



61. ARCTIC CHAR / SEESAIBLING (*Salvelinus alpinus*)

IDENTIFICATION: The body of the lake char is torpedo shaped and trout-like. Large males develop a kype. The colors vary considerably according to the environment and age. The back is grayish-green to blue-green or brown. The sides fade toward lighter shades with the belly part being white or yellowish. The flanks and belly are often carmine or orange during spawning. The sides are always mottled with light-colored dots. The pectoral, pelvic, and anal fins have a white margin on the front edges.

HABITAT: The lake char inhabits cold, clear and well-oxygenated mountain lakes up to an altitude of 6,000 feet. It usually stays in depths below 60 feet, rising occasionally to the surface for feeding.

FOOD: Small specimens feed on plankton and various kinds of small aquatic animals; larger ones feed mainly on other fish.

SPAWNING: Lake char may spawn any time of the year in some lakes, but the main spawning season is from October to January. The female deposits 1,500 to 2,500 eggs per pound of body weight in a gravelly reed at depths between 60 and 200 feet.