



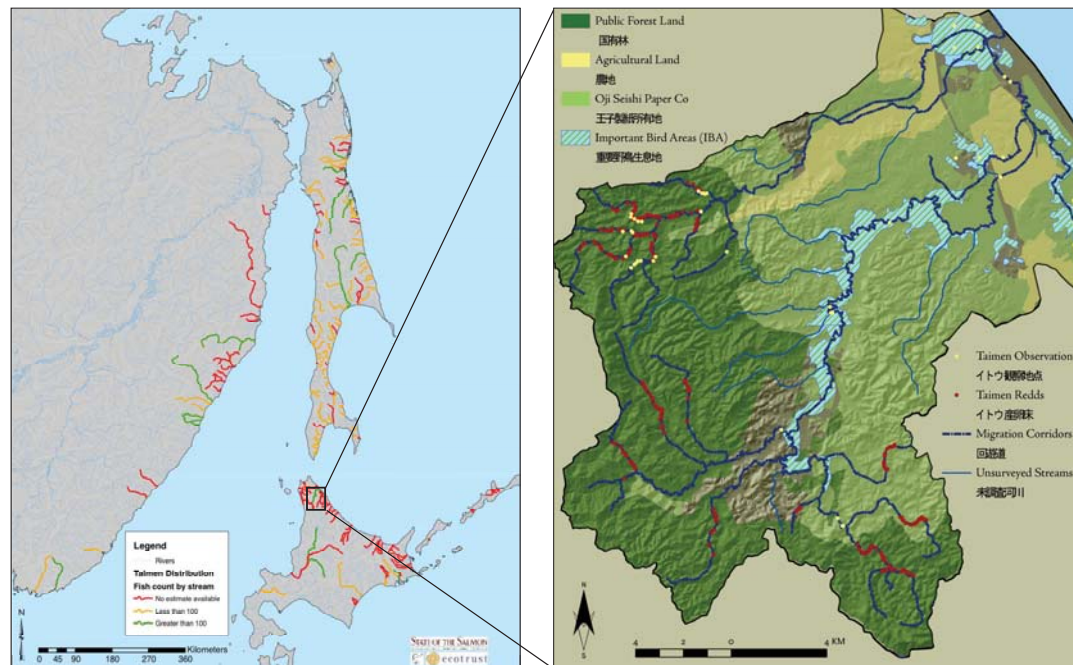
Let's pass on
a river where
you can fish
wild Ito forever.

Why is wild Ito population decreasing in Hokkaido?

- Deforestation
- Topsoil erosion
- Spawning ground degradation
- River development
- Dams and culverts
- Habitat degradation by straightened river line
- Blocked spawning grounds
- Poor water quality
- Losing vegetation and food source
- Poaching
- Improper fishing methods
- Rare species collectors

Sarufutsu Ito Association:

- Organizes workshops
- Teaches kids about sustainable environments for Ito
- Advocates for cooperation between industrial development and environmental conservation
- Protects Ito for future generations and supports research
- Works with sports fishermen to find balance between fishing and conservation



Range and status of Hucho perryi/Ito (Japanese huchen, Sakhalin taimen)

- Largest freshwater fish in Japan (up to 30-40kg)
- Long lived (up to 20-30 years)
- Range restricted: Hokkaido and the Russian Far East
- Very low abundance: maybe 2,000 adults in Japan
- Japanese Red List: Endangered; 2006 International Red List of Threatened Species: Critically Endangered

Sarufutsu Ito Association conducts community-based activities in Sarufutsu, a village located at the northernmost tip of Japan, using the Ito or Hucho perryi, the largest fresh water salmon species in Japan, as an environmental indicator.

The Association was founded in April 2005 when it took over the "Home-of-Ito Project," which had been conducted since 1998 by the Sarufutsu Chamber of Commerce Youth Division. Our slogan is **"Let's pass on a river where you can fish wild Ito forever,"** and we strive to realize the mutual co-existence of humans, industry, and the natural environment.

The Association's main activities include investigating spawning beds during spawning season, projecting Ito numbers in each river, checking reproduction conditions for each tributary, and monitoring the hatched fry status, while cooperating and exchanging information with Ito researchers and fishermen. In addition to such investigations, we have been able to build fish pathways in two locations by petitioning the local government.

From the perspective of community development, we work as a pipeline between the community and the local government, and engage in activities to maintain the current environment such as study sessions with the local government.

As part of our environmental education activities, which are focused primarily on children in Sarufutsu, we conduct Ito watching during the spawning season, capture hatched juvenile fish for study, and pick up garbage along the rivers.

In the future, we are planning to ask forest owners and landowners for their cooperation in achieving our objective of realizing an environment habitable to Ito and a diverse community of nature, living creatures, and humans. We will continue to teach children the joy of fishing the great Ito in the rivers that flow through Sarufutsu, and to learn together the importance of an environment inhabited by Ito.



Above: Japanese researcher Dr. Michio Fukushima releases Sakhalin taimen in the Sarufutsu River.

