

***Masu* Salmon**

Masu salmon (*Oncorhynchus masou*), also called cherry salmon, live half their life in a river as freshwater fish before migrating to the ocean. They return to their home river to spawn after two to three years at sea. In Japanese, they are called *sakura masu* (cherry salmon) because they turn pink (the color of cherry blossoms) on reaching maturity, and because they are usually caught during spring (cherry-blossom season), when they return to their river spawning grounds. Some *masu* salmon never leave their home river; these fish are called *yamame* (*yamabe* in Hokkaido). *Masu* salmon have a very limited range, staying in coastal waters off northern Japan after reaching maturity.