

# Atlantic salmon

*Salmo salar*



Escapees from sea cages are present in several bays and estuaries in southern Tasmania and the west coast. Surplus industry stock are occasionally released at selected dams and lakes.

**Description:** A sleek, long, thick-bodied fish. They have a dorsal fin high on their backs. They have a small fleshy fin near the tail called an adipose fin. Mouth does not extend past eyes. Tail more deeply forked compared to brown trout.

**Colour:** Silver with a white belly and bluish back. Small dark spots are present on the back, sides and base of the dorsal fin. Lake dwelling fish can have a brown tinge and more spots.

**Size:** Up to 40 kg in weight in their native waters of the Northern Hemisphere. Brood stock have been reared to 15 kg at freshwater fish farms in Tasmania.

**Habitat:** Stocked as adults in some of Tasmania's lakes. Escapees occur throughout coastal waters, estuaries and freshwater reaches of rivers.

**Diet:** They feed on a wide variety of animals including crustaceans, molluscs, both aquatic and terrestrial insects and small fishes.

**Life Cycle:** In its natural range the alevins, fry and smolts live in freshwater reaches of rivers. Once they reach maturity they migrate to marine waters. Adult fish return to their stream of birth to spawn during Autumn. This doesn't occur in the Southern Hemisphere. Land locked breeding populations occur in the Northern Hemisphere.

**Distribution status:** Introduced.

**Original range:** Native to watersheds of the North Atlantic. They inhabited coastal streams in north-eastern North America and Europe. Some lochs in Scotland and lakes in Canada have land locked populations. They have been stocked around the world for angling and aquaculture.

**Reasons for change to distribution:** N/A.

**Legal status:** Angling.

**Can it be taken?** An inland recreational Angling Licence is needed to take Atlantic salmon. There is a minimum size of 220 mm in rivers and 300 mm in lakes and lagoons. In stocked lakes and lagoons only two fish can be taken over 500 mm. A daily bag limit of five Atlantic salmon applies to all inland waters. Permitted fishing methods (bait, lure or fly) may vary between waters.

**Other names:** N/A.



Illustration Peter Gouldthorpe

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