

Trout Site – Albino Rainbow

A White Trout!
By Bob Willis

I didn't really consider Albino Rainbow Trout a sport fish that could be targeted as a specific fish to catch until a trip to Utah. I had planned to make a western trip to catch a variety of species and one of the stops was Utah. I knew that state had a program of stocking Splake and Tiger Trout and those were the two species that I was most interested in catching. When I got out there I also discovered that the State had a substantial stocking program for Albino (White) Rainbow Trout. I had seen White Rainbow but had not caught any so this was another fish of interest. Unfortunately, I did not have enough time to hit any of the lakes stocked with Albino Rainbow, but I did find out about the States stocking program and the fishing success.

The state of Utah has been stocking Albino Rainbow for several years. The state record Albino was caught in 1989 in Joes Valley Reservoir and weighted 9 pounds and 2 ounces. There are many places to catch these unique white trout and the state socks 7000-10,000 Albino's each year. Most of the stocked fish are in the 8-10-inch range, but there are a few lakes and ponds every year that receive 19-21-inch white monsters. They also stock some 3-4-inch fish in numbers in a few lakes that are stocked to grow into keeper trout.



A very unique and different fish an Albino Rainbow!

So if you really want to catch an Albino (White) rainbow where do you go? The next time I go to Utah on a fishing trip it will be to catch Tiger, Splake, and Albino Rainbow. Before I go, I will check and see where the best opportunities are to catch Albino's. There are some large Albino's in Joe's Valley Reservoir and there is usually a yearly stocking of larger fish in the Ogden River. But you should check the stocking schedule before making any trip to catch Albino.

The state stocks most lakes and rivers with at least 500 Albino during each stocking. These are typically 8-10-inch fish. The large fish (19-21-inch) are usually placed in 150-200 stockings. Some of the small fish (3-inches) may be placed 2000 at a time. It pays to check the Utah Division of Wildlife stocking schedule for the year you plan to visit the state. I like the way Utah deals with their stocking list because many states do not tell you were the fish have been placed. Utah does and it makes finding the white beauties a little easier. Knowing where they have been place in sonly part of the battle. There are still fewer Albino's than any other kind of trout. If you want to see a white trout it is worth checking out where they are located.

In 2009 I was fishing the Spring Branch in Missouri for Rock Bass and I did see an Albino in the River. They are easy to see and stick out against a background of the bottom. Albino Rainbow do occasional turn up in other places, but if you want the best opportunity to catch a White Rainbow Utah is the best place!



They are pretty fish!

I do want to catch several of these in the next few years. Seeing a White Trout up close would just be something to remember. If you want to find out more about Albino and the other Rainbow that have been created in the hatchery read the chapter on Rainbow Trout in the book or e-book **Trout Adventures – North America**. The book will be available from Wilderness Adventures Press at www.wildadventurepress.com.