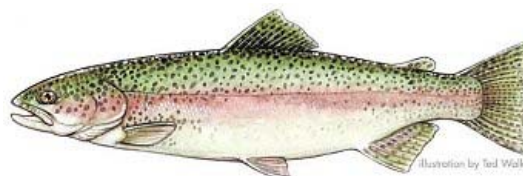


Rainbow Trout (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*)

General Information

Like the brown trout, rainbow trout are a non-native salmonid species and are distributed annually throughout the state through the FW's trout stocking program. These stockings, however, have not resulted in wide spread reproducing populations as seen with brown trout. The number of reproducing populations within the state is minimal.



Native Range

Pacific drainages from Northwestern Mexico to the Kushowin River in Alaska. In Canada, found in the Peace and Athabasca Rivers in the Mackenzie drainage (Smith 1985).

Habitat Description

River: Clear, cold stream systems with a 1:1 pool – riffle ratio with areas of slow deep water; abundant in-stream cover and stable water flow, Base flow \geq 50% of average annual daily flow is considered excellent, 25 – 50% of annual daily flow is only considered fair. (Raleigh, 1984).

Lake: Clear, cold, deep lakes, typically oligotrophic. Require tributary streams with a gravel substrate to reproduce (Raleigh, 1984).

Optimum Habitat Requirements

Dissolved Oxygen	\geq 7 mg/l
Temperature	12 – 19°C
pH	6.5 – 8.0
Turbidity	0 – 30 JTU's
Current	

Diet

Fry	Insects
Juveniles	Aquatic and terrestrial insects
Adults	Fish, aquatic and terrestrial insects
Notes: Opportunistic feeders	

Reproduction

Time of Year	February – March	Age Males Mature	2 - 3
Temperature Range	10 – 15.5°C	Age Females Mature	3
Water Depth		Nest	Built by female
Substrate	Gravel, size dependent on size of individual	Egg Type	Demersal
Time of Day	Day / Night	Parental Care	None
Critical pH		Days to Hatching	28 – 40 (temp. dependent)
Velocity Range		Oxygen Level	

Notes: Almost exclusively stream spawners; streams with no inlet or outlet generally do not have a reproducing population of rainbow trout.