

Published on *South Coast Conservation Program* (<http://sccp.ca>)

### **(Coastal) Cutthroat Trout, *clarkii* ssp.**

*Oncorhynchus clarkii clarkii*

A member of the family Salmonidae (including salmon, trout, char and whitefish) the *clarkii* subspecies is found along the Pacific Northwest coast. Once classified under the genus *Salmo* (true trout), Cutthroat Trout, along with Rainbow Trout (and their anadromous form Steelhead) were reclassified to the same genus as Pacific Salmon.



Male anadromous/adfluvial form  
Pamela Zevit



Female resident form Pamela Zevit



Resident form Pamela Zevit



Juvenile or "parr" Pamela Zevit



Habitat ranges from estuaries to small streams

## Characteristics

Cutthroat trout usually have a distinctive red or orange streak under their lower jaw. This may not be obvious on those found in salt water. Coastal cutthroat differ from all other trout by having many spots all over the sides of the body, on the head and often on the belly and fins. Like all salmonids, they have an adipose fin, a soft, fleshy fin on the back. Sea-run individuals are silvery; sometimes their bellies have a distinct lemon colour, while freshwater fish are usually darker, with a coppery or brassy sheen. The body may have a pale yellowish colouring, lower fins may be yellow to orange-red, and sexually-mature fish often have a rose tint underneath. Unlike Rainbow Trout, Cutthroat have small teeth at the base of the tongue ("hyoid" teeth). Coastal Cutthroat have several life history forms including anadromous (freshwater-marine), adfluvial (small stream-large river) and resident (spend their entire life in small streams). \*The lewisi ssp. also known as Westslope Cutthroat Trout, listed as special concern is found in several major drainages of the Columbia River Basin.

## Status

**Global Status:** G4T4  
**Provincial Status:** S3S4  
**BC List Status:** Blue (Considered to be of Special Concern)

## Resources

### [Coastal Cutthroat Trout as Sentinels of Lower Mainland Watershed Health](#)

Strategies for Coastal Cutthroat Trout Conservation, Restoration and Recovery

### [THE 2005 COASTAL CUTTHROAT TROUT SYMPOSIUM - Status, Management, Biology, and Conservation](#)

### [Importance of Small Streams as Rearing Habitat for Coastal Cutthroat Trout](#)

### [Habitat Associations of Juvenile Cutthroat Trout: Implications for Forestry Impacts](#)

## For further information see

### [Behind the Bubble Curtain the Interesting World of Coastal Cutthroat Trout \(video from Oregon\)](#)

### [BC Species and Ecosystems Explorer: Species and Ecosystems Search](#)

A source for authoritative conservation information on thousands of plants and animals and hundreds of ecological communities in BC. From here connect to all provincial and federal recovery plans (including the SARA Registry), COSEWIC (Committee on the

Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada), Identified Wildlife guidance and conservation requirements for specific species and ecological communities of conservation concern impacted by forestry activities) and links to E-Flora and E-Fauna (the Electronic Atlas of the Plants and Wildlife of British Columbia).

### **British Columbia's Coast Region Species & Ecosystems of Conservation Concern**

A joint venture resource providing comprehensive information on a range of species and ecological communities specific to the Coast Region of BC (including the South, Central and North Coast, Vancouver Island and Haida Gwaii).

### **Develop With Care Guidelines (see Lower Mainland Region section)**

Environmental guidelines for urban and rural land development in BC.

### **Species at Risk & Local Governments a Primer for BC**

Learn what species are at risk in your area, search by name, habitat type, regional district and forest district.

### **E-Flora the electronic atlas of the Flora of BC**

A volunteer-driven GIS-based biogeoclimatic atlas of the vascular plants, fungi, algae, bryophytes and lichens of BC.

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**Source URL:** <http://sccp.ca/species-habitat/coastal-cutthroat-trout-clarkii-ssp>

#### **Links**

- [1] <http://www.bcfishingreports.com/forums/threads/18142-Interesting-video-about-coastal-cutthroat-trout-%29?s=f20934898b2f2c8b2215209e4a7de3e3>
- [2] <http://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/environment/plants-animals-ecosystems/conservation-data-centre/explore-cdc-data/species-and-ecosystems-explorer>
- [3] <http://www.geog.ubc.ca/biodiversity/factsheets/>
- [4] [http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/wld/documents/bmp/devwithcare2006/develop\\_with\\_care\\_intro.html](http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/wld/documents/bmp/devwithcare2006/develop_with_care_intro.html)
- [5] <http://www.speciesatrisk.bc.ca/>