bit, strip the line back in. Christy Karras is a Seattle-based freelance writer.

Chapter 4 : Hood Canal and Puget Sound Fly Fishing for Searun Cutthroat

Tend to have larger coastal cutthroat trout that typically stay on the move, looking for prey such as crustaceans or smaller ocean fish. Cover lots of water by trolling with a streamer or small lure. Or, try fishing near river mouths for those trout foraging on food drifting or swimming downstream.

Size 4 to 10 Float fishing with bait The easiest way to catch a cutthroat trout is by float fishing with bait. The setup is similar to what you would use when float fishing for salmon, but you need to downsize your tackle because your target species are much smaller. A small, thin float that only requires 5 to 10g of weight to balance is ideal. Your hook size should be size 2 to 6. Typical natural bait used for cutthroat trout are dew worm and roe. In streams where a bait ban is in effect, you can use artificial bait that is not scented. These can be small plastic eggs, jigs, plastic worms. Spincasting with lures Cutthroat trout are usually aggressive and will always chase down a moving object when presented. A small spoon or spinner, which imitates juvenile salmon or sticklebacks, can quite often outfish all other techniques. A shorter spinning rod is more ideal for this technique. The size of the hook on the lure should be either size 2 or 4. Fly fishing Fly fishing for cutthroat trout is a challenge but very rewarding when fish are connected. A 4wt fly rod is ideal because most fish are no bigger than 2 or 3lb. Your fly fishing reel should be spooled with either floating line or clear intermediate sink line. These two lines are required to cover all types of water where coastal cutthroat trout are found. In late fall and early winter, egg patterns fished under a strike indicator can be deadly when fish are heavily feeding on salmon eggs. Throughout the winter months, small nymphs being slowly stripped in is effective on overwintering feeders. In late winter and early spring, a small minnow pattern that is being stripped in rapidly almost never fails if cutthroat trout are feeding on salmon fry. Additional notes The Fraser Valley cutthroat trout fishery is a hunting game. Because fish are often highly mobile, success is hard to achieve by remaining stationary when fishing. By moving from spot to spot, you are likely to encounter more fish. Cutthroat trout often travel in small schools. In the winter, they are less visible by feeding mostly subsurface, while in spring and summer they are more likely to show themselves on the surface during feeding. Because this is primarily a catch and release fishery, there are a few precautions one should take. When bait fishing, your hook size should not be too small so fish do not swallow the hook deeply. When lure fishing, your hook size should not be too big to prevent creating too much damages on small fish. Hook size selection is definitely a balance that one learns over time. I generally stay with size 2 or 4. A catch and release net can come in really handy in this fishery. This allows you to handle your catches safely in the water and gives you enough time to take the best photographs that you want from the fish. Cutthroat trout caught in late fall and early winter are known to be poor table fare due to the food items that they eat flesh from rotten salmon carcasses so releasing them maybe a better idea. In the winter months, you might also encounter more spawning cutthroat trout. These are much darker in body colour. It is also best to release these fish so they can reproduce and sustain the population.

Chapter 5 : Fly Fishing Lodge Steelhead Cutthroat Rainbow Trout Salmon River Wilderness

Fly Fishing Cutthroat Trout - Winter Strategies for Coastal Cutties - The icy winds of November and December mean an end to the stillwater fly fishing season in most of our province, but in here in the Fraser Valley they signal the beginning of one of my favorite times of year.

These fish can be caught with any real desired method, whether it be casting lures, float fishing, or casting a fly. Resident fish throughout our area will generally be found in smaller tributaries to rivers such as the Fraser or Harrison for example. Sea-Run fish also known as anadromous or sea-going fish can literally be found in any body of water that is not cut off from a tidal or migratory section, obviously including saltwater beaches. Resident fish will move throughout their system, but sea-run fish are much more transient as they are constantly on the move and seeking out their next meal. In this blog post we will concentrate on a couple of the main cutthroat fisheries within a wide spectrum of other opportunities. There will be a mix of Wild and Hatchery Cutthroat on any given day in our waters as fish that have spawned naturally make up the Wild fish numbers, while the Hatchery fish numbers have been planted mainly into the Fraser River system by The Freshwater Fisheries Society of BC. These Hatchery Coastal Cutthroat Trout will virtually find their way into any tributary possible that has a good food source, and once that food source has disappeared, they will most likely follow to the next area where they can feed. There is no real rhyme or reason as to where you may find them other than they will want to be where the food is. When we talk about trout fishing in the Fraser, we are mainly talking about the Fraser River backwaters and side channels in the Fraser Valley area. During the Winter months, river levels will generally plummet and clear which create cleaner stagnant or slow moving backchannels. Key pieces of info to factor into your day on the way will assist you with finding these fish and catch them. First piece of advice we can give is selecting an area to fish for the day. Since this is such a large system, you will not want to spend all of your time driving long distances from spot to spot trying to find these fish. Pick a certain radius that you think you can walk and fish effectively, covering as much fishy water as possible. This is not a fishery you cast blindly, looking for risers and feeding fish is absolutely key. Now you may be asking what type of water are we looking for, and where exactly should we be looking? Think of it this way, the Fraser is already a large river as it is no matter what the water height, but as a good rule of thumb the river will consistently drop through the Summer, Fall, and into Winter. The Fraser in the Fraser Valley area is made up of many back channels and braids which are full of water in the Summer, but as they progressively drop in level, these back channels and braids become much slower flowing, and at times even stagnant. These channels do not even need an inflow of water, but still must have an outflow as an entrance for Cutthroat to move into in order to feed. Although, inlet and outlet flows will be the best. Woody debris such as log jams or beaver habitat provides good cover for these fish. If you can match similar spots to the ones we have described, you have most likely found yourself a good starting point. There is no necessary water depth within reason, but channels that have a deeper middle gut or centre, matched with a gentle sloping drop off are perfect feeding grounds for aggressive Cutthroat. A full floating line or clear intermediate line is the best line for this fishery. Do not be afraid to try indicator fishing small chironomids and midges as small as a size 16. The Harrison River Cutthroat Fishery One of the most scenic river systems in our area, the Harrison not only offers a spectacular wildlife and nature view, but can also offer phenomenal fishing in the Winter for trout. The most common species that can be targeted and caught will be Coastal Cutthroat Trout. After the Salmon spawn in the Fall, eggs and pieces of salmon carcasses are drifting and floating throughout the river for these fish to gorge on. Once this food source diminishes throughout early Winter, the Cutthroat will generally key in on Stickleback or smaller fish species. Historically, between the months of January and March are when we see some of the biggest and meanest Cutthroat swimming around in the Harrison system looking for their next meal. There will be a mix of Wild and Hatchery Cutthroat on any given day in the Harrison system, and no matter what, these fish are usually very eye catching and appealing. In a way, you will want to stalk and hunt these fish like we talked about in our Fraser River section, but a lot of this fishery is done in the main stem of the Harrison itself. That being said, tributaries and creek mouths are also good areas to hunt these shiny

bullets. Finding Cutthroat in the Harrison is very similar to that of most places. Look for the action. This means jumpers, risers, or surface sippers. At times, this can look like raindrops on the water. Saltwater Cutthroat Fishing One of the most exciting fisheries that we are lucky enough to have on our coast of British Columbia is a Sea-Run Coastal Cutthroat Trout fishery in the Saltwater off of our beaches and creek mouths. The cool thing about this fishery no matter what beach you are on, and no matter where you are in British Columbia, these fish are something spectacular when it comes to overall endurance, fight ability, and aesthetics. They are beautiful fish and most times they put up an acrobatic and spunky fight. There are many ways to approach these fish such as dry flies, sub surface flies, or wet flies. The same token applies for hunting these fish as you would in the freshwater systems. Looking for rising and sipping fish will give you an upper hand. There are many beaches in our local area where Cutthroat can be found, but finding them can be the tricky part of your adventure. Good times to fish your favourite beaches could be any time of the year. Fall, Winter, Spring, and Summer can all be excellent times depending on food sources available for fish. The Winter months can be some of best fishing available, and this is also a picturesque time of year to fish as well. Food sources range from salmon eggs and flesh, or salmon fry from inflowing creeks or river systems to crab larvae and shrimp. When targeting Cutthroat on the beaches there are a huge variety of patterns to use, but we suggest fishing a simple attractor pattern if you are having a tough time either locating fish or getting fish to strike. We would recommend carrying a stripping bucket or apron with you on your beach adventure as most times you will be standing in the water. Rods Whether you want to toss a fly or spinner, this is the fishery for you. Many areas that cutthroat are targeted are very suitable for either style of.

Coastal cutthroat trout populate nearly all of the streams and lakes along the Pacific Coast rainforest belt, from Northern California to Prince William Sound in Alaska.

Surely it was a piece of impudence no longer than his hand that Schubert has sent liling down the centuries. Small fish stayed in the hill burns. Larger fish were in the rivers. Still larger fish strayed into the salt water and became seatrout. Many coastal cutthroat wander to the salt and get big just like sea-run browns. Other cutthroat populate lakes and beaver ponds. Habitat The freshwater coastal cutthroat is a small stream fish. In addition there are fewer andronomous fish e. The upper reaches of most rivers and creeks lie within part and national forest boundaries. Forest service roads follow many creeks. Trails follow other creeks. The Season Coastal cutthroat streams are snowmelt-fed. They are high and hard to fish due to runoff in April, May and June. Water levels start falling in June and the streams are at their peak in July and August and early September. The season is closed November to May to protect spawning fish. Fly Rods A short fly rod is great on small streams because it keeps your fly under the forest canopy. A 3 weight line is great. Clear or Chameleon line are best for the butt because they are stiff. The leader comes to just over 7 feet. Flies Almost any size 14 dry fly will work. Your flies should be visible, durable and easy to tie. Visible so you can keep track of them in fast swirling pockets. Durable in order to stand up to a dozen or two dozen fish. The white wing of a Royal Wulff is easy see amid the swirls and froth. An olive caddis will float forever. The brown bivisible is a classic which floats well and is easy to tie. Tactics Coastal cutthroat inhabit pocket water of fast moving streams Tenkara territory and are always looking up. Make a short quick cast and keep your fly drag free. Keep a low profile. If you can see a fish the fish can probably see you. Catch or raise a fish and move on. A bee, a mayfly, a beetle, a caddis, stoneflies, ants. You can access lots of streams off forest service roads on state and national park land. This is uncomplicated, relaxed fishing. Get away for an afternoon. Catch a dozen fish.

Chapter 7 : Cutthroat of the Hills - Fly Fishing - The Wading List

Fly Fishing the Sierra The Coastal Cutthroat (Oncorhynchus clarkii clarkii), is the smallest of the three varieties of sea-trout. The average Coastal cutthroat generally is about 1 lb. with 3 lbs. or more being quite scarce.

They will make an annual migration from their preferred area in the sea, to a particular river or stream to spawn. They are considered anadromous and will always make their way to a river in order to breed. Shortly after hatching, they will begin to feed and grow quickly. As juveniles 2 to 5 years of age they will migrate to the sea where they will spend most of their lives. There are notable differences between the way the coastal cutthroat uses the sea over the salmon however. The cutthroats will not venture too far off shore. They tend to spend their lives near the mouths of the river where they were hatched. There are however exceptions, there have been cases of these trout moving close to miles from their natal stream to access greater feeding areas etc. But they are overall rarely more than 6 miles from the shoreline and usually within close proximity to fresh water. Migration and Status Once the Juvenile trout have reached maturity they will proceed back to the river in which they were hatched in order to spawn and complete the cycle. These trout are native to Washington, Oregon and Northern California. They are in better general overall health as a species than some other sub species of cutthroat trout. There have however been obstacles for them. This seems to be a resilient species of cutthroat overall. They are however still listed as a species of concern. The coastal cutthroat tend to have small and medium sized spots of irregular shapes. This differs them from most other cutthroat species. Another major difference is the silvery sheen on these trout. As with most all anadromous fish they tend to have a lack of color while they are at sea. They will however take on a much more vibrant coloration once they get into the freshwater streams to spawn. There are a few different variations of coastal cutthroat trout such as: Non Migratory Coastal Cutthroats: These fish will spend their entire lives in rivers and streams near the coast. They will never make a migration to salt water. They also tend to not live as long as the migratory fish, as well as not grow nearly as large. Migrating Cutthroat from freshwater: These are fish that will either live in a lake or a larger river. They will still migrate to spawn into smaller rivers and creeks. Standard Migrating Coastal Cutthroat: These are the most common fish mentioned earlier. They will migrate from the ocean in order to spawn in fresh water, returning to the ocean area shortly after breeding. Watch this Recent Troutster Video!

Chapter 8 : Coastal Cutthroat in Salt Water - Fly Fishing - The Wading List

Coastal Cutthroat are a sea-run anadromous trout - adults spend the summers in ocean waters near their natal stream, and return to freshwater in late fall or early winter to overwinter and spawn each spring.

Saltwater fishing is refreshingly simple when it comes to tackle. A long fly rod can help get your cast out in the wind. A long fly rod also keeps you from ticking your backcast on the beach. A floating line is good when fishing a popper. Saltwater cutthroat are schooling fish. If you catch one there are probably more nearby. It makes sense to move a few steps between each cast in order to cover as much of a beach as possible until you locate fish. Some salt water anglers use a boat so they can move more from beach to beach until they locate fish. Fish every cast out to your feet. Salt water cutthroat will follow a fly. Salt water cutthroat like to jump. Salt water cutthroat stay close to shore. Wade over your knees and you run the risk of spooking fish or casting beyond them. Flies Coastal Cutthroat live on a diet of crustaceans, pileworms and baitfish. He skated a fly which looked a little like a humpy on the surface. Leland Miyawaki developed a fly pattern using polar bear hair, paired grizzly hackles and a foam head to imitate an injured baitfish struggling on the surface. The popper is twitched across the surface with an irregular retrieve. A popper is great for prospecting because takes, swirls and follows will tell you fish are in the vicinity. Small streamers imitate sand lance, sticklebacks and herring. I like patterns which incorporate some flash and many different colors. Gamakatsu SC15 Size 6. They are smaller than most other salt water hooks and that limits mortality. White polar bear followed by a few strands of pink bucktail followed by a few strands of chartruse bucktail, topped by dark green or peacock flashabou. One on each side of the fly. The jungle cock helps hold the wing in place. If I were limited to one sea-run cutthroat fly this would be it. It uses simple, easy to obtain materials and is durable. When tied sparse and with lead eyes a Clouser minnow sinks well and pulses during the retrieve. A weighted Clouser is also a chore to cast. Go easy on the weight. Size 8 Tiemco S. Use small hooks to limit mortality.

Chapter 9 : Native Trout Fly Fishing: Coastal Cutthroat Trout

Dedicated to the science and management of wild coastal cutthroat trout.

Description[edit] Head of Yellowstone cutthroat trout O. Their coloration can range from golden to gray to green on the back. Cutthroat trout can generally be distinguished from rainbow trout by the presence of basibranchial teeth at the base of tongue and a maxillary that extends beyond the posterior edge of the eye. These markings are responsible for the common name "cutthroat", first given to the trout by outdoor writer Charles Hallock in an article in *The American Angler*. Sea-run forms of coastal cutthroat trout average 2 to 5 pounds O. The length and weights of mature inland forms vary widely depending on their particular environment and availability of food. Stream-resident fish are much smaller, O. In ideal environments, the Lahontan cutthroat trout attains typical weights of O. They are native to the alluvial or freestone streams typical of tributaries of the Pacific Basin, Great Basin and Rocky Mountains. They spawn in the spring, as early as February in coastal rivers and as late as July in high mountain lakes and streams. The female selects the site for and excavates the redd. Eggs are fertilized with milt sperm by an attending male. Eggs hatch into alevins or sac fry in about a month and spend two weeks in the gravel while they absorb their yolk sack before emerging. After emergence, fry begin feeding on zooplankton. Juvenile cutthroat trout typically mature in three to five years. Lake populations generally require access to gravel-bottomed streams to be self-sustaining, but occasionally spawn on shallow gravel beds with good water circulation. This hybrid generally bears similar coloration and overall appearance to the cutthroat trout, usually retaining the characteristic orange-red slash. Cutbow hybrids often pose a taxonomic difficulty when trying to distinguish any given specimen as a rainbow or cutthroat trout. Native cutthroat trout species are found along the Pacific Northwest coast from Alaska through British Columbia into northern California , in the Cascade Range , the Great Basin and throughout the Rocky Mountains including southern Alberta. Cutthroat trout have the second-largest historic native range of North American trout; the lake trout *Salvelinus namaycush* having the largest. There is also evidence that Yellowstone Lake once drained south into the Snake River drainage. A population of Yellowstone cutthroat trout purportedly has been established in Lake Huron. Healthy stream-side vegetation that reduces siltation is typical of healthy cutthroat trout habitat and beaver ponds may provide refuge during periods of drought and over winter. Stream-resident cutthroat trout primarily feed on larval , pupal and adult forms of aquatic insects typically caddisflies , stoneflies , mayflies and aquatic dipterans , and adult forms of terrestrial insects typically ants , beetles , grasshoppers and crickets that fall into the water, fish eggs, small fish, along with crayfish, shrimp and other crustaceans. As they grow the proportion of fish consumed increases in most populations. In saltwater estuaries and along beaches, Coastal cutthroat trout feed on small fish such as sculpins , sand lance , salmon fry and herring. In fresh water they consume the same diet as stream resident troutâ€™ aquatic insects and crustaceans, amphibians, earthworms, small fish and fish eggs. In the early 20th century, several hatcheries were established in Yellowstone National Park by the U. These hatcheries not only produced stocks of the Yellowstone cutthroat trout O. Fish and Wildlife Service exists to restore populations of the Lahontan cutthroat trout O. Salmonid susceptibility to whirling disease Yellowstone cutthroat trout from *Birds and Nature*, The historic native range of cutthroat trout has been reduced by overfishing , urbanization and habitat loss due to mining, livestock grazing and logging. Most subspecies of cutthroat trout are highly susceptible to whirling disease, although the Snake River fine-spotted cutthroat trout O. In inland populations, the introduction of rainbow trout from hatchery stocks have resulted in cutbow hybrids that continue to diminish the genetic purity of many cutthroat trout subspecies. The introduction of hatchery-raised Yellowstone cutthroat trout into native ranges of other cutthroat trout subspecies, particularly the westslope cutthroat trout, has resulted in intraspecific breeding and diminished genetic purity of the westslope subspecies. As such, populations of genetically pure westslope cutthroat trout are very rare and localized in streams above barriers to upstream migrations by introduced species. Behnke attributes the extinction of the yellowfin cutthroat trout O. Managers implemented catch and release , which required anglers to return their catches to the lake, and they terminated hatchery operations in the park which allowed

the cutthroat trout to recover. However, aggressive lake trout eradication programs have killed over one million lake trout since , and the hope is that this will lead to a restoration of cutthroat numbers. Artisan fishing and Recreational fishing This They are regulated as a gamefish in every state and province they occur in. From the Yellowstone cutthroat trout fishery in Yellowstone National Park, [62] [68] [69] [70] the unique Lahontan cutthroat trout fishery in Pyramid Lake in Nevada, and the small stream fisheries of the westslope cutthroat trout to saltwater angling for sea-run cutthroat trout on the Pacific coast, [71] cutthroat trout are a popular quarry for trout anglers throughout their ranges. Puget Sound in Washington is a stronghold of sea-run cutthroat trout fishing with its many tributaries and protected saltwater inlets and beaches. Fly anglers search for sea-run cutthroat trout along beaches, river mouths and estuaries year round. In the lower reaches of larger rivers, anglers in drift boats float the rivers searching for trout along the wooded shorelines.