



74. BURBOT / QUAPPE / TRUESCHE (*Lota lota*)

IDENTIFICATION: The body of the burbot is elongated; the anterior part cylindrical, the posterior section compressed laterally. The head is wide and flat. The mouth is large and somewhat inferior, with a barbel on each nostril and a larger one in the middle of the chin. Scales are round, small, and soft. The small anterior dorsal fin is followed by a long posterior fin, similar in shape to the anal fin. The tail fin is rounded. The mouth is lined with tiny teeth. The heavy skin is dark olive on the back with chain like blackout or yellowish markings on the sides. The coloration's is more distinct on younger fish.

HABITAT: They favor cold and clear waters, and are found in freshwater lakes and sluggish and swift streams. They seek deep water in summer and have been caught at depths of 600 feet. The burbot is a nocturnal fish that hides behind boulders and other shelters during the day. These hardy fish live for hours in a slightly moistened environment. It is the only member of the codfish family found in fresh water in Germany.

FOOD:

- (1) **Diet:** Young burbot feed on insect larvae, worms, and other small aquatic animals. Older adults are cannibalistic and voracious feeders. They are harmful to young game fish and sawn in trout regions.
- (2) **Value:** Burbot meat is tasty, especially the vitamin-rich liver. The liver must be thoroughly cooked or baked to ensure killing tapeworm found frequently in burbot liver. Burbot have little angling value, bur small specimens make excellent pike or river char bait.

SPAWNING: Burbot are winter spawners. Reproduction usually occurs under the ice from November to March over a sandy or gravelly bottom. Depending on the size of the female, up to 1 million sticky eggs are scattered over stones and water plants to which the eggs adhere.