



COHO SALMON

Oncorhynchus kisutch



The coho salmon was planted in the Great Lakes in 1966. Previously, it could only be found in the western United States. In their third year of life, these salmon return to the streams from which they were hatched to spawn once and die. Another name for the coho salmon is the silver salmon, due to the bright metallic color of the fish. While coho salmon found in Lake Michigan can reach weights of 10 pounds, those found in Lake Superior are noticeably smaller in size, weighing between 2 and 4 pounds. Today the populations of coho salmon in the Great Lakes are sustained with hatchery-reared fish.



SPECIES QUICK FACTS

SIZE

The coho salmon is 11 to 26 inches long.

WEIGHT

The average weight of a coho salmon is 2 to 10 pounds.

FOOD HABITS

Coho salmon eat large amounts of alewives, smelt, and other small fish.

HABITAT

Coho salmon are extremely adaptable and can live in nearly any body of water.

GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION

Coho salmon are native to the Pacific Coast of North America and have been planted in the Great Lakes.

FUN FACT

The coho salmon was originally introduced into the Great Lakes from Pacific waters. Seventy-five percent of all coho salmon caught in the United States come from the state of Alaska.