

'Jack Salmon' Is 'Bantam Rooster' Among Schools of Silver Salmon

The normal run of coho salmon into the streams is accompanied by a number of "Jack Salmon." These small editions of the large fish are known to many but understood by few. All will agree, however, that they are very sporty.

A "jack salmon" is a male coho, king, sockeye or occasionally a chum that has matured a year or more ahead of his normal age group. Jack cohos are 2 years old. They are usually 10-14 inches long and quite aggressive in the spawning streams.

This "Bantam Rooster" attitude of coho jacks endears them to stream anglers. They will take issue with anything that resembles a lure and

strike for the pure love of assertion. The large males attempt to drive them from the spawning sites but "shorty" will have none of this. A great ruckus occurs but the jacks easily outmaneuver the large males. And when spawning is finished, they all die.

These jacks are silvery and fat when they first enter the streams. The angler finds them a joy on light tackle as they struggle mightily and leap often. They are excellent in the skillet also. There is no limit on the take of them (coho salmon less than 20 inches). September is the best month to fish them.