

"Native Fish of Idaho" Educational Poster

Final Report

WNTI Grant No: 2022-SG-05

Submitted By: Dan Kenney, ICAFS Native Fish Committee Co-Chair





American Fisheries Society



Idaho Chapter

Native Fishes of Idaho Poster Final Report

This report is a summary of the “Native Fishes of Idaho” educational poster project awarded to the Idaho Chapter of the American Fisheries Society (ICAFS) in 2022. The primary objectives of the project are to familiarize Idaho schoolchildren and other viewers with the native fishes of Idaho and their basic ecology and conservation, and to engage elementary-aged students with fisheries sciences and the natural resources of Idaho.

The posters were printed on 2-by-3 foot heavy card stock and feature beautiful and precise Joseph Tomelleri illustrations of 46 types of Idaho native fish, including each native species and some subtypes or subspecies. Each type of fish is identified by common and scientific name, and grouped by Family. A short narrative (aimed at a grade-school audience) is included for each fish Family and includes distribution, ecological, or taxonomic information.

The posters are also being made available to appropriate higher education classrooms, non-profit and government agencies, and other organizations which can prominently and widely display the posters. The future conservation of the native fish diversity of Idaho will not be possible without a knowledgeable and engaged citizenry, and a wide distribution and display of the poster should provide an early exposure to basic information about Idaho's fish fauna.

The grants and labor were used to print 2,650 posters, with the Western Native Trout Initiative funding of \$1,000 responsible for printing costs for about 900 posters. Matching funds of \$2,500 were contributed by the Western Division of the American Fisheries Society and the Idaho State office of the Bureau of Land Management for use of the Tomelleri fish images and additional poster printing. The ICAFS contributed \$1,260 to the effort and ICAFS members have donated about 200 hours of labor for the design and distribution of the poster.

Primary project distribution accomplished to date includes 1,150 posters to the Idaho Department of Education’s Science Coaches (who are further distributing posters to individual public primary and secondary schools and science teachers), and about 250 posters to public agencies. The Chapter intends to further allocate posters to private schools, colleges and universities, tribes, and additional public agencies in Idaho in the upcoming year, and to retain several hundred posters as replacements for schools and distribution to currently-unanticipated appropriate recipients.

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Native Fishes of Idaho Poster Distribution as of 31 October 2023

Total Posters Printed	2,650
Idaho Department of Education Science Coaches	1,150
Bureau of Land Management, Idaho State Office	75
U.S. Forest Service Region 4	25
Idaho Department of Fish and Game	150
Western Native Trout Initiative	3
Joseph Tomelleri	3
Future distribution to primary and secondary schools	200
Future distribution to colleges and universities	100
Future distribution to agencies and tribes	200
Retain as replacements for schools	300
Retain by ICAFS for undefined future use/distribution	444

The 14 Idaho native fishes in the family **Salmonidae** include trout and salmon, a char, and a whitefish. While all Idaho salmonids breed and live for years or all of their lives in cold-water streams or lakes, some populations of salmon and Steelhead Rainbow Trout are anadromous fish that migrate to the Pacific Ocean to grow and mature. Individual anadromous Rainbow Trout, "rainbow", and salmon usually return from the ocean to spawn in the streams in which they hatched from a steelhead spawning web. Anadromous populations of freshwater rainbow trout, at least one of three types of Cutthroat Trout or Rainbow Trout, are able to tolerate every Idaho stream drainage. Rain Trout, which are anadromous to some of the highest and most remote rivers and lakes in Idaho, are similar to a type of char, and the form that migrates into large lakes can grow to over 20 pounds. Three of the whitefish are native only to Bear Lake, while mountain whitefish, an anadromous distributed Stock Trout, though common in many Idaho water bodies, are not native, nor are Bowfin or Lake Trout.

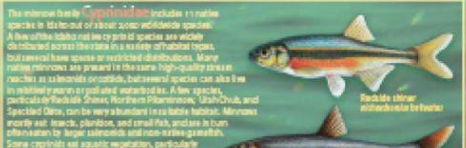


Rainbow Trout
Oncorhynchus mykiss gairdneri



Chinook Salmon
Oncorhynchus tshawytscha

The rainbow family **Salmonidae** includes 14 native species in Idaho and at least 300 worldwide species. A few native Idaho rainbows and steelhead populations are widely distributed across the state in a variety of habitat types, but several have sparse or restricted distributions. Many native rainbows are present in the same high-quality stream reaches as steelhead rainbows, but several species can also live in relatively poor quality watersheds. A few species, particularly Bowfin, Bowfin, Mountain Whitefish, Utah Char, and Speckled Dace, can be very abundant in suitable habitat. Anadromous species such as steelhead, chinook, and small fish, and also in turn often migrate to lower elevations and more urban streams. Some populations are aquatic vegetators, particularly Chinook, which have a reputation for spawning in low flow that is used to scrape algae from rocks.



Rock Bass
Ambloplites rupestris



Westlope Cutthroat Trout
Oncorhynchus clarki lewisi



Steelhead Trout
Oncorhynchus mykiss gairdneri



Cutthroat Trout
Oncorhynchus clarki



Coho Salmon
Oncorhynchus kisutch



Lake Char
Oncorhynchus tshawytscha



Chinook Salmon
Oncorhynchus tshawytscha



Westslope Cutthroat Trout
Oncorhynchus clarki lewisi



Bull Trout
Oncorhynchus tshawytscha



Mountain Whitefish
Oncorhynchus mykiss



Pygmy Whitefish
Oncorhynchus mykiss



Bear Lake Whitefish
Oncorhynchus mykiss



Northern Lahontan Char
Oncorhynchus tshawytscha



Longnose Dace
Leuciscus chalcoides



Westslope Cutthroat Trout
Oncorhynchus clarki lewisi



Mountain Whitefish
Oncorhynchus mykiss



Steelhead Trout
Oncorhynchus mykiss gairdneri



Mountain Whitefish
Oncorhynchus mykiss



Speckled Dace
Leuciscus chalcoides



Utah Char
Oncorhynchus tshawytscha



Longnose Dace
Leuciscus chalcoides



Westslope Cutthroat Trout
Oncorhynchus clarki lewisi



Mountain Whitefish
Oncorhynchus mykiss



Steelhead Trout
Oncorhynchus mykiss gairdneri



Steelhead Trout
Oncorhynchus mykiss gairdneri



Speckled Dace
Leuciscus chalcoides



Utah Char
Oncorhynchus tshawytscha



Longnose Dace
Leuciscus chalcoides

Fish in the family **Cottidae** are commonly called sculpin and include at least 10 species in Idaho, all of the genus *Cottus*. Idaho sculpin are distinctively freshwater species, live in cold and cool water streams and lakes, and are typically no longer than about 6 inches. Sculpin are difficult to tell apart, and several researchers agree that more than 10 species may eventually be identified in Idaho. Sculpin may feed on aquatic insects and one or more species of sculpin are able to tolerate steep stream banks in Idaho with good water quality. Idaho sculpin typically live on the stream or lake bottom among or under rocks, and so are often overlooked. Three of the Idaho species have small ranges, including one found only in Bear Lake, and another native to only a few miles near and in the Snake River in Gooding County.



Bear Lake Sculpin
Cottus bairdii

Columbia Sculpin
Cottus colubensis

Several Cottus
Cottus spp.

Mottled Sculpin Complex
Cottus spp.

Pale Sculpin
Cottus bairdii

Shoshone Sculpin
Cottus gairdneri

Shoshone Sculpin
Cottus gairdneri

Mud River Sculpin
Cottus nebulosus

Slip Sculpin
Cottus cognatus



Bullhead Catfish
Ictalurus nebulosus



Pacific Lamprey
Petromyzon macrodonatus

This species of sturgeon in North America belong to the family **Acipenseridae**. The White Sturgeon is the only sturgeon species native to Idaho and lives in portions of the Snake and Columbia rivers. White Sturgeon are the largest species of freshwater fish in North America—they can grow larger than 10 feet long and live for more than 100 years!



White Sturgeon
Acipenser transmontanus



Pacific Lamprey
Petromyzon macrodonatus

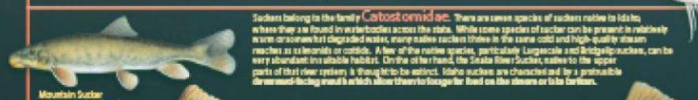
Lampreys belong to the family **Petromyzontidae**. The Pacific Lamprey is the only native member of the genus *Petromyzon*. Lampreys are a jawless, non-bony fish that are characterized by a sucking disc-mouth.

Both Pacific Lamprey and White Sturgeon gather, migrate with rivers and between them and the ocean, so they can affect access to spawning areas and other vital habitat.

The Sand Bass of the **Percopidae** (four-spine family), is native to the Columbia River system. Sand Bass are one of only two spawning four-spine species in the world. In Idaho, Sand Bass live in the Snake and Clearwater rivers near Lewiston. They are only about a inch long and are seldom caught or seen.



Sand Bass
Microgaster spp.



Mountain Sucker
Catostomus commersoni



SNAKE RIVER Sucker
Catostomus commersoni



Longnose Sucker
Catostomus commersoni



Mountain Sucker
Catostomus commersoni



SNAKE RIVER Sucker
Catostomus commersoni



Mountain Sucker
Catostomus commersoni



Utah Sucker
Catostomus commersoni



Longnose Sucker
Catostomus commersoni



SNAKE RIVER Sucker
Catostomus commersoni



Mountain Sucker
Catostomus commersoni



Utah Sucker
Catostomus commersoni



Longnose Sucker
Catostomus commersoni



SNAKE RIVER Sucker
Catostomus commersoni



Mountain Sucker
Catostomus commersoni



Blackhead Sucker
Catostomus commersoni



Longnose Sucker
Catostomus commersoni

Native FISHES of IDAHO

This poster was designed by Duane H. Peterson, and is provided and distributed by the staff of Fish Commission of the Idaho Chapter of the American Fisheries Society. Funding was provided by the Idaho Bureau of Land Management, the Fish and Wildlife Trust, and the Idaho Chapter of the American Fisheries Society. Fish illustrations are by and used with permission of Joseph Tardiff, Inc.