**Lake Salmon**

Everyone knows that salmon breed in freshwater rivers and streams, migrate to the ocean, and then return to freshwater rivers to spawn. So you may be surprised to find a type of salmon that lives its entire life in a freshwater lake. Lake Shikotsu holds a type of sockeye salmon called kokanee (*himemasu* in Japanese). They are raised in nearby hatcheries and released into the lake, where fishing is banned for most of the year. In the summer, the ban is lifted for a short period, and fishing enthusiasts come to catch their fill. *Himemasu* is considered a local delicacy, and you can find it on the menu in one form or another at almost any restaurant in the Lake Shikotsu area.