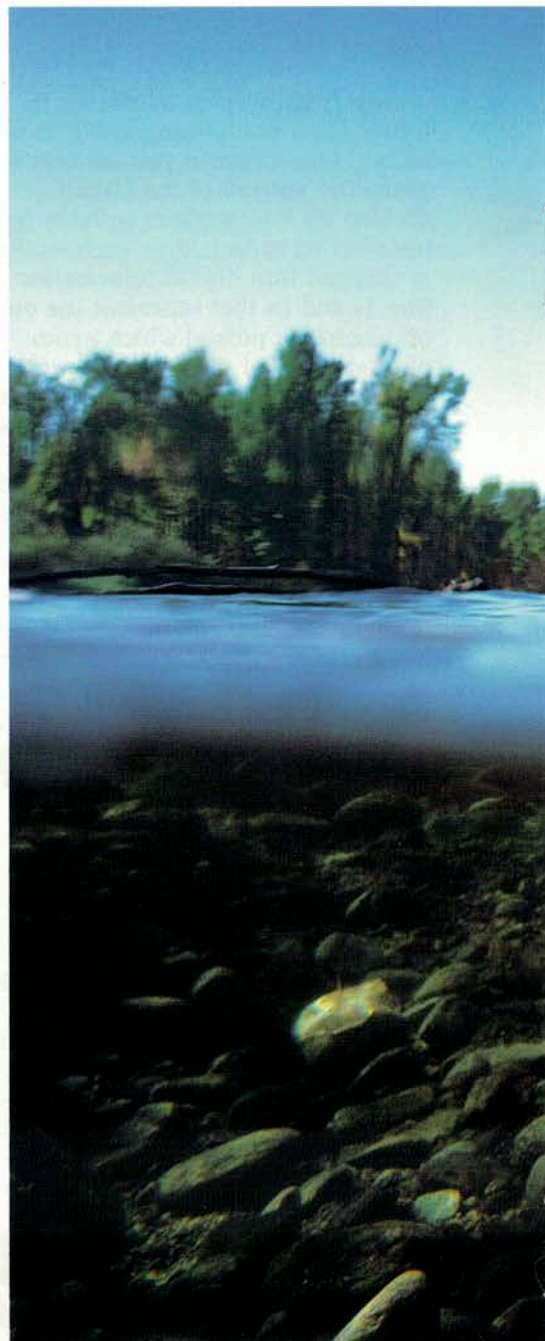


Swimming Against the Tide

by Michel Roggo



Swiss photographer Michel Roggo spent five years in Alaska and British Columbia recording on film the amazing lifecycle of the Pacific Salmon, a fish whose epic struggles in swimming upstream earned it its generic name, *Salmo*, The Leaper.

All six species of Pacific Salmon—sockeye, pink, coho, chum, masu, and chinook—are anadromous, breeding in fresh water and maturing in the



sea. Though the length of time spent in the ocean varies greatly from species to species, all salmon share the same fundamental and overriding compulsion to return to the stream of their birth to spawn.

Navigating by means of some mysterious internal compass, the salmon make their way, sometimes thousands of miles, home. Throughout this incredible journey the fish display a

relentless determination to overcome every obstacle between themselves and the spawning grounds they seek, traversing rapids and leaping over ten-foot high waterfalls.

"Obtaining pictures of each stage in the life of these extraordinary fish was often a hard, but always a satisfying job," says Roggo, "whether it meant canoeing along the coasts of hidden lakes and rivers, fighting my

way through near impenetrable forests—expecting at any moment to encounter a brown bear, or lonesome at night in a small tent battered by a heavy rainstorm.

"But at the end of it all, to find a small creek where hundreds of salmon are ready to spawn in crystal-clear water under the golden light of an indian summer . . . What more could any photographer want?"