

# Getting to know Coastal Cutthroat Trout in Hood Canal



## All About Our Native Trout

Coastal Cutthroat Trout are one of our most prized and important native trout in Washington state. Set apart from other Cutthroat Trout, these fish migrate from freshwater to saltwater, then back to freshwater to spawn. Over the last decade, recreational fishing for Coastal Cutthroat Trout has taken off, representing over \$1.1 million in economic value to Washington. While many of us love these fish, we still have a lot to learn about them in order to ensure populations remain strong.

## What We're Doing

Numerous partners throughout Hood Canal are collaborating to learn more about Coastal Cutthroat Trout. Over the next few years, partners will establish DNA baselines from 15 Hood Canal streams to better understand migration patterns and genetic composition of our popular marine fishery. The results of this project will aid in prioritizing habitat restoration opportunities and improving fishing regulations to better protect Coastal Cutthroat Trout and ensure a sustainable fishery and population.



## Timeline

Over the next two years, project partners will sample juvenile cutthroat in 15 streams across Hood Canal to develop a genetic baseline for each population. This data will tell us whether subpopulations in the 15 streams are genetically distinct from one another.

Following the collection of these samples, partners will then collect samples in marine waters throughout Hood Canal to assign adults back to their population of origin. With those data, partners can better understand the migration patterns these fish travel, and also which streams contribute significant numbers of fish to the marine fishery.



## How YOU Can Help

You can support this project in a few different ways:

- Volunteer to help with sample collection
- Support the project with a tax-deductible donation
- Share with friends, family, and fellow anglers

Learn more and support the program at [www.coastalcutthroatcoalition.com](http://www.coastalcutthroatcoalition.com)

