

## Lake Towada and Himemasu Salmon

There is a Japanese saying, “If the water is clear, it is devoid of fish.” Lake Towada is a caldera lake that receives very little runoff from the surrounding slopes, so the waters are poor in the nutrients required to support a rich aquatic food chain. To make matters worse, the only exit from Lake Towada is the Oirase River, which has a high waterfall that prevents fish from reaching the lake from downstream. Today, however, the lake is inhabited by *himemasu*, landlocked salmon also referred to as *kokanee*, which have been cultivated here since 1905. The *kokanee* are able to thrive even in the Lake’s clear and nutrient-poor water.