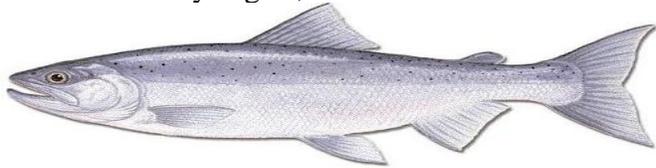
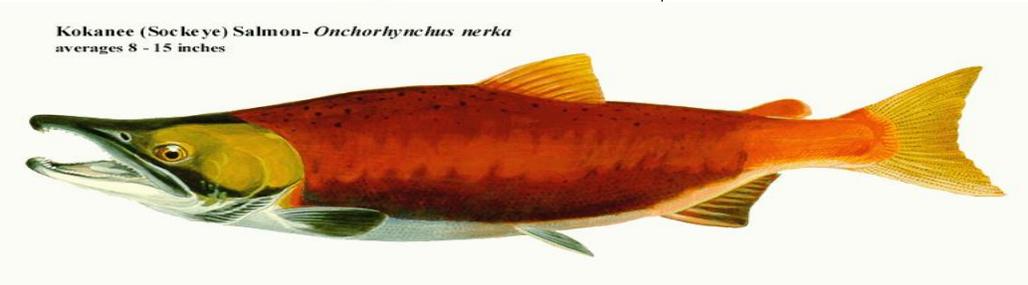


## Kokanee Salmon Sheet 1

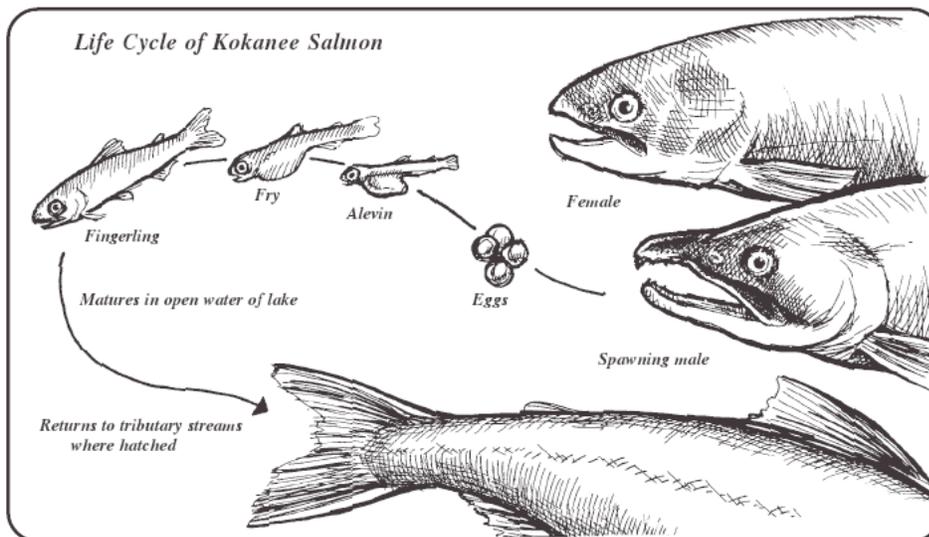
The kokanee salmon (*Oncorhynchus nerka*) is a landlocked variety of sockeye salmon. First introduced to Flathead Lake in 1914, they quickly became widespread in the lake. They are also found in other water sources on both sides of the continental divide in Montana. Kokanee can reach 3-5 pounds, but 1 pound is most common. The size of the fish is dependent upon several factors including population density and the availability of food. They spawn in the fall by either running upstream from their lake or spawning along the shorelines. Kokanee reach sexual maturity in their fourth year and transform greatly prior to spawning. The normally silver colored fish turns smooth-skinned and red colored with a large hooked jaw and teeth on the males. All adults die after spawning and are eaten by eagles, bears and other animals.



Kokanee (Sockeye) Salmon- *Oncorhynchus nerka*  
averages 8 - 15 inches



Kokanee Adult, non spawning Kokanee Adult, spawning



### Discussion:

1. List questions posed by your group.
2. What factors might affect the life cycle of a kokanee salmon?
3. The article mentioned that kokanee salmon were introduced to Flathead Lake? What effect might that have had on the native fish in the lake? What are the ethical implications of introducing non-native fish to a water source?