

Yum-yum Hooligans Will Soon Come Up Glacial Rivers to Spawn

By BOB BAADE

The name Hooligan is the
result of phonetic difficulty

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Each spring, as the days become really noticeably longer toward the end of March, the hooligan ascend some of our glacial rivers to spawn. Little is known of these smelt from the time the eggs are put down in the silty water until they return as adult fish.

The best known fact of these slim small fellows is that they are delicious.

Hooligans . . .

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with the true name Eulachon. They are also known as candle-fish being about that size and just as rich.

Hooligan eggs are adhesive when they are first laid and they attach themselves to grains of sand. They hatch in two or three weeks in the muddy water which hides the little fellows from the birds and animals which like to eat them.

The river current carries the hatchlings to sea where they seem to vanish only to re-appear two or three years later on their spawning run.

In Ketchikan, one or two boats usually go for a load of them which are sold off the dock—bring your own container. Where hooligan streams cross highways, a person can dip-net his own.

Sometimes they appear on restaurant menus.

The usual preparation of these tasty fish is to fry them crisp. Some people dress them and others fry them whole. The bones bother nobody and the occasional character says "what bones?"

However, a fill or two of hooligan just seems to be a proper ceremony at this time each year.