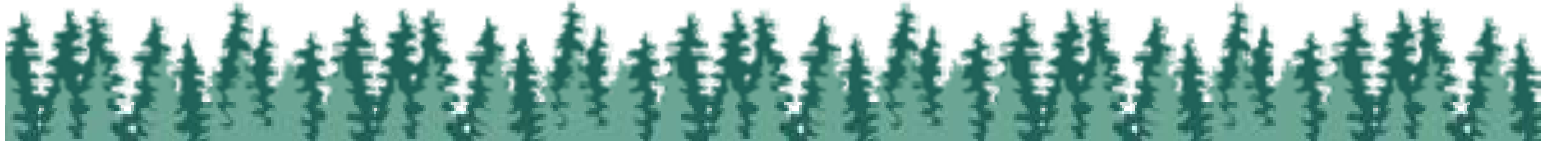


# *Salvelinus fontinalis*

## Brook Trout

Flora, fauna, earth, and sky...  
The natural history of the north  
woods



*Salvelinus*, an old name for char, from the same root as the German, *Saibling*, (little salmon)  
*fontinalis*, from the Latin, "living in springs"

Common name from its preferred habitat

Other common names include: Aurora Trout, Brookie, Coaster, Common Brook Trout, Eastern Brook Trout, Mountain Trout, Mud Trout, Sea Trout, Speck Trout, Speckled Char, Speckled Trout, Square-Tail, Square Tail Trout

Kingdom *Animalia*

- Phylum *Chordata*,
- Subphylum *Vertebrata*,
  - Superclass *Osteichthyes*, bony fishes
  - Class *Actinopterygii*, ray-finned and spiny rayed fishes
  - Subclass *Neopterygii*
  - Infraclass *Teleostei*
    - Superorder *Protacanthopterygii*
    - Order *Salmoniformes*, salmon and trout
      - Family *Salmonidae*, salmon and trout
        - Genus *Salvelinus*, the chars

The native trout of northern streams

### Length

- averages 10"-12" -- can be up to 21"

### Weight

- typically 11 oz to 2 lbs -- can weigh 4-6 lbs

### Coloration

- olive-green to dark brown on the back
- lighter on sides
- silvery white on underside
- pale spotting; blue halos surround small red spots on the sides
- worm-like markings (vermiculation) on the back and dorsal fin unlike other salmonids.

### Coloration (continued)

- edges of the lower fins have white margins
- All colors intensify at spawning time.

### Body

- tail fin slightly forked

### Head

- hook at the front of the lower jaw in breeding males

**Lifespan** on average is five years

Native to eastern United States and Canada- widely introduced throughout the western states.

Typically in the smallest, highest, and coldest streams and lakes.

Water temperatures as high as 77.5° F. will kill Brook Trout in a few hours.

Most active in the morning and late afternoon. At night they can be found under banks, boulders, logs, and other shelters.

Carnivorous, generalized feeders, consuming most insects and other small invertebrates.

Known to eat their own eggs at spawning time and even their own young.

**World Record:** 14 lbs, 8 oz., from the Nipigon River in Ontario, in July 1916 by Dr. W.J. Cook.

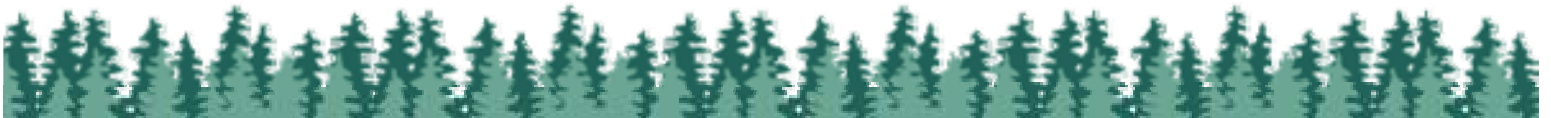
**Maine Record:** 8 lb. 8 oz., Chase Pond, Aroostook, 1979, by James Foster

Among the easiest trout to catch, though often less popular than other trout species because of their small size.

Highly regarded as table fare, with a sweet and delicate meat.

Spawns in late summer or autumn in gravel beds in headwaters of streams. The female digs the redd (nest) where she lays 100-5000 eggs, depending on her size. Eggs hatch 50-100 days later. Can breed with [Lake Trout](#) producing a hybrid called [Splake](#).

Brook Trout are stream-dwelling trout native to Maine. In search of clear, cool, and well-oxygenated water, they often move out of streams and into the estuaries and bays. . Those Brook Trout that move into such areas are called "coasters." Coasters weigh on average 2-3 lbs and are usually heavier than stream-dwelling Brook Trout.



Water Education Programs from the **Portland Water District**