



KLAMATH RIVER FISHES

Native Klamath River Species
(E)=endemic
(E ssp)=endemic subspecies

- Green Sturgeon** *Acipenser medirostris*
lo'kyoh—Hupa; ishxihihar / ishxihihara—Karuk; kahkah—Yurok
- Steelhead Trout** (anadromous) *Oncorhynchus mykiss irideus*
xay-na:dil (winter run), misinto'-xole:n (summer run)—Hupa; saap—Karuk; chkwohl—Yurok; méhiash—Klamath
- Chinook Salmon** *Oncorhynchus tshawytscha*
Spring Chinook: chu:wulo:q'e'—Hupa; ishyaat—Karuk; 'ohpos—Yurok
Fall Chinook: qehs—Hupa; pa'vaat—Karuk; chegun—Yurok
- Redband Trout** *Oncorhynchus mykiss newberri*
- Pacific Lamprey** *Entosphenus tridentatus*
t'li'whxa:n—Hupa; akraah—Karuk; ke'win—Yurok
- Coastal Rainbow Trout** (resident) *Oncorhynchus mykiss irideus*
lo'yahwh-qay—Hupa; nGaas—Klamath
- Coho Salmon** *Oncorhynchus kisutch*
lo:q'-Hupa; achvuun—Karuk; nepuy—Yurok; tsiálash—Klamath
- Klamath River Lamprey (E)** *Entosphenus similis*
kawiága—Klamath
- Three Spine Stickleback** *Gasterosteus aculeatus*
- Jenny Creek Sucker** (dwarfed population limited to Jenny Creek)
Catostomus rimitulus
- Marbled Sculpin (E ssp)** *Cottus klamathensis polyporus*
sintil—Hupa; xánkiit—Karuk
- Klamath Smallscale sucker** *Catostomus rimitulus*
sintil—Hupa; fóihanach—Karuk; neneepuech'—Yurok; hísh'tish—Klamath
- Western Brook Lamprey** *Lampetra richardsoni*
- Klamath Speckled Dace (E ssp)** *Rhinichthys osculus klamathensis*

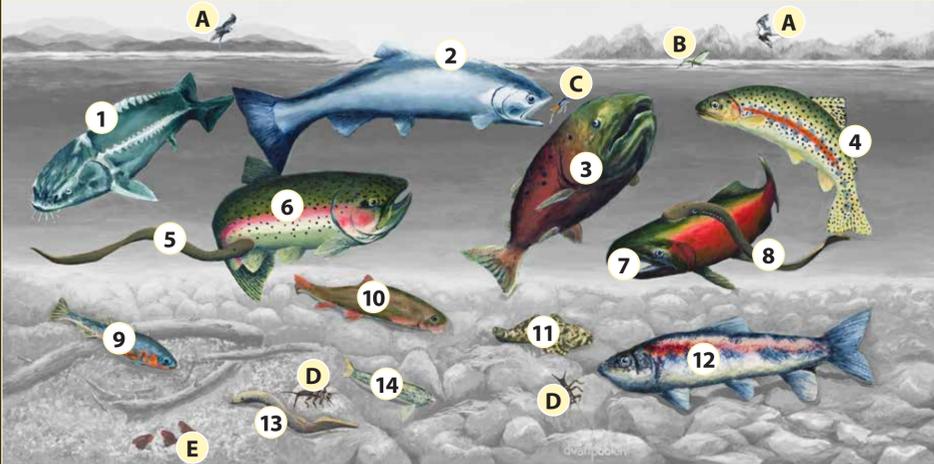
Indigenous names for fish are the intellectual and cultural property of their individual nations. An earnest attempt was made to be as accurate as possible based on the sources listed below, but any mistakes or omissions are those of the authors.
Hupa Language Dictionary, UC Davis, © Hoopa Valley Tribal Council; Ararahih'uripih, Karuk language net, UC Berkeley; Yurok Language Project, UC Berkeley; Dictionary of the Klamath Language, by Albert S. Gatschet

This poster depicts fourteen species representing all of the groups of native fishes within the Klamath River system.

The 25 fish species of the Klamath River system form a unique and diverse group throughout the entire watershed, from headwater streams to the mouth of the river. The assemblage of fishes native to the Klamath River system includes widespread species, such as Chinook salmon and Green sturgeon, to species found nowhere else on Earth, such as the Klamath Smallscale Sucker and the Klamath River Lamprey. Like the Columbia and Fraser rivers to the north, the Klamath River is one of only three rivers in the Pacific Northwest to cut through the Cascade Mountains and drain directly into the Pacific Ocean. This system has such a diverse fish assemblage due in part to its large and complex watershed and unique water features such as Upper Klamath Lake. For example, the Klamath River system has the highest diversity of lamprey species of any major watershed throughout the world.

Fish occupy a keystone position in both aquatic and terrestrial food webs. Sea-run species that are born in the clean cold river and mature in the ocean are a vital link between the freshwater and saltwater ecosystems. When fish return from the ocean to the river to spawn and die, their carcasses supply an essential source of marine nutrients into diverse terrestrial ecosystems. Hundreds of species, from insects to bears to humans, rely on fish as a vital source of food.

Through millennia, indigenous nations maintained intimate relationships with the healthy populations of the Klamath fishes. In current times obstructions, such as dams, create fish passage barriers that have severely restricted breeding habitat for some species. Agricultural run off and water diversion change water chemistry and flow rates, which can cause major fish die-offs and adversely affect breeding success. Excessive logging causes abnormally high water temperature and levels of siltation that will reduce the available habitat of these aquatic animals. Most populations of native fishes in the Klamath River have experienced recent declines in numbers and some species are critically imperiled. Careful cooperative management of fish species in the Klamath River system is required to ensure their survival into the future.



A. Osprey with lamprey in talons
B. Mayfly
C. Emerging mayfly
D. Stonefly nymph
E. Ammocoetes (larval form of lamprey)



Klamath River Watershed



Artwork and Poster Production by Deb Van Poolen
Special Thanks to biologists:
Michael Parker, Stewart Reid and John Vilella
Financial support provided by:
Mark Valens and Anne Golden and The Thalden Foundation