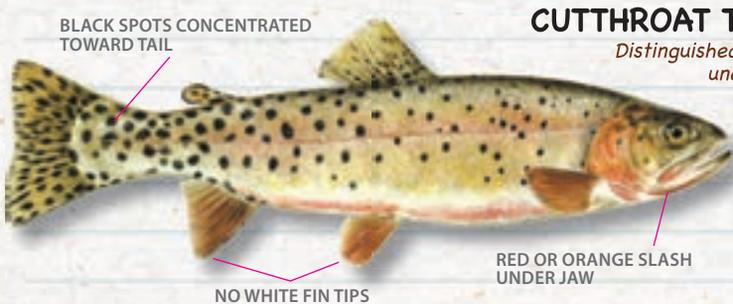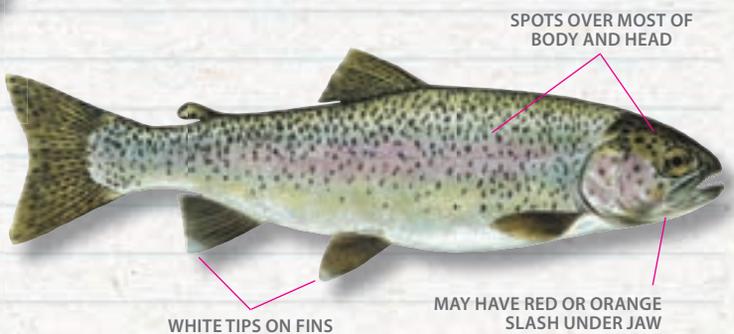# Around Wyoming

Cutt? Bow? Or Cuttbow?

Did you know that cutthroat trout and rainbow trout are closely related? The cutthroat trout are native to Wyoming, while the rainbow trout are not. Native means that the cutthroat trout were naturally in Wyoming. Rainbow trout are native to coastal streams along the Pacific Ocean from Alaska to Baja California and Mexico. Rainbow trout were stocked, or added by people, into Wyoming's waters.

Anglers across Wyoming often have a hard time telling the difference between the two kinds of fish. It is important to know because in places there are different limits of fish you can keep for each kind of fish. Make sure to check the regulations before going fishing so you know your fish and your limits.

BLACK SPOTS CONCENTRATED TOWARD TAIL

CUTTHROAT TROUT

Distinguished from rainbow trout and hybrids by the presence of red or orange slash under the jaw and NO white tips on anal and pelvic fins. Other characteristics include black spotting generally concentrated toward the tail (except on the Snake River cutthroat which has uniform distribution of fine black spots) and few or no spots on the head.
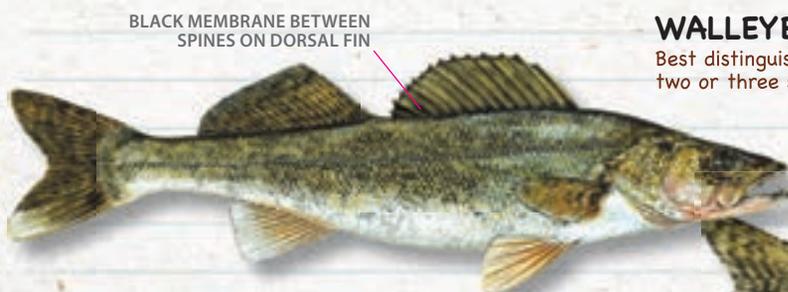
SPOTS OVER MOST OF BODY AND HEAD

RED OR ORANGE SLASH UNDER JAW

NO WHITE FIN TIPS

RAINBOW TROUT AND RAINBOW–CUTTHROAT HYBRID (CUTTBOW) TROUT

Distinguished from cutthroat trout by presence of white tips on the fins. Other characteristics include more uniform black spots and more spots on the head, and may or may not have red or orange slash on the lower jaw.

WHITE TIPS ON FINS

MAY HAVE RED OR ORANGE SLASH UNDER JAW

Sauger or Walleye?

Did you know there are other kinds of fish that are having the same problem as the cutthroat and the rainbows? They are called sauger and walleye. In this case, sauger are the native fish to Wyoming. Be sure you can tell the difference! And remember, if you don't know, let it go!
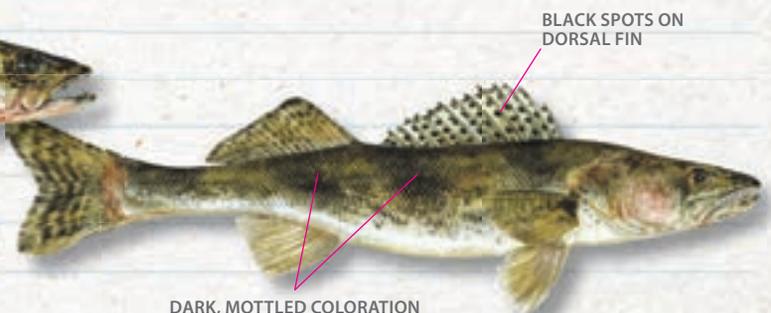
BLACK MEMBRANE BETWEEN SPINES ON DORSAL FIN

WALLEYE

Best distinguished from sauger by black membranes between last two or three spines of the first dorsal fin.

BLACK SPOTS ON DORSAL FIN

SAUGER

Best distinguished from walleye by black spots on dorsal fin. Dark, mottled coloration often present on sides.

DARK, MOTTLED COLORATION OFTEN PRESENT ON SIDES

IF YOU DON'T KNOW, LET IT GO!

Fish illustrations by Michelle LaGory