

FISH SPECIES AROUND THE GLOBE

Favorite targets for fly fishing are often salmonids, as the angling methods themselves were developed around catching trout. Including various species of trout, as well as rainbow trout/steelhead, grayling, and, of course, salmon, the salmonid family is made up of cold-water fish that spawn in freshwater. The anadromous fish of these species spend the majority of their lives in the ocean, having migrated from the freshwater where they are born; they return to freshwater to spawn.

Salmonids are predators, as is the northern pike, a hard-fighting catch and another cold-water species popular with anglers. Tarpon, bonefish, permit, mahi mahi, and giant trevally—fish that live in warmer waters—also make good marks for anglers, whether because of their fight, size, or suitability for the table. The fish described here are a mix of species with anadromous lifecycles and those that live in landlocked waters, including rivers, lakes, streams, or ponds.



Salvelinus fontinalis

THE BROOK TROUT

Though commonly called a brook trout, the *Salvelinus fontinalis* is actually part of the salmon family. There are two types: salters, which are anadromous, and coasters, which are potamodromous and so migrate from lake to stream. The prized North American native is distinguished by the worm-like markings on its back, its pink spots, and its spectacular shading. These characteristics are more pronounced when the fish is in freshwater. Because of the declining populations caused by the loss of the fish's habitat in its native regions, anglers use catch and release for the sought-after brook trout. Fly fishers should ensure their hands are wet if handling the brook trout, as its skin is easily damaged.

LATIN NAME *Salvelinus fontinalis*
LOCATION Fresh and salt waters
WEIGHT Average 2–13 lb. (1–6 kg); up to 18 lb. (8 kg)
LENGTH Average 15–20 in. (38–50 cm); up to 34 in. (86 cm)
FACT The brook trout is the state fish for nine U.S. states and the provincial fish of Nova Scotia, Canada.