Inland Coldwater Fishes

California's more than 4,100 lakes and reservoirs and nearly 30,000 miles of streams and rivers provide ample coldwater fishing opportunities for anglers of all ages. Both novice and experienced anglers can pursue the wily trout and other coldwater fishes from California's clear mountain lakes down to the streams and rivers emptying into the Pacific.

California has 12 native species, sub-species, or forms of trout. The coastal rainbow trout (including the anadromous form, popularly known as *steelhead*) is the most common and widely recognized of the state's native trout, while the beautifully colored California golden trout is the State Fish. Several species of trout and char have been successfully introduced into California as well, including brown trout, brook and lake trout (actually chars), and kokanee (the landlocked form of sockeye salmon).

To help manage the state's trout fisheries, the Department operates fourteen trout hatcheries and facilities that annually produce and distribute nearly 16 million trout weighing 4 to 5 million pounds. By carefully managing trout populations, the Department helps to provide a diversity of trout fishing opportunities for all anglers.

Inland Coldwater Fishes

Rainbow Trout (inland)

Catch-and-release?

Date of catch _____ Yes ☐ No ☐

place stamp here

Location of catch _____

Witness signature _____

NOTE: See pg. 21 for coastal rainbow trout, or pg. 26 for "steelhead."

Brown Trout

Catch-and-release?

Date of catch _____ Yes ☐ No ☐

place stamp here

Location of catch _____

Witness signature _____

Brook Trout

Catch-and-release?

Date of catch _____ Yes ☐ No ☐

place stamp here

Location of catch _____

Witness signature _____

Lake Trout

Catch-and-release?

Date of catch _____ Yes ☐ No ☐

place stamp here

Location of catch _____

Witness signature _____

Mountain Whitefish

Catch-and-release?

Date of catch *Yes* ☐ *No* ☐

Location of catch

Witness signature

place stamp here

Chinook Salmon (landlocked)

Catch-and-release?

Date of catch *Yes* ☐ *No* ☐

Location of catch

Witness signature

place stamp here

NOTE: See Anadromous Species section for ocean or river-run chinook salmon.

Kokanee Salmon

Catch-and-release?

Date of catch *Yes* ☐ *No* ☐

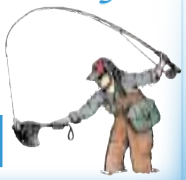
Location of catch

Witness signature

place stamp here

Stewardship of Fish and Wildlife

I pack out what I pack in - fishing line, hooks, and trash. *Yes* ☐



The California Heritage Trout Challenge!

Trout have inhabited California waters from the Sierras to the Pacific Ocean since prehistoric times. California's native trout include:

- ***Coastal rainbow***
- ***Eagle Lake rainbow***
- ***McCloud River redband***
- ***Goose Lake redband***
- ***Warner Lakes redband***
- ***Kern River rainbow***
- ***California golden***
- ***Little Kern golden***
- ***Coastal cutthroat***
- ***Lahontan cutthroat***
- ***Paiute cutthroat***

To raise awareness of California's native or "heritage" trout, the Department developed the Heritage Trout Challenge, which tests anglers' abilities to catch six different forms of native trout from historic California drainages. Completing the Heritage Trout Challenge may require anglers to visit various locations around the state, from roadside streams to remote areas high in the Sierras.

Anglers who take the Heritage Trout Challenge may take as long as they wish to catch the six trout and qualify for this special award— there are no time limits. Native trout caught in the appropriate waters and verified with a photo will qualify, even if caught years ago.

Anglers who successfully meet the Heritage Trout Challenge will receive a certificate of recognition suitable for framing, illustrated by reknowned artist Joseph Tomelleri.

If you've succeded in catching six California native trout from historic drainages, complete and mail a Heritage Trout Challenge application form along with supporting documentation to the Department. Application forms are available at any Department office or on the Heritage Trout Challenge Web site. For more information, including a list of historic heritage trout drainages, visit the Heritage Trout Challenge Web site at:

www.dfg.ca.gov/fishing

California Golden Trout

Catch-and-release?

Date of catch _____ *Yes* ☐ *No* ☐

Location of catch _____

Witness signature _____

place stamp here

Coastal Cutthroat Trout

Catch-and-release?

Date of catch _____ *Yes* ☐ *No* ☐

Location of catch _____

Witness signature _____

place stamp here

Coastal Rainbow Trout

(stream resident or sea-run)

Catch-and-release?

Date of catch _____ *Yes* ☐ *No* ☐

Location of catch _____

Witness signature _____

place stamp here

If sea-run trout is not used to complete Challenge, place stamp in Anadromous Species section

Eagle Lake Rainbow Trout

(from Eagle Lake only)

Catch-and-release?

Date of catch _____ *Yes* ☐ *No* ☐

Location of catch _____

Witness signature _____

place stamp here

Goose Lake Redband Trout

Catch-and-release?

Date of catch _____ Yes ☐ No ☐

Location of catch _____

Witness signature _____

place stamp here

Kern River Rainbow Trout

Catch-and-release?

Date of catch _____ Yes ☐ No ☐

Location of catch _____

Witness signature _____

place stamp here

Lahontan Cutthroat Trout

Catch-and-release?

Date of catch _____ Yes ☐ No ☐

Location of catch _____

Witness signature _____

place stamp here

Little Kern Golden Trout

Catch-and-release?

Date of catch _____ Yes ☐ No ☐

Location of catch _____

Witness signature _____

place stamp here

McCloud River Redband Trout

Catch-and-release?

Date of catch _____ *Yes* ☐ *No* ☐

Location of catch _____

Witness signature _____

place stamp here

Warner Lakes Redband Trout

Catch-and-release?

Date of catch _____ *Yes* ☐ *No* ☐

Location of catch _____

Witness signature _____

place stamp here

Restoring California's Native Paiute Cutthroat Trout

Catching a Paiute cutthroat trout is a very difficult task for anglers these days, given the trout's limited population and protective fishing regulations. For these reasons, the California Fishing Passport program is not currently encouraging anglers to pursue this trout. However the Department, federal agencies, and conservation groups are working hard to restore Paiute cutthroat trout populations to native drainages. When the restoration projects have been completed, we hope that anglers will have a better opportunity to catch one of the world's rarest trout, and add the accomplishment to their passports!