



73. WHITEFISH / BLAUFELCHEN (*Coregonus lavaretus*)

IDENTIFICATION: The body of the whitefish is torpedo-shaped and slightly compressed laterally. The head is conical with a pointed snout. The back is blue-green or dark green flanks and belly silvery white; dorsal, anal, and tail fins always dark, especially on older specimens. Pectoral and pelvic fins have a black margin.

HABITAT: The whitefish inhabits the large and oxygen-rich lakes of southern and northern Germany. It stays in schools in open waters, and rarely frequents the shallow shore areas.

FOOD:

- (1) **Diet.** The whitefish feeds on zoo plankton, insect larvae, terrestrial insects, and occasionally small fish.
- (2) **Value:** Whitefish have little angling value, but commercial fishermen regard them highly. The meat is delicious and almost boneless.

SPAWNING: Whitefish spawn between November and December. The female releases 15,000 to 16,000 eggs per pound of body weight over the deepest part of the lake. Spawning over gravelly or sandy bottoms in shallow shore areas is rare.