



### **59. RAINBOW TROUT / REGENBOGENFORELLE (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*)**

**IDENTIFICATION:** The rainbow trout gets its name from the horizontal pink stripe on its sides. When the fish is first caught, this band reflects the light and gives the trout a rainbow pattern. Numerous small black spots speckle the sides, the back, and the dorsal, adipose, and caudal fins. Normally, the pectoral, pelvic, and anal fins are free of spots; the pelvic and anal fins have white stripes as a characteristic.

**HABITAT:** This native trout of North America was introduced to Europe around 1880. Its many strains include the shasta, steelhead, and kamloop. The rainbow trout's ability to tolerate higher water temperatures makes it preferred over other trout species in stocking and introduction. As with other trout, rainbow trout require clear and relatively cool waters with a high-oxygen content. Fast growth, easy rearing, edibility, fighting quality, and vulnerability to all types of baits and lures contribute immensely to the overall popularity of the rainbow trout. It is a great fighter and displays a salmon-like frenzy when hooked.

**FOOD:** Rainbow trout feed on insects, crustaceans, worms, and smaller fish.

**SPAWNING:** Rainbow trout spawn from December to May, depending on the strain (early and late spawners). The male helps construct a shallow, gravelly nest. Following spawning activities, the female covers her eggs, usually 800 to 1,000 per pound of body weight, and leaves them to their own destiny. The eggs, require a 50 – to 90 – day hatching period depending on water temperatures. Rainbow trout are one of the easiest trout to handle in hatcheries, and they are raised and planted in Germany's trout waters in great numbers.